

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 28 June 2012 (Thursday)
Time : 1530 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

After several rounds of negotiations, the contract for Consultancy Study on the Business Impact Assessment (BIA) had been finalized and accepted by the consultant. The BIA study had been commenced on 11.6.2012 and the first working group meeting was convened on 14.6.2012 to discuss the way forward of the BIA study by the consultant.

According to the working schedule, the consultant would submit an inception report in two weeks after the commencement of the study which included the study plan, the background and the scope of work of the study. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting chaired by AD(FS) would be held in July to monitor the progress of the study. It was expected that the final report would be completed in December 2012.

2. Review of Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment (CoP)

The English version of the updated CoP was issued and put into effect on 1.4.2012. Hardcopies were also available for sale since last week. Pending BD's translation of their Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 which had common terminologies with the CoP, the Chinese version of the CoP would be subsequently completed and ready for issue.

The requirements of supplying water through the fixed fire pump fed a wet rising main to all fire hydrants and hose reels under the new CoP

instead of feeding water to fire hydrants or hose reels stipulated in the old version had been discussed at the meeting held on 19.12.2011. In accordance with paragraph 5.14 of the CoP, the hydrant shall be prominently sited in an approach lobby to a staircase or in the staircase enclosure. If a flat with large floor area which could not be reached by a length of not more than 30 metres of fire services hose or hose reel tubing, additional fire hydrant outlet or hose reel should be installed at suitable intervals while such fire hydrant outlet should be provided in protected area with accessible routes reached by firemen for delivery of a jet of water for fire fighting.

[Post-meeting Notes: Various licensing premises, by nature of their normal operation, may constitute relatively higher level of fire and life risk. In this regard, licensing premises may be subject to separate sets of fire services requirements in addition to the fire services requirements imposed on the building in accordance with Section 16(1)(b) of the Building Ordinance, Cap 123. For example, food premises situated in a shopping arcade are subject to fire services requirements for licensing application in addition to the fire services requirements already provided in the premises as part of the building FSI. Such additional fire services requirements may include a sprinkler system in food premises occupying an area exceeding 230 square metres; portable fire fighting equipment of the approved type, over and above those installed for the occupation of the building; etc. For avoidance of doubt, paragraph 4 of the FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2012 clarifies that the additional fire services requirements dedicated to those licensing premises prevailing at the time of approval are still applicable.]

3. Arrangement for Installation of Fire Service Pump on Roof or Floor Slab

The deadline for submission of FSI drawing was 31.7.2012.

4. Submission of Fire Engineering Reports and Enquiries

FSD had from time to time reviewed the work procedures in order to enhance the business facilitation in Hong Kong. Given the ever-increasing workload and stretching manpower, it was a rather long-term issue with resource implication. FSD took note of the following comments from members.

- to consider setting performance pledge on processing fire engineering submissions similar to the service standard in approving or disapproving plans adopted by the Buildings Department.
- to give priority to re-submission of minor amendment(s) to fire engineering report by architect during construction stage.

5. Amendments to General Building Plans

The finalized version of guideline for minor amendments to GBP was:

- (a) Insertion / Deletion of descriptive notes;
- (b) Amendments to typing / drawing errors;
- (c) Minor modifications to FSI design, such as coverage, routing, pipework / ductwork / devices / components and layouts etc; and
- (d) Other minor amendments not involving relaxation of requirements, major system design and insertion of a completely new system design.

6. Natural Venting of Staircases

In the new CoP, pressurization of staircase was required where natural venting of staircase was not provided and the aggregate area of openable windows of the rooms/units of the building does not exceed 6.25% of the floor area of those rooms/units, calculated on a floor by floor basis. 'Natural venting of staircases' meant an alternative to pressurization of staircase for venting of smoke from staircase adjacent to external wall in accordance with Section 8.4 of British Standard 5588: Part 5: 1991 under which vent opening into light well, atrium, etc. was unacceptable. Furthermore, fixed opening such as louvre opening was considered not satisfying the requirements of the above standard as smoke outside the building might migrate into the staircase through the fixed opening due to wind.

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