

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 4 November 2013 (Monday)
Time : 1530 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

FSD had prepared a paper for discussion in the Policy Committee meeting with the date to be advised by SB. Upon the endorsement by the Policy Committee, SB and FSD will prepare the Draft Drafting Instructions and engage the Department of Justice for preparing the draft bill and corresponding legislative amendments.

2. Protected Access Routes for Firemen

After the issue was raised in the last Technical Committee (TC) meeting on Review of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings on 18.7.2013, TC members would further consult their respective building professional bodies. At present, no comment has been received from the TC. Members will be kept informed of the progress / result.

3. Fire Hydrant Outlet and Hose Reel within 30m of Any Part of the Floor

Members' attention was drawn to the FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2013 on fire hydrant/hose reel system. The revised requirements have taken effect from 1.10.2013 for all initial building plan submissions. In particular, fire hydrants provided in all lobby approaches to required staircases, or required staircases are acceptable to replace the 30m coverage requirement.

4. **Improvement to Fire Control Panel (FCP)**

For building plans approved pursuant to the CoP published between 1987 and 1994, the FCP may likely cease giving a signal for the continuous operation of the fire pump once the remote control button (e.g. manual call point of HR or fire alarm system) is reset or the transmission of signal is interrupted under abnormal circumstances.

According to extant records, some buildings with building plans approved between 1987 and 1994 are installed with FCP of the aforementioned configuration at the time the buildings were occupied. Given individual configuration of FCP has conformed to the minimum fire service installations standards necessary for the building at the time of building plan approval, RFSIC have been advised during the inspections of FCP and FH/HR System to check actual configuration of fire pump control signal of FCP and figure out whether the installed FCP could start the fire pump automatically upon receiving the call from the remote control button and the fire pump could run continuously until it is stopped only manually at the pump control panel installed near the fire pump. If it is found that the FCP and fixed fire pump control configuration does not perform the functionality as described above, RFSIC may inform building owners/occupiers of the situation and give them advice of the works required to modify or enhance the performance of the FCP. The modification to be taken is solely on a voluntary basis and building owners/occupiers are at liberty to make their own decision.

5. **Revised Fire Service Requirement for Signboards**

Members' attention was drawn to the revised PNAP APP-126 issued by the Buildings Department in September 2013. Among other revisions, extension of building FSIs (i.e. fire hydrant/hose reel system, portable hand-operated approved appliance and sprinkler system, where applicable) to protect the signboards is required except for signboards classified as minor works or designated exempted works under the Building (Minor Works) Regulation. Details of the requirement are stipulated in Appendix C of PNAP AA-126.

An enquiry was made on whether FSD would consider relaxing the new setback requirement of signboard. FSD reiterated that their revised requirement is incorporated in Appendix C of PNAP APP-126 which only affected the provision of fire service installations.

END