

## **Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons**

**Date** : 28 May 2014 (Friday)  
**Time** : 1530 hours  
**Venue** : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

### **Matters Discussed in the Meeting :**

#### **1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme**

The working group (WG) had submitted the proposed DDI for the implementation of the RFE Scheme to SB on 19.3.2014. Besides, the WG met the committee members of Hong Kong Registered Ventilation Contractors Association Limited (RVCA) on 27.3.2014 upon request and briefed them on the latest development of the implementation of the RFE Scheme. While expressing full support to the RFE Scheme, they also raised grave concerns on its impact on their livelihood, in particular their role as authorized signatory of Form D for provisional food business licence applications. CFO(FS) detailed the different roles of contractor and RFE in the licence application process and reassured that RFE would not participate in the processing of provisional licence application.

In response to the RVCA representatives' enquiry about the progress of setting up a new class of RFSIC for handling FSI works involving ventilating system and their suggestion of allowing their members with rich experience in the trade to register as RFE(VentS), CFO(FS) replied that FSD would continue to pursue the establishment of a new class of RFSIC as well as the relevant legislative amendment proposal. To upgrade their academic qualifications on fire engineering fields to qualify as RFE(VentS), CFO(FS) indicated that FSD had been working closely with tertiary educational institutes on providing top-up fire engineering training to members of RVCA. The Working Group would separately follow up the expressed wish of the RVCA representatives for participating in future discussion with the tertiary educational institutes.

In general, the implementation work for the RFE Scheme was in good

progress in accordance with the Work Plan.

2. **Protected Access Routes for Firemen**

Next meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) on Review of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings was scheduled for 4 July 2014. Members might submit comment on the proposed commentary, if any, to the TC for reconsideration and deliberation.

3. **Measures to Reduce Nuisance Caused by Unwanted Alarms**

A Circular Notice to this effect had been issued on 13 May 2014.

4. **Improvement Measures for Building Plan Processing**

A seminar hosted by the HKIA on ‘Building Plan Processing by the FSD’ was successfully conducted on 29 April 2014. On request, officers from the Dangerous Goods Division also gave a brief talk on FSD’s requirements on siting of fuel tank rooms for emergency generators. Another seminar of the same nature hosted by HKIE, with audience also from HKIA, HKIS, AAP, REDA and IFE(HK Branch), was also successfully held on 19 May 2014.

In view that the proposal to prioritize final amendment plans to address APs’ pressing need on arranging FSD FSI acceptance inspection was overwhelmingly welcomed by the trade, this improvement measure had been launched on trial basis with effect from 30 April 2014. To prevent abuse of this measure, FSD would review its effectiveness in six-month time.

There was a case that the Processing Officer had repeatedly prompted the AP to effect amendment over a 6-month period but in vain and the submission was finally disapproved. To ensure timely processing, plan amendments that could not be completed in a calendar month, counting from Processing Officers’ first call to the AP would not be accepted. Members unanimously agreed with the time limit for plan amendment.

In order to enhance coordination with BD and stakeholders of the building industry, BD welcomed the proposal in which FSD

representative might join the Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers & Registered Geotechnical Engineers Committee (APSEC) Discussion Forum should there be related issues.

5. **Compliance inspections on FSI with approved final amended GBP**

In the last meeting, members from the trade were invited to relay the requirement of the Department to the organisations they were representing that form FSI/501 applying for compliance inspection should be submitted only when the final amendment to the GBP was approved by the NP Division. Otherwise, the applications would be rejected.

Following last meeting, there was still case that final amended GBP was submitted after the issuance of the certificate FS 172. In such case, fresh compliance inspection based on the final amended GBP had to be conducted and new FS 172 had to be issued. Therefore, members of APs in the meeting are kindly invited to explain the correct procedures so as to avoid abortive work.

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