

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 27 May 2015 (Wednesday)
Time : 1530 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

The Drafting Instructions (DIs) for the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill and a new regulation for the introduction of the RFE Scheme had been forwarded to DoJ by SB. Members of FSD Working Group and representatives of SB met the Law Draftsman on 27.2.2015 to brief the background of the RFE Scheme and the gists of the DIs.

Meanwhile, the FSD Sub-working groups were liaising with the relevant licensing authorities, as well as drafting the practice notes and Code of Practice for the use of the RFEs in the future.

2. Protected Access Routes for Firemen

The item had been discussed in the last Technical Committee Meeting on the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings of the Buildings Department on 23.1.2015. A revised Clause would be circulated by the Technical Committee.

3. Provision of “Evacuation Switch” for Fire Alarm System for Buildings with Alarm Zoning Arrangement

FSD prepared to issue a Circular Letter about the installation of an external “Evacuation Switch” for building Fire Alarm System which had adopted zoning of manual fire alarms (MFAs) operation in accordance with Part VIII to FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96. The Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment would also be revised accordingly.

4. **Limitation of False Alarms**

In the year of 2014, there were 26,765 false alarms occurred in HK, representing about 83% of the total building fire calls of the whole territory. The high occurrence of false alarms had not only created noise nuisance to occupants of the premises and residents nearby, but also thinned out the valuable rescue and firefighting resources. Frequent false alarms would not only disrupt fire station routines, especially in conducting fire safety or fire hazards inspection, but would also reduce the alertness of the building occupiers to the fire alarms.

With a view to reducing the number of false alarms, proactive investigative actions had been taken by the FSITF of FSD into premises/buildings with high occurrence of false alarms since September 2013. The investigation revealed that most of the false alarms occurred were unwanted. A presentation on “Limitation of False Alarms” was presented to share the findings and observations from the investigation.

5. **Calibration Requirements for Testing Instruments Used for Compliance Inspection of Fire Service Installations**

As discussed in the Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG) meeting and agreed by the FSI Contractors Association (FSICA), testing instruments for compliance inspection of fire service installations such as multi-meter and pressure gauge should be calibrated by a recognized testing or calibration laboratory. Besides, each calibrated testing instrument should be protected from tampering with a calibration label / tamper-proof seal by the recognized testing and calibration laboratory. Such tamper-proofing measures should also be applied to other calibrated testing instruments used for acceptance tests on pressurization of staircase and dynamic smoke extraction system. The FSD Circular Letter would be issued shortly.

6. **Door locking/holding devices in the CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings**

Members of the FSICA had brought up the issue on the interpretation of Clauses B13.2 and C16.2 in the CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings (Fire Safety Code) for discussion in the FSSAG meeting. After discussion, the FSSAG agreed that the Buildings Department should be the authority to interpret the provisions on door locking/holding devices in its Code. As relevant requirements were already stipulated in the Fire Safety Code, FSD would not have additional comments on the provisions of door locking/holding devices. Members of the FSICA in the FSSAG would like to notify APs of the above matter through the FSD/AP Liaison Meeting.

7. **Workflow Optimization on Plan Processing**

Some members expressed their appreciation to the optimized workflow on plan processing, which has certainly speeded up the processing time.

While understanding the existing manpower resources had already been allocated in full extent, members asked if extra manpower could be deployed in order to further ease the stressed condition in plan processing.

END