

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 24 November 2015 (Tuesday)
Time : 1500 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

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

The RFE Scheme was introduced to the LegCo's Panel for Security on 3.11.2015. Responses were also made to the questions raised by various legislative councilors. The Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015 was targeted to be submitted to the LegCo in December 2015.

2. **Protected Access Routes for Firemen**

It was noted that fireman's lift lobbies were sold in some residential developments recently. In order to clarify that the lobby to a fireman's lift should be directly connected to a protected exit and designed as a common area, Buildings Department (BD) had issued a corrigenda on 22.10.2015 and the revised wordings of the relevant revised Clause D11.4 of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings was highlighted in the following:

“Every lobby to a fireman's lift should have direct access, without any obstruction and lockable door, to a protected exit. Such lobby should be designed as a common area and an integral part of the fireman's lift so that it could not be readily incorporated as part of any adjacent unit(s) of accommodation.”

Since some existing fireman's lift designs might not fully comply with the revised Clause, for example the dual-entry fireman's lift with one entry directly connected to occupancy, some members raised concerns on whether those amended General Building Plans (GBP) submissions of new buildings with previously approved fireman's lift arrangement would be accepted. The Chairman advised that the Authorized

Persons might propose suitable mitigation measures to BD for their consideration, once the case was referred by BD, FSD would pragmatically consider accepting such situation with the agreed mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis. All members agreed that for new submissions, the design of fireman's lifts should fully comply with the revised Clause.

3. **Provision of "Evacuation Switch" for Fire Alarm System for Buildings with Alarm Zoning Arrangement**

The Circular Letter regarding the installation of an external "Evacuation Switch" for Fire Alarm System in buildings with alarm zoning arrangement (in accordance with Part VIII to FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96) had already been prepared.

As further discussion in this meeting was not required, members agreed to delete the item at the next meeting.

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

The relevant FSD Circular Letter was under final stage of preparation.

As further discussion in this meeting was not required, members agreed to delete the item at the next meeting.

5. **FSI Requirements for Buildings with Lifts Serving Direct to Occupancy**

for lifts directly serves to the occupancy, occupants calling for lift might proceed to an occupied area (unprotected area) on fire without being alerted in advance and might expose to hazardous situation. In the light of this, FSD had recently conducted a thorough study and evaluation on all possible mitigating measures with technical inputs from professional staff.

A new FSI requirement ("Automatic Actuating Devices") for a new

Classification of Premises ("Lifts not serve directly to Protected Means of Escape"), with details below, was drawn up to prevent the undesirable situation.

- (a) *If any lift opening does not serve directly to Protected Means of Escape as defined in paragraph 1.2 of FSI Code, smoke detectors as automatic actuating devices shall be provided to all lift openings connecting to unprotected areas in the same lift shaft;*
- (b) *The following buildings shall be exempted from this requirement-*
- (i) Buildings fully protected by sprinkler; or*
 - (ii) Domestic buildings with 3-storey or below.*

Prior to the implementation of the abovementioned FSI requirement, the stakeholders in the industry would be informed through the following channels:

- Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons;
- Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of Hong Kong; and
- Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group.

A FSD Circular Letter to announce the details of the new FSI requirement would be issued in due course.

Members agreed that the proposed measure would enhance building fire safety condition in the territory.

6. **Gate Valve Management System for Fire Hydrant /Hose Reel System**

During a recent post-fire investigation, it was noted that the gate valves installed along the piping system of Fire Hydrant / Hose Reel System were "shut-off" by unknown person(s) thus rendering the system not in an efficient working order. He emphasized that shutting off the gate valve might constitute a fire hazard according to Section 2 of the Fire Services Ordinance, Cap 95, Laws of Hong Kong.

To prevent the recurrence of similar incident, FSD proposed to adopt a Gate Valves Management System (GVMS), which was similar to the

Sprinkler Subsidiary Stop Valve Management System as promulgated in FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2010, to prevent the essential gate valves (the Valves) along Fire Hydrant and Hose Reel System from being tampered or inadvertently turned off.

As members generally supported the above suggested plan, FSD would issue a circular letter to promulgate the agreed arrangement.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1645 hours.

END