

**Summary of Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered
Fire Service Installation Contractors of HK Ltd (FSICA)
held on 8 December 2015**

1.1 Improvement of Fire Safety under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance

Members were briefed on the latest inspection statistics.

1.2 Proposal to Improve Fire Safety in Private Buildings

Members were briefed on the latest enforcement statistics.

1.3 Checking the Standard of Maintenance Works Carried Out by Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSIC)

Members were briefed on the latest statistics related to the surprise checks carried out by FSD.

1.4 Registered Fire Engineer Scheme (RFireE)

While the legislative amendment work was in progress, the RFireE Scheme was introduced to the LegCo in the Panel for Security Meeting 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.

1.5 Commissioning of the Integrated Licensing, fire Safety and Prosecution System (LIFIPS)

It was observed that the usage of e-FS251 reached a historical high of 37.25% in July, and the average usage continued to maintain at a percentage slightly above 33% from August to October in 2015.

1.6 Annual Inspection of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSIs)

Between September and November 2015, there were 1870 advisory letter (ALs) dispatched to the building owners and 434 nos. of FS 251 were received in response to the advisory letters.

1.7 Provision of reference cost estimation for upgrading FSI of typical old buildings

FSD had issued a memo to Department of Justice (DoJ) in September 2015 for seeking advice on the issue of whether it was legally in order for the FSICA to publish a reference price list on upgrading FSI of typical old buildings. The reply from DoJ was awaiting.

1.8 Labels on FSI Annual Inspection and Last Maintenance

As no further discussion on the issue was required, members had no objection to delete the item in the next meeting.

1.9 Review of Workshop Equipment List

A working group meeting with the representatives of FSICA was held on 20 October 2015. In the meeting, the workshop equipment list for registration of Class 1, 2 & 3 FSIC was fully discussed. During the discussion, the detector tester was proposed to be deleted from the list due to change of market technology and; alternative tools for rotary stripper and bending lever were also proposed. Supporting document on the above proposed changes were being prepared by the FSICA.

1.10 Fire Safety Provisions for Residential Flats with Open Kitchen Design

FSD had reminded members of the HKAPMC the mandatory requirement to carry out annual FSI inspection and submit a consolidated FS251 as far as possible, within the legal timeframe and the failure to inspect FSI timely or to maintain FSI in efficient working order might void any fire insurance policies during the Liaison Meeting between FSD & HKAPMC on 16.10.2015. Furthermore, FSD presented a fire safety talk to The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers on 5.11.2015 to inform them the complexities of carrying out inspection to FSI in residential flats with open kitchen design and to seek their co-operation in disseminating the fire safety messages on the mandatory requirement to carry out annual FSI inspection to their clients.

1.11 FSI Requirements for Buildings with Lifts Serving Direct to Occupancy

Members were informed that that lifts serving direct to the occupancy without a protected lobby had become popular for some recent design of non-fireman's lifts. However, lift passengers might unknowingly disembark on the scene of fire and

expose to immediate hazardous situation. Such situation was considered undesirable from fire safety point of view. As a mitigation measure, a new FSI requirement (“Automatic Actuating Devices” [AAD]) would be imposed to alleviate the undesirable situation:

(a) Smoke detectors as AAD shall be installed outside all lift openings which do not discharge to protected means of escape. Actuation of the AAD shall override any car call to prevent lift passengers unknowingly disembark on the scene of fire and redirect the lift to home landing or an unaffected floor.

(b) The following buildings would be exempted from this requirement:

- (i) Buildings fully protected by sprinkler.
- (ii) Domestic buildings with 3-storey or below.

The issue was discussed in detail and Members generally supported the use of AAD to improve the fire safety of lift passengers.

1.12 Provision of securing devices to prevent the Stop Valve of FS tank from being tampered or inadvertently turned off

Members were informed that during a recent post-fire investigation, the investigation team noted that a stop valve installed along the piping system of a Fire Hydrant / Hose Reel System was found shut in the ‘close position’ by unknown person(s) thus rendering the system not in efficient working order. Members were reminded that the shutting off of stop valve might constitute a fire hazard within the meaning of 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 Stop Valves Management System (SVMS), which was similar to the Sprinkler Subsidiary Stop Valve Management System as promulgated in FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2010, to prevent the essential stop valves (the Valves) along fire hydrant and hose reel system from being tampered or inadvertently turned off. The subject issue was brought up for discussion in the FSSAG Meeting on 14.9.2015, the Liaison Meeting between FSD & HKAPMC on 16.10.2015 and the FSD/AP Liaison Meeting on 24.11.2015. All of them indicated their support to the SVMS. In this regard, a FSD Circular Letter would be issued in due course.