

# **Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)**

## Matters Discussed in the 42<sup>nd</sup> FSSAG Meeting held on 11 November 2014

### **1. Review of PPA 104 (Issued under cover of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2006)**

The draft PPA/104 & PPA/104(A) (5<sup>th</sup> Revision) would be amended to incorporate the fire resisting cable requirements recommended by the Sub-working Group (SWG) on Fire Resisting Cable Requirements for Fire Service Installations. The 7<sup>th</sup> SWG meeting on Emergency Lighting Systems for Licensed Premises would be arranged to discuss on availability of certified/tested products for compliance with the proposed standards and requirements of the new PPA/104 & PPA/104(A).

### **2. Provision of Indication Label for Manual Evacuation Switch**

The draft letter had been prepared and was under consideration of the Senior Management of FSD. Members' attention was drawn on the content of the newly issued BS 5839 (2013 version) which was similar to that of the old version, only without mentioning the requirement of zoning of operation of manual fire alarms, as laid down in paragraph 4 of FSD Circular Letter 4/1996. Members were reminded that the afore-said Circular Letter was still in force and should be closely observed and followed and the principle of "two floors above and one floor below of the floor involved" should be closely observed.

### **3. Review on fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of "Minimum Fire Resisting Cable Requirements for Fire Service Installations" was discussed in the 9<sup>th</sup> SWG meeting held on 21.10.2014. The final review was completed on 4.11.2014. Upon clarification and incorporation of some minor comments received, the draft would be issued to Members of the FSSAG for comments.

### **4. Review of Case Drawings 12/1 to 12/5 for V/AC Control Systems under FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2005**

Further to the request from the Hong Kong Registered Ventilation Contractors Association (HK RVCA), the draft FSD Circular Letter together with the revised

case drawings and explanatory notes for V/AC Controls in typical food premises had been issued to members of the Ventilation Installations Liaison Group (VILG) for review. Comments from members of the VILG would be discussed in the coming VILG meeting to be held on 13.11.2014.

**5. Maintenance Inspection for Fire Detection Systems (DFS)**

The draft Circular Letter had been sent to FSSAG Members for comment on 19 August 2014. The revised draft was currently under the consideration of the Senior Management of FSD.

**6. To clarify the Positioning of Street Fire Hydrants**

As the requirement of street fire hydrant system had been explained in detail during the last meeting and no further enquiry was raised by the members, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

**7. BD CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings, 2011 B13 – Doors in Relation to Exits / C16 – Fire Rated Doors**

FSD's view on the provisions for door locking/holding devices was reiterated and it was clarified that for the provision of automatic detection system for actuating the locking/holding devices, only local detectors (detectors on both side of the door) were required. Those detectors would be classified as Automatic Actuating Devices and direct link to Fire Services Communication Centre was not required. Members discussed the issue in detail. It was clarified and concluded in the meeting that the Buildings Department should be the authority to interpret the BD CoP (2011). Nevertheless, FSD's role was to give advice on fire safety matters and to ensure that fire service requirements of a building were met. The Registered FSI Contractor (RFSIC) could contact FSD whenever they encountered problems in relation to fire service installation. Special cases would be considered on individual merit.

**8. Revised checklists as appended to “Codes of Practice for Minimum Service Installation and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installation and Equipment” (FSD CoP)**

Members were informed that according to the current practices, the Registered FSI

Contractor (RFSIC) was responsible for conducting testing and commissioning (T&C) of fire service installations, and completing and signing duly the checklists which should be submitted with form FSI/501 requesting for compliance inspection. In the circumstances, the Inspecting Officers (IO) of FSD had not witnessed any test as mentioned in the checklists before actual compliance inspection. In fact, IO would conduct a compliance inspection to check against the signed checklists to ensure that system-wise performance of the installed FSIs was acceptable. As such, IO's signature for witnessing T&C works in those checklists should be deleted to reflect the actual situations. A draft FSD Circular Letter was being prepared to issue such checklists and remind RFSIC/stakeholders to submit essential documents (e.g. completed Equipment List, FSI/314 and these T&C checklists) which should be submitted together with form FSI/501 applying for compliance inspections.

**9. Revised Annex 1 “Fire Services Installations – Equipment List” of FSD Circular Letter No .1/2007 to be incorporated in FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2014**

In order to ensure that the submitted Equipment List together with the supporting documents, which were treated as essential information for compliance inspections, had been checked as true and correct by the RFSIC, the Annex 1 “Fire Services Installations – Equipment List” of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2007 had been revised to include RFSIC's signature for the following confirmation:

“This is to confirm that either original copies of above mentioned documents or their photocopies which have been checked as true and correct, are appended to this Equipment List.”

Besides, the Equipment List had also been generally amended to include missing equipment and delete the obsoleted Product Certifying Body. As such, FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2007 was being revised.

The proposed arrangement was fully supported by FSICA.

**10. Enhancement on Application procedure for Approval/Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI) and other Products**

Members were informed that for the purpose of streamlining the application

procedures and reminding the trade to pay attention to application procedures and requirements, some measures had been/would be implemented. Details had been uploaded onto the FSD homepage in August 2014. In addition, FSD Circular Letter and application guidelines "Fire Protection Notice No. 15" were being revised and would be issued afterward. Seminars would be held on 2, 3 and 9 December 2014 to introduce the new procedure to all relevant stakeholders. The new procedure would be fully implemented tentatively in early 2015.

#### **11. Emergency Lighting System Checklist**

Members discussed and exchanged views on the subject matter. In view of the complexities of the subject matter, it was agreed that a Working Group (WG) would be set up and chaired by Engineer (FSI) of FSD.

#### **12. Proposed Symbol for Novec 1230 Fixed Sprayer Units**

In connection with the proposal, FSD was going to issue a Circular Letter updating Para. 8 of Part VIII of FSD Circular Letter no. 4/96 "Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents" to cover all labels including Novec 1230 fixed sprayer units.

#### **13. To stop uploading the Chinese version of the Summary of minutes of FSSAG Meeting to the FSD website**

Members were informed that it was an existing practice to upload a summary of the minutes of FSSAG meeting onto the FSD Website, both in English and Chinese version. As this summary was usually full of professional and technical jargons which were found difficult to translate into Chinese, it was therefore proposed to upload the English version of the summary onto the FSD Website only. Members had no objection to the proposed arrangement.