

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 46th FSSAG Meeting held on 17 December 2015

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

The 9th Sub-working Group (SWG) meeting was held on 2.11.2015. The revised draft PPA/104 and PPA/104(A) (5th Revision) were passed to members of the SWG for comment on 4.12.2015. Upon incorporating comments from members of the SWG, the final drafts would be passed to members of the FSSAG for comment.

In the 9th SWG meeting, members of the SWG agreed to refer the request of Hong Kong Electrical Contractors' Association (HKECA) regarding relaxation of the upper operating voltage limit of the central battery DC supply system for emergency lighting from 120 volts to 240 volts for discussion in the FSSAG meeting. Members exchanged views on the issue. The meeting concluded that respective member should consider the proposed relaxation carefully from safety point of view and provide FSD with more relevant information to substantiate the proposal. With sufficient information in hand, the subject matter could be discussed further.

2. Review on fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations

The draft FSD Circular Letter on the revised minimum fire resisting cable requirements for fire service installations was being scrutinized by the Senior Management of FSD. While the deliberation process was in progress, the above draft could be used as the basis for discussion of the trade practices and interfacing problems raised by FSICA. FSICA was requested to prepare the necessary documents for discussion in the SWG meeting to be conducted in January 2016.

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

The enhancement programme was in Phase 5 (Final stage). The revised Fire Protection Notice No.15 would be launched in due course, and the enhancement

would be announced formally through FSD Circular Letter.

4. Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting

The 2nd sub-working group meeting was held on 11 September 2015 and the draft meeting notes were circulated for members' comment. At this stage, BS 5266-1 2011 was under review.

5. Review of Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents including Novec 1230

The draft FSD Circular Letter was being prepared and would be circulated to FSSAG members for comments in due course. Apart from the relevant paragraph of FSDCL 4/1996, a study would be conducted to check if appropriate amendments or replacement were required for the FSD Circular Letter Nos. 1/2011, 3/2009 and 12/1997 which also addressed to the relevant matter.

6. Requirements for Calibration and Tamper-proof for Testing Instruments Used for Compliance Inspections

The relevant FSD Circular Letter was under final stage of preparation. As no further discussion was required for the issue, members had no objection to delete the item in the next meeting.

7. Implementation of BS 5839: 2013 “Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings – Part 1: Code of Practice for Design, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Systems in Non-domestic Premises”

The 1st Sub-working Group (SWG) meeting was held on 14.10.2015 and members of the SWG were reviewing the requirements of BS 5839-1: 2013 and FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2009 adopting BS 5839-1: 2002 + A2: 2008 with modifications. The main task in hand was to incorporate the requirements of BS 5839-1: 2013 into the new FSD Circular Letter.

8. Provision of securing devices to prevent the Gate Valve of FS tank from being tampered or inadvertently turned off

The subject issue had been brought up for discussion in the Liaison Meeting between FSD & HKAPMC on 16.10.2015 and the FSD/AP Liaison Meeting on

24.11.2015. All members indicated their support to the SVMS. Meanwhile, valuable comments from concerned parties had been incorporated into the proposed FSD Circular Letter. A fair copy would be issued to all stakeholders for seeking their consent before dispatch.

9. Emergency Power supply for Lift Homing

Members were informed that from time to time, FSD had received applications for connection of lift homing loads to emergency generators. Although lift homing was a mandatory requirement from EMSD, it was a non-FSI by nature and separate applications to FSD were required according to Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment. When processing those applications without additional tripping control, the following conditions/requirements should be considered:

- (a) Other non-FSI loads than lift-homing;
- (b) Arrangement of essential power supplies for lift homing; and
- (c) Sequential arrangement for lift homing.

According to EMSD's requirements, lift homing should be actuated by a manual switch installed at caretaker's office. Thus, designers' attention should also be drawn to the following condition:

“Lift homing should not be automatically actuated by fire detection and alarm system (unless required by FSD as additional provisions) and lift operation will not be reactivated before the reset of the fire alarm signal at the main FS control panel in case of lift homing due to fire.”

Respective member stated that there were two common trade practices for homing lifts by normal power or power supply of emergency generator.

The subject matter was discussed in detail. Members were requested to gather more information about the common trade practices on the design and method of connecting lift homing to the emergency generator, in particular in small-scale development. With sufficient information in hand, the subject issue could be discussed further.

10. Provision of Sprinkler Inlet

It was suggested that the system flow requirement for calculation of the provision of sprinkler inlets should be determined according to the maximum demand flow as stipulated in Table 6 of BS EN 12845: 2003. For light hazard installations, the maximum demand flow could be taken as 225 l/min to match the modified table TB210.T5 of FSCL No. 2/2012. However, such system flow requirements were not applicable to sprinkler installations designed based on fully hydraulic calculation.

11. FSI Requirements for Buildings with Lifts Serving Direct to Occupancy

Members were informed that lifts directly serving to the occupancy without a protected lobby became 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, Automatic Actuating Devices using smoke detectors could be installed for lifts not discharging to protected means of escape to initiate Home Landing Operation as required in the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators (Lift Code). The following buildings were proposed be exempted from this requirement:

- (a) Sprinkler protected buildings; and
- (b) Low rise domestic buildings (up to and including three storeys in height).

Should the proposed measure be considered technically feasible, FSD Circular Letter would be issued to announce the finalized requirements and implementation date.