

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 48th FSSAG Meeting held on 5 July 2016

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

BS 5266-1:2011 was superseded by BS 5266-1:2016 in May 2016 and a series of updated interdependent standards had been adopted by this new emergency lighting standard. The meeting agreed that these revised/updated standards should be reviewed by the Sub-Working Group (SWG) and incorporated in the draft PPA/104 and PPA/104(A) (5th Revision).

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

The 11th SWG meeting was held on 13 May 2016. Members of the SWG were reviewing the draft FSD Circular Letter to incorporate the requirements of the revised fire resistant cable standards: BS EN 50200:2015 and BS 7846:2015. As it was noted that BS 7629-1:2008 would be superseded by BS 7629-1:2015 on 31 August 2016, the meeting agreed that this updated standard on multicore fire resistant cables should also be reviewed by the SWG and incorporated in the new FSD Circular Letter.

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

The situation remained unchanged and the relevant FSD Circular Letter was under preparation.

4. Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting

The 3rd sub-working group meeting was held on 27 April 2016. At this stage, members had been assigned to study BS 5266-1 and BS EN 1838. However, as BS 5266-1:2011 was superseded by BS 5266-1:2016 in May 2016, the requirements as stipulated in the new standard should be reviewed in this exercise.

5. Review of Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents including Novec 1230

The draft FSD Circular Letter had been circulated to all FSSAG members for comment.

6. 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 SWG had prepared lists of preliminary suggestions / amendments for discussion in the 2nd SWG meeting which would be held on 12 July 2016.

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

The draft FSD Circular Letter was under the deliberation of FSD management. The relevant Circular Letter would be issued forthwith.

8. Emergency Power supply for Lift Homing

The issue had been discussed thoroughly in the last meeting. In this regard, Members were advised to forward their comments to FSD for follow-up action.

9. Automatic Actuation Devices for Lifts Not Discharging to Protected Means of Escape (Heading in 46th FSSAG Meeting : FSI Requirements for Buildings with Lifts Serving Direct to Occupancy)

Further advice was being sought from the EMSD on the proposed use of Automatic Actuation Device (smoke detector) to initiate the home landing operation of lift car and related arrangement.

10. Fire Alarm Signal and Sounding for AFA System and Sprinkler System for Residential Flats with Open Kitchen

The general arrangement of fire alarms for new domestic buildings with open kitchen units was thoroughly discussed in the previous meeting according to the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 (FSCB) issued by the Buildings

Department and previously endorsed Fire Safety Management Plans (FSMP) and is recorded as follows:

<i>Scenario</i>	<i>Alarm of sounder-base detector in open kitchen unit</i>	<i>Building fire alarm</i>	<i>Fire alarm transmission via CFTAS</i>
<i>1. Actuation of sounder base detectors in open kitchen units</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>2. Actuation of detectors in common areas</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>3. Actuation of sprinklers in open kitchen units or common areas</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>

After the last meeting, FSICA had expressed that there would be some technical constraints to comply with the requirements in scenario no. 2 and no. 3 in the above table. They enquired if it was necessary for both common fire alarm and alarm of local sounder-base detector in open kitchen unit to take effect simultaneously.

As the issue involved technical complexity, the meeting agreed that FSD would discuss the issue internally prior to making further discussion in the next FSSAG meeting. In the meantime, the requirement laid down in the endorsed FSMP of a project should be followed during compliance inspection. Without FSMP, the requirement of FSCB should be followed.

11. Sprinkler Installation inside Residential Flats with Open Kitchen

This item was thoroughly discussed in the previous meeting. It was concluded that application for non-provision of sprinklers inside concealed spaces for open kitchens should be submitted for FSD's acceptance. The applicant should demonstrate that List Item 2.2 of the List Two as appended in FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2006 should be conformed to.

As there were no further queries raised by Members, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

12. Clarification on Application of UL or FM Listed Quick Response Sprinkler Head

This item had been thoroughly discussed in the previous meeting and was concluded that fast response sprinkler heads should achieve Response Time Index (RTI) not greater than $50 \text{ (ms)}^{1/2}$. In addition, UL or FM listed quick response sprinkler heads were accepted by FSD if equivalent performance was proved. Members were reminded that for some special projects in which conventional sprinkler heads would be upgraded to fast response sprinkler heads, in that case concealed type sprinkler should not be used.

As there were no further queries raised by Members, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

13. Ceiling Sprinkler Protection at High Ceiling Clearance Facilities in Buildings

The requirements on sprinkler provision for high ceiling were explained thoroughly in the last meeting. Members were reminded that long throw / open-type sprinklers might be required to protect the base of a high atrium (exceeding 15m in height) in accordance with the fire engineering design.

As there were no further queries raised by Members, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

14. Automatic Sprinkler System Design for Deep Basement

An informal discussion regarding the issue was arranged on 28 June 2016. As there could be many different special design options, the designer should closely observe the requirement laid down in FSD CoP, i.e. the LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations incorporating BS EN 12845 (with suitable modifications pertinent to Hong Kong as stipulated in the relevant FSD Circular Letters), or else FSD had to consider and approve the design on case by case basis.

15. BS EN 12845 (2015 version)

It was learned that LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations incorporating BS EN 12845:2015 would be implemented for all contracts let after 1 March 2016

for Britain. Therefore, it seemed that it was too early to review this new standard at this stage without knowing the practical implementation difficulties in Britain. It was suggested that this item should be reviewed after the new standard had been fully implemented in Britain for a certain period of time, say 12 to 18 months.

It was agreed that Members would help identify and focus on items that could be applied locally including those issued in the 2003 and 2015 version.

16. Alarms and Monitoring of Sprinkler System – BS EN12845:2003

According to the current practice, a local visual indicator should be fitted to each control valve set no matter whether alarm motor and gong was shared for use or not. The issue was discussed. On the basis of the established practice in local application and prompt recognition of fire zone by fire crews, it was finally agreed that a local visual indicator should be provided for each wet alarm valve no matter whether alarm motor and gong was shared for use or not. In addition, for buildings with a single control valve set, a local visual indicator would not be required.

17. Calibration Requirements for Test Instruments used for Compliance Inspection of Fire Services Installations

According to FSD Circular Letter (CL) No. 1/2016, pressure gauges which were used as test instruments for compliance inspection should be calibrated and protected from tampering. Thus, this CL should not apply for the pressure gauge which was permanently installed formed part of fire service installations and equipment such as those fitted to sprinkler control valve sets, pump sets, etc.