

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 52nd FSSAG Meeting held on 17 August 2017

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

The draft PPA/104 and PPA/104(A) (5th Revision), regarding emergency lighting in licensed premises, were issued to members of FSSAG for review on 27.3.2017. As comments only received from ArchSD, FSD would further liaise with ArchSD prior to incorporating their comments in the revised draft.

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

The Sub-working Group (SWG) had reviewed and confirmed that the requirement of sprinkler protection for exemption of fire resisting cables inside flexible metal conduit or surface conduit (not exceeding 2m in total length) was crucial to ensure system reliability of the FSIs. Members were also informed that in normal circumstances the new requirement would not apply to existing buildings except in the case of major alteration and addition work involved or work that required a new Occupation Permit.

As all the comments from FSSAG's members had been cleared, the final draft Circular Letter had been submitted to the Senior Management of FSD for endorsement.

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

The enhancement programme was in the final stage (Phase 5). The revised Fire Protection Notice No.15 with the Circular Letter had been prepared and would be launched in due course.

4. Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting

The 5th SWG meeting would be arranged soon.

5. Review of Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents including Novec 1230

The draft FSD Circular Letter had been revised and re-submitted to the Senior Management of FSD for endorsement.

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 3rd SWG meeting would be arranged later for further discussions on the ways to reduce false alarms and to enhance reliability of the fire detection and alarm systems.

7. Flashing Requirement for Exit Sign and Directional Sign in Audio / Visual Advisory System (AVAS)

Regarding the subject matter, two comments were received from SFPE – HK Chapter and FSICA respectively:

- (i) The provision of marking or label for the directional signs of two independent systems, i.e. AVA System and Exit Sign System, for the same premises with same graphic symbol; and
- (ii) The provision of visual fire alarm or flashing light or directional sign (flashing) in the vicinity of exit sign of the AVA system.

Members were requested to forward their comments, if any, to FSD directly for further discussion.

8. Actuation Temperature of Heat detector(s) under the Fire Safety Requirements for D.G. Store

Amendment to the actuation temperature of heat detector(s) under the relevant F.S. Requirement for DG store was being prepared by DGD for endorsement of FSD Senior Management. It was envisaged that the amended F.S. Requirement would be uploaded onto the FSD website before the next FSSAG meeting.

9. Application of Condensed Aerosol Fire Extinguishing System

As no further discussion on the issue was required, the meeting agreed to delete this item for the time being until there was update to report.

10. Size of Suction Pipe for Sprinkler Pump

Members were asked to note that the requirement as stated in FSD Circular Letter 3/2012 regarding the equivalent length of the suction pipe and maximum water velocity aimed to avoid air locks. As members considered more time was required for studying the proposal made by FSICA, the meeting concluded that members should forward their comments to FSD directly within one month in order that comments received could be consolidated for further discussion in the next FSSAG meeting.

11. Zoning of Sprinkler Installations

Members were informed that the number of sprinklers to be controlled by any one control valve set should not exceed 1000 sprinkler heads or equivalent to 12000 m² of maximum sprinkler protected area based on current requirements. The subject matter was discussed in detail. As members considered more time was required for studying the proposal, the meeting concluded that members should forward their comments to FSD directly within one month in order that comments received could be consolidated for further discussion in the next FSSAG meeting.