

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 54th FSSAG Meeting held on 1 March 2018

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

Regarding the subject matter, no further comment was received from members on the final draft of PPA104 and PPA104(A). The final drafts were under final review before formal issuance.

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

The updated proposal for further discussions on the demarcation on FR cables in building services installations prepared by FSICA had been sent out to members of the SWG. Since the demarcation and extent of fire resisting cables required for fire service installations and their interfacing with other building service installations needed further discussion, a sub-working group would be set up for the purpose.

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

The enhancement programme was in final stage (Phase 5). A study was being conducted to incorporate a continuous surveillance mechanism for quality assurance. The Fire Protection Notice No.15 with the Circular Letter would be launched in due course.

4. Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting

The meeting notes for the 5th SWG meeting were distributed to SWG members on 10.1.2018.

5. Review of Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents including Novec 1230

FSD Circular Letter 4/2017 Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing System was issued on

1 December 2017. As no further discussion on the issue was required, the meeting agreed that the item would be deleted in the next meeting.

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”

To facilitate the onward study on the updated BS 5839-1:2017, Members would study the new standard and update their proposals for discussion in the coming SWG meeting.

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

It was discussed and agreed that the requirements for independent visual part of AVA system had been elaborated clearly in previous meeting and no further discussion on the system operation and requirement was required.

For the colour of flashing light, comments from ArchSD, HKIE(FED) and SFPE were received as follows:

ArchSD considered such flashing device should emit white or red flashing light and the other light colour than that used for visual fire alarm should be selected. Besides, for the sake of clear demarcation between AVAS and visual fire alarm system, it was not recommended that the visual alarm units which were installed to meet the requirements of Barrier - free Access Ordinance were used to fulfill the above requirements for AVAS.

HKIE(FED) recommended that the colour of the flashing light unit should be in red.

SFPE recommended that the colour of flashing light for exit sign in AVAS should be in red color in order to identify the purpose of flashing light (Fire services system) and should form part of AVAs and should not incorporate into the Visual Fire Alarm System.

Members discussed the issue in detail. It was suggested that a real test with flashing lights or red and white to demonstrate the acceptability should be

conducted.

Due to unknown masking effect on the red colour flashing lights on the ordinary exit signs and directional signs, it was preferable to conduct a real test with flashing lights or red and white to demonstrate the acceptability. Since the adoption of AVAS in premises with area over 2,000m² which was regarded as a considerable scale, it was recommended that flashing exit signs and directional signs should be adopted for simple and direct installation achieving maximum alert effect to occupations required to evacuate. In this regard, FSICA kindly agreed to arrange the test.

8. Size of Suction Pipe for Sprinkler Pump

It was agreed in the meeting that items 8, 9 and 11 would merge with 12 with effect from next FSSAG meeting for further discussion in the SWG for the review on LPC sprinkler rules 2015.

9. Zoning of Sprinkler Installations

Comments on the subject matter received from ArchSD and SFPE were discussed in the meeting. It was agreed in the meeting that technical issues for the sprinkler installations should be further discussed in the sub-working group for the review on LPC sprinkler rules 2015.

10. Further Clarification on Colour of Flashing Light for Exit Signs in Audio/Visual Advisory System (AVAS)

The issue was discussed in item 7. It was agreed that with effect from next FSSAG meeting, this item would merge with item 7 for further discussion in the SWG meeting.

11. Proposed sprinkler temperature rating to be adopted locally in HK

It was agreed in the meeting that items 8, 9 and 11 would merge with 12 with effect from next FSSAG meeting for further discussion in the SWG for the review on LPC sprinkler rules 2015.

12. Review on LPC Sprinkler Rules 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845

A sub-working group (SWG) for “Review on LPC Sprinkler Rules 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845” would soon be formed to discuss all related issues. Such being the case, items 8, 9 and 11 would merge with item 12 for further discussion.

13. FSICA joining the LPC Technical Bulletin Committee as an observer

As no further discussion was required for the issue, the meeting agreed to delete this item for the time being.

14. Requirements for Fire Safety Curtain Installed in Cinemas/Theatres

FSD had contacted FEHD regarding the Guide provided in the FEHD website. As no further discussion on the subject matter was required, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

15. Briefing to the Construction Industry in relation to Building Plan Submission and FSI Acceptance Inspection on 24.11 2017

Members were informed of the seminar conducted on 24 November 2017 with the construction industry in relation to building plan submission and FSI acceptance inspection. The power point of the seminar was uploaded onto the FSD website for general information.

Members exchanged views on the effectiveness of the new measures, in particular the provision of document check list and arrangement of pre-inspection meeting. As the new measures were put into operation for a few months, the result was not obvious. It was envisaged that members could be provided with more information on the result of the new measures in the next FSSAG meeting.

16. Exit Sign (Clause 5.10 of COP)

Representative of FSICA briefed the meeting the subject matter raised by FSICA. Regarding the subject matter, FSD proposed to strictly abide by the requirement of 5.10 of FSCoP regarding colour contrast. For double-side directional signs, there was no adverse comment provided the technical requirements of FSCoP were fully complied with. For clarification and easy reference, Representative of FSICA

undertook to prepare some colour combinations of the exit sign for members' consideration and further discussion in the next FSSAG meeting.

17. AFA Equipment Product Approval

Representative of FSICA briefed the meeting the subject matter raised by FSICA. Members exchanged views on the subject matter. The Chairman said that FS Circular Letter (FSCL) 1/2007 in respect of the subject matter was issued about 10 years ago. It was time to review and update the content of the said circular. To start with, an internal discussion would be conducted to update and fine-tune the circular. Members' views and comments were always welcome.