

Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matters Discussed in the 59th FSSAG Meeting held on 26 June 2019

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

Owing to BSEN50272-1:2010 and BSEN50272-2:2001 had been superseded by BSEN IEC 62485-1:2018 and BSEN IEC 62485-2:2018 respectively, the new standards would be adopted to the 5th revision of PPA104 and 104A. In this regards, updated version of PPA104 and 104A incorporated with the latest comments of FSSAG were sent to members for finalization on 20 August 2019.

2 Enhancement on Application Procedure for Approval/Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI) and other Products

The revised version of Fire Protection Notice No.15, FSI application form and FSD Circular Letter were being finalized and would be published in due course.

3 Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting

The switching requirements for the emergency lighting for the MoE path was further revised to suit the latest operational requirements of some premises. During power supply failure, any emergency lighting for the MoE path should be switched on automatically without interruption by lighting switches or other control devices. The revised clause was circulated to all SWG members for final review. In addition, FSD would review the operation and maintenance requirements as stated in BS5266 and an Ad-hoc meeting would be arranged to discuss this subject soon.

4 Implementation of BS 5839: 2017 “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 review was still underway with all members’ open and active discussions and review on the Standard with careful deliberation. The 9th meeting was held on 11.6.2019 and the 10th SWG meeting was scheduled on 3.9.2019.

5 Review on LPC Sprinkler Rules 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845

The 9th SWG meeting was held on 8 May 2019. The first draft review was being circulated to members for further review and comments. The targeted date to accomplish this task was within year 2019.

6 Review and evaluation of Sprinkler Stop Valve Management System (SSSMVS) and Stop Valve Management System (SMVS)

FSD had no further comment and update on the issue. Representatives from BSOMES and REDA were invited to join the discussion on this topic.

Some members presented to the meeting regarding the background, review and evaluation of SSSMVS and SMVS. FSD would conduct an internal review on FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2010 and No. 6/2016 to see if there was a need to combine the two Circular Letters into one and to upgrade the requirement standard.

7 Alarm Signals and Display for Automatic Fixed Installation other than Water and Drencher System

FSICA presented to the meeting the updated proposal on the captioned subject in which different systems for alarm signals and signals display on panel were further elaborated. The detail arrangement of alarm signal table had been revised. Members were advised to study the updated proposal for further discussion in the next meeting.

8 Smoke Extraction System associated with Fire Engineering Design with Verification by Hot Smoke Test (HST)

FSD reminded Members to follow the requirements for performing hot smoke test prescribed in FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2002 if applicable. Tests should be systematically planned and arranged to verify the performance of the smoke extraction systems with methodology accepted by FSD.

As there was no supplement to this issue, the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

9 Points to note during Inspection, Maintenance, Modification or Repair of FSI

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

10 Guidance Notes on Submission, Approval and Acceptance Inspection of FSI in Modular Integrated Construction Building Projects

FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2019 – “Guidance Notes on Submission, Approval and Acceptance Inspection of Fire Service Installations and Equipment in Modular Integrated Construction Building Projects” was issued in March 2019 and uploaded onto the FSD website. Members agreed that this item would be deleted in the next meeting.

11 Checklists for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of FSI

FSD reported that comments on the checklists covering FH/HR System and Supply Tanks had been received on 29.5.2019 and being studied by the WG. Furthermore, Checklist for Automatic Sprinkler System was being finalized which would be circulated to relevant parties in due course.

As this subject became an updating exercise, members agreed that this item would be deleted in the next meeting.

12 Proposed Minimum Effective Water Volume in F.S. Water Tank for System Equipped with Transfer System (HKIE-BSD)

Representative of HKIE-BSE presented to the meeting the contents of the proposed measurement on the minimum effective water volume in FS water tank for system with a transfer pump.

FSD informed the meeting that the effective water volume measurement at top level should be accounted from the transfer pump cut-in level while the bottom level should follow the requirements laid down in Clause 9.3.5 of BS EN 12845:2003. This requirement should be applicable for automatic sprinkler, FH/HR installations or the like. Members agreed to follow the proposed arrangement with the addition of direct system. HKIE-BSE would refine the drawings later on.

FSD would issue a FS Circular Letter in this regard for information of all parties concerned and the effective date would be announced later.

13 Review of Hazard Classification of Sprinkler System Installation for A&A work

It had been observed that for some A&A works, FSI system installation needed to be altered to fit the spatial/functional requirements. Since there was only FSI/314A submission to FSD for record purpose, it was the duty of owner/AP/RFSIC to ensure that such works satisfied with FSD's requirements. Owner/AP/RFSIC should aware that any changes of use might affect the design fundamental of FSI installations. For example, the changes of use from "restaurant" to "Department Store" might change the hazard classification of sprinkler system from OHI to OHIII, which in turn would affect the existing sprinkler system, and such changes might not be feasible without prior design consideration.

During the discussion of sub-working group, "LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations incorporating BS EN 12845:2015", such concern was raised by the members on the importance of proper installation of sprinkler system all the time. Building Owner/AP/RFSIC should pay particular attention and review the hazard class of sprinkler system of the affect area all the time from time to time while in the course of carrying out any A&A works.

The representatives of REDA and BSOMES were informed to note that while carrying out A&A work, attention should be paid to review the hazard class of sprinkler system of the affected areas. Moreover, the representatives of REDA and BSOMES were also appealed to relay the message to their members.

14 FS System Provision in Cabinet and Pipe/Cable Duct

FSD informed the meeting that in the FS notes of GBP drawings submitted by AP, FS provisions, e.g. sprinkler system, detection system, were always exempted for small spaces, e.g. cabinet, pipe/cable duct. However, it had been found during the FS compliance inspection that some so-called 'cabinet' or 'pipe duct' were quite large in physical dimension (e.g. 3m x 4m), which should be considered as plant room instead of cabinet. AP should pay attention to the actual size of 'cabinet' or 'duct space' in drawings while exempting FS provision for such areas.

If for special circumstances that more space was reserved for the pipe duct or cabinet area, AP should consider the provision of fire protection for the area

concerned at the design stage. If the situation was observed in the FS compliance inspection, additional work might be required to rectify the situation. As a result, the completion date of compliance inspections by FSD might be affected.

15 Review of Application for Inspection and Testing of Fire Service installations and Equipment (FSI/501)

FSD informed the meeting that with a view to facilitating AP, RPE and RFSIC in their application for FSI acceptance inspection and enhancing their accountability in the FSI acceptance inspection process, the form Application for Inspection and Testing of Fire Service installations and Equipment (FSI/501) was currently under review. It was suggested that, among other things, a new form FSI/501a would be devised. The revamped FSI/501 would be completed by the AP and the RPE while the new form FSI/501a would be completed by the RFSIC. Legal advice on the draft revised forms was sought and received. The legal advice was being studied and the draft revised form would be circulated to the members of advisory group in due course.

Details of the new form FSI/501a was introduced to the meeting. The latest version of the form FSI/501 and FSI/501a would be circulated to FSSAG members for comments after the meeting. [Post meeting Notes : The latest version of the form FSI/501 and FSI 501a (English and Chinese version) were sent to FSSAG members for comments on 11 July 2019.]