

Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)

Matter Discussed in the 78th FSSAG Meeting held on 11 December 2024

1. *Streamlining Application Procedures for Exemption of Sprinkler Installation underneath Canopy or in Inaccessible Voids*

FSD informed the meeting that the response-to-comment table would be distributed to the relevant stakeholders separately. Those comments on the forms were considered and be taken into account accordingly. The captioned forms would be available on the FSD's website in due course.

It was expected that the captioned forms should be finalized shortly so as to streamline the application procedures.

[Post-meeting note: The captioned forms were uploaded onto the FSD's website on 30 December 2024.]

2. *Establishment of Focus Group in Reviewing and Exploring Measures to Streamline FSI Acceptance Mechanism*

FSD briefed that according to Policy Address 2024 on 16 October 2024, a “One-stop Coordination Office for New Fire Protection Facilities Acceptance” (OFFA) 「新建消防設施一站式驗收統籌辦公室」(「消防驗收統籌辦」) would be established in Q1 2025. It planned to provide one-stop coordination services in respect of the acceptance inspection of fire protection facilities of new residential buildings and projects that facilitate business operations and benefit the people. Facilitation measures to be implemented after the establishment of OFFA, e.g. advanced coordination on FSD submissions, early confirmation of inspection schedule, information symmetry among stakeholders, exploring the use of AI and new technology in assisting inspection, etc., were introduced during the briefing session on 21 November 2024. FSD thanked all members of FSSAG Meeting who attended the briefing session.

It was emphasized that FSD strived to streamline inspection procedures and enhance efficiency without compromising fire safety. It was expected that the Focus Group would continue to explore measures to streamline FSI acceptance mechanism.

3. Clarification on Sub-paragraph M.1 of Paragraph 5.23 “Smoke extraction system” of FSD Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI CoP) (Appendix I)* (HKIE(Fire Division))

With reference to sub-paragraph M.1 of paragraph 5.23 “Smoke extraction system” under Part V of FSI CoP, member of HKIE (FD) would like to seek clarification on the premises without sleeping risks (e.g. shopping arcade or basement floors retail units) whether duplicate fans be required.

FSD responded that the captioned subsection M specified the requirements for the provision of standby or duplicate equipment for dynamic smoke extraction systems. In addition to the premises with sleeping risks mentioned in sub-paragraph M.1, duplicate equipment was also required in premises where dual-purpose systems were utilized as specified in sub-paragraph M.2.

**Remark: The appendix was not attached, please refer to the corresponding paragraph in Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI CoP).*

4. Clarification on Paragraph 4.4 “Basements with total floor area exceeding 230m²” of FSI COP (Appendix II)* (HKIE(Fire Division))

With reference to paragraph 4.4 “Basements with total floor area exceeding 230m²” of FSI CoP, member of HKIE (FD) briefed a project of two basement levels only but each basement level was more than 230m², and the entire basement of each level was broken down into many small compartments with less than 230m². Under this circumstances, it was enquired whether the static or dynamic smoke extraction system be exempted.

FSD responded that, according to paragraph 4.4 under Part IV of FSI CoP, a smoke extraction system be required if the following condition(s) as stipulated in the extent is/are met for a basement with total floor area exceeding 230m²:

- (i) any fire compartment exceeding 7000 cubic metres where the designed fire load is likely to exceed 1135 MJ/m², or
- (ii) industrial basements, or
- (iii) basements of three or more levels except areas solely for car parking purposes.

In view of the above, FSD revealed that a smoke extraction system was required even if the entire basement of each level was broken down into many small compartments with less than 230m².

FSD supplemented that according to paragraph 4.3 “Basements with total floor area

not exceeding 230m²” under Part IV of FSI CoP, a smoke extraction system was not required for a basement with total floor area not exceeding 230m².

**Remark: The appendix was not attached, please refer to the corresponding paragraph in Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI CoP)*

5. Clarification for Smoke Detector for Outside of Open Kitchen Flat (Appendix III)* (FSICA)

Member of FSICA briefed members on the background of the issue in relation to Fire Safety in Building FS Codes 2011 (2024 Edition) Clause C13.4 item (b) and enquired details of the allocation of smoke detector(s) for outside of open kitchen flat(s).

FSD responded that the provision of smoke detection system under discussion originated from the domestic unit(s) with open kitchen design in lieu of the entire building. Thus, the extent of application of smoke detection system should be applicable to common area relating to domestic unit(s) with open kitchen design.

It was added that, the provision of smoke detector provided at the common area outside the subject flat as specified in CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings was to prompt fire alarm upon detection of smoke originated flats with open kitchen design. The Commentary supplemented that the smoke detectors were fire service installations designed in accordance with FSI code and should be subject to annual inspection and certification by an RFSIC.

According to FSI CoP (September 2022), BS 5839-1 with local modification was adopted as the specification of fire detection system. The system configuration, siting requirements, etc. should be referred to this standard which were applicable to buildings prescribed with fire detection system.

It was added that in the case of domestic buildings, unless otherwise required, fire detection system was not prescribed under Part IV of FSI CoP except domestic flats adopted with open kitchen design. Therefore, the requirements stipulated in BS 5839-1 is applicable to common area outside units with open kitchen design. To this end, separate enclosure e.g. refuse room, lobbies, protected lobby etc. are not classified as common area adjacent to units with open kitchen design that the provision of smoke detection system should not be required.

**Remark: The appendix was not attached, please refer to the corresponding paragraph in Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Building 2011 (2024 Edition)*

6. *Clarification for Smoke Detector for Inside of Open Kitchen Flat (Appendix IV)* (FSICA)*

With reference to Appendix IV, member of FSICA briefed members the background of the issue in relation to Fire Safety in Building FS Codes 2011 (2024 Edition) Clause C13.4 item (a) and enquired details of the allocation of the sounder base smoke detector(s) in open kitchen flat(s).

FSD responded that, similar to the discussion of smoke detection system in previous discussion item, the provision of smoke detector provided inside the subject flat as specified in CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings is to prompt fire alarm upon detection of smoke originated open kitchen. According to FSI CoP (September 2022), BS 5839-1 with local modification was adopted as the specification of fire detection system. The system configuration, siting requirements, etc. should be referred to this standard which were applicable to buildings prescribed with fire detection system.

It was added that the proposal made by FSICA by referencing to the siting requirements of automatic actuating device (each for 250m²) in V/AC system and smoke extraction systems might not be applicable to smoke detectors inside flats with open kitchen design and would cause ambiguity in complying BS 5839-1. Therefore, the siting of smoke detection system inside units with open kitchen design should be designed and installed in accordance with CoP for Fire Safety in Buildings and BS 5839-1, which also tally with current practice.

**Remark: The appendix was not attached, please refer to the corresponding paragraph in Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Building 2011 (2024 Edition)*

7. *Clarification for Sprinkler Bypass from Sprinkler Tank to Sprinkler Control Valve (Appendix V)* (FSICA)*

Member of FSICA presented to members the proposed arrangement regarding the provision of bypass from sprinkler tank to sprinkler control valve(s) and would like to seek the advice of FSD.

FSD responded that, regardless of installation zones, there were no specific requirements on the nos. of bypass pipe to be provided for sprinkler suction pump with sprinkler tank located at the floor level above the sprinkler control valve in accordance with the modified TB210.5.1 of the Technical Guidance. Therefore, the proposed arrangement raised by FSICA was agreed with provided that the bypass pipe was installed from pump suction pipe to trunk main and was capable to isolate

defective pumps in case of maintenance.

**Remark: To avoid confusion, the appendix was not attached.*

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