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FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION COMMAND
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24 December 2020

To: Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sir/Madam,

FSD Circular Letter No. 9/2020

Pressure Reducing Valves for Fire Hydrant/Hose Reel Systems

This letter serves as a reminder of the requirement that fire hydrant/hose reel (FH/HR) systems, including pressure reducing valves (PRVs) fitted to the systems, shown on the record drawings of fire service installations and equipment (FSIs) submitted to the Director of Fire Services (DFS) shall be maintained in good order and condition at all times.

PRVs are fitted to FH/HR systems to ensure that performance of the systems meets the technical requirements specified in the Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment (the Codes). FH/HR systems equipped with PRVs are able to maintain the integrity and functionality of its piping and components such that no part of the internal pipework is subjected to excessive water pressure. Where PRVs are installed, a bypass arrangement shall be incorporated to enable isolation of any defective PRV for necessary repair or replacement. **Under no circumstances** shall the bypass be used as a permanent means of water supply for the FH/HR systems.

We would like to point out that FSIs shall conform to the submitted plans and be maintained in good condition to the satisfaction of the DFS at all times. Any removal of PRVs in the FH/HR

systems of a building will be deemed to be a fire hazard unless it is hydraulically necessary to do so for compliance with the requirements of system performance specified in the Codes, and submissions for applying for such removal under the item “Alteration and Addition works to FSIs” in FSI/314A will not be accepted by the Fire Services Department.

In addition, during our recent FSI audit inspections, it has come to our attention that the moving parts of the inspected FSI systems such as the disc/stem or piston/spring assembly inside the PRV for water-based systems, which have been installed for a long time, do not operate properly due to daily wear and tear, thus affecting the effective functioning of the whole system.

For FH/HR systems of a building which are fitted with PRVs, registered fire service installation contractors (RFSICs) shall conduct proper testing on the PRVs in accordance with the checklists for FH/HR systems at Annex A to FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2019 on “Annual Inspection Checklist for Fire Hydrant/Hose Reel Systems and Supply Tanks” during annual inspection. Attention should be paid to the piping and components of the FH/HR systems, as well as the valve positions of the PRVs. Besides, the moving parts of the PRVs and the control valves, particularly those having been installed for a long time, should be inspected, cleaned, tested, recalibrated and lubricated where appropriate. It is important for RFSICs to note that they are ultimately responsible for certifying that the FSIs of a building are in efficient working order and conform to the requirements specified in the Codes.

For enquiries, please contact Fire Service Installations Task Force at 3961 5013 during office hours.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leung Kwun-hong', written in a cursive style.

(LEUNG Kwun-hong)

for Director of Fire Services