消防處消防安全總區

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1 March 2023

To: Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sirs/Madams,

FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2023 Sprinkler System for Car Ports

This Circular Letter serves to announce the addition of sprinkler system requirement for car ports in the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment, September 2022 (FSI Code).

In view of the intensifying car fires and the consequential severity of damage notable worldwide, a comprehensive review pertaining to the adequacy of fire safety requirements for car ports had been conducted. The review reveals that, with the surging use of plastic, fiberglass or other lightweight materials in vehicles and the more commonly use of electric car batteries as the major power source, the burning behaviour of modern vehicles has become more extreme and the magnitude of fire has become more severe.

To better protect lives and properties at car ports, the review concludes that additional fire safety requirement, i.e. provision of sprinkler system for car ports with total floor area exceeding 230m², has to be imposed. A consultation exercise which extensively engaged relevant professional bodies, trades and government departments has been conducted with positive feedback received. The revised requirement in the relevant paragraphs of the FSI Code is outlined in the enclosed amendment sheet.

The revised requirement shall take effect from 1 April 2023. In relation to submission of building plans involving car ports, the following types of building plans received by this Department on or after the effective date shall observe the revised requirement:

- (i) new submission of building plans for new building; and
- (ii) new submission of building plans for existing building of which not less than one half measured by volume is rebuilt or which is altered to such an extent as to necessitate the reconstruction of not less than one half of the superficial area of the main walls, or where a new occupation permit shall be issued.

Notwithstanding the above, voluntary compliance with the revised requirement before the effective date is strongly encouraged.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable comment contributed by those professional bodies, trades and government departments involved in the review.

The Chinese version of the FSI Code and amendment sheet are being prepared and will be published soon. Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Divisional Officer (New Projects) at 3971 4600.

Yours faithfully,

(CHAN Kam-fai) for Director of Fire Services

Encl.

Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (September 2022)

Amendment Sheet Serial No. 1/2023

- (1) <u>Insert</u> "Sprinkler system" in the REQUIREMENTS section of paragraph 4.9:
 - (ix) Sprinkler system
- (2) <u>Insert</u> the following sub-paragraph in the EXTENT section of paragraph 4.9:
 - (ix) Required for car ports with total floor area exceeding 230 square metres and to cover all parts of the car ports including the staircases leading to these car ports.

- End -