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18 April 2024

To: Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sir/Madam,

FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2024
Requirements on the Use of Flexible Connectors for
Connecting Single Sprinklers to Range Pipes in Sprinkler System

This Circular Letter serves to announce the applicability and modified specification for the use of flexible connectors to connect single sprinklers to range pipes (“Flexible Connectors”). It is supplementary to the Technical Guidance published in FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2020 “Specification for Automatic Sprinkler Installations” issued on 10 September 2020, which addresses the adoption with local modifications of the Loss Prevention Council Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845 (“LPC Rules”).

Currently, the specification for the use of Flexible Connectors as stipulated in Clauses TB227.2.4 to TB227.2.5 in the Technical Bulletins supplementary to the LPC Rules is stated as “not mandatory and for reference only” in the Technical Guidance.

A Sub-working Group under the Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group was formed and tasked to look into the feasibility and applicability of Flexible Connectors in Hong Kong. After thorough review and consultation with the trade and respective parties of interest, the Sub-working Group has modified the specification for the design and installation of Flexible Connectors locally.

The modification is detailed in the amendment sheet attached to this letter and should be read in conjunction with the Technical Guidance, the LPC Rules including the Technical Bulletins, Notes, Commentary and Recommendations and the relevant requirements of the Codes quoted in these documents. The relevant entries in the Technical Guidance will be replaced by this modification, effective from 1 May 2024.

For the avoidance of doubt, prior approval for the adoption of the Flexible Connectors in the form of an enquiry submission should be addressed to New Projects Division of this department.

For enquiries, please contact the Fire Protection Facilities Group of the Fire Protection Engineering Compliance Division at 3961 5217 during office hours.

Yours faithfully,

(KEUNG Sai-ming)⁴
for Director of Fire Services

Encl.

Technical Guidance
Application of Loss Prevention Council Rules for Automatic Sprinkler
Installations 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845 in Hong Kong

Amendment Sheet Serial No.1/2024

- (1) Replace relevant entries “TB227.2.4 to TB227.2.7 are not mandatory and for reference only.” under Clause TB227: 2015:1 Pipework in Part 3 of the Technical Guidance with:-

NA **The second sentence of TB227.2.4.1** [“The products shall be ... specifiers’ guide or amendments”] is not to be applied locally.

Note: FSI and fire safety product shall be of an accepted type as required by the FSD.

✎ **Item (b) of TB227.2.4.2** should be revised and read as
“Flexible connectors shall be used on wet pipe installations only and applicable up to OH Group 3 where relative movement between two ends of the pipes are expected. Prior approval for the use of flexible connectors connecting single sprinklers to range pipes shall be obtained from the Director of Fire Services.”

Note: This is to suit local practice.

✎ **Item (d) of TB227.2.4.2** should be revised and read as
“All flexible connector sprinkler terminations shall be supported by a product supplier’s certified support bracket assembly. The Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor shall certify the installation and the support bracket assembly is in compliance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.”

Note: This is to suit local practice.

✎ **Item (k) of TB227.2.4.2** should be revised and read as
“Flexible connector shall only be used in accessible locations where inspections are permissible.”

Note: This is to suit local practice.

✎ **The following new item for TB227.2.4.2** should be added
“(l) Configurations of the single sprinkler flexible connector shall comply with figure TB227.F1. Configurations other than the aforesaid acceptable design shall comply with the manufacturer’s recommendations.”

Note: This is to suit local practice.

R **TB227.2.6 to TB227.2.7** are not mandatory and for reference only.

Note: This is to suit local practice.