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To : Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sir/Madam,

FSD Circular Letter No. 6/2026

**Arrangement for Provision of Temporary Manual Fire Alarm Device
as a Temporary Standby Means for Fire Alarm System**

This Circular Letter (CL) serves to announce the arrangements for the provision of Temporary Manual Fire Alarm Device (TMFAD) as a temporary standby means when a fire alarm system is not in efficient working order, and sets out the specification and requirements of TMFADs. This CL shall be read in conjunction with Fire Services Department (FSD) CL No. 1/2021, and all Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSICs) are required to comply with its requirements.

(A) Provision of Temporary Standby Means for Fire Service Installations Not in Efficient Working Order

When a major fire service installation (FSI) in a building/premises is not in efficient working order, whether due to a serious defect or a shutdown for maintenance, inspection or repair works in accordance with FSD CL No. 1/2021, the FSD will, having conducted a risk assessment, require the owner, occupier or property management company of the building/premises to provide temporary standby means (such as portable fire extinguishers and stand-alone fire detectors). These additional measures serve to temporarily substitute, to the fullest practicable extent, the lost function throughout the period when the major FSI is not in efficient working order, and provide temporary fire protection to the building/premises. This arrangement has all along been effective since its implementation.

(B) TMFAD

The FSD reviews from time to time the fire safety products available in the market to address the fire safety needs arising in actual operation. To maintain the fire safety of buildings/premises when a fire alarm system is not in efficient working order, the FSD commenced a study earlier on the provision of TMFAD as a temporary standby means. Following extensive consultation with RFSICs, the property management sector and relevant government departments, and after detailed consideration of stakeholders' feedback, the study has now been completed. Given the increasing maturity of the relevant technology, the FSD hereby formally accepts TMFAD as a temporary standby means to substitute the fire alarm function while the system is not in efficient working order.

The detailed specification of TMFADs is set out in Appendix I. These devices shall be installed by a Class 2 RFSIC adjacent to every manual fire alarm call point within the affected area. Upon completion of the installation and testing, the RFSIC shall issue a Certificate of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (F.S. 251) under Regulation 9(1) of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap.95B, certifying that the TMFAD complies with the specification, and forward a copy of the certificate to the Director of Fire Services in accordance with prevailing procedures.

(C) Considerations for the Shutdown of Fire Alarm Systems

The fire alarm system is a major FSI that alerts residents or occupants of a building/premises to evacuate as soon as possible in the event of a fire, and is of critical importance to the protection of life. Therefore, as with other major FSIs, the duration of its shutdown shall be kept to a minimum. Whenever practicable, RFSICs should isolate only that part of the system on which works are required rather than shutting down the entire fire alarm system.

(D) Duties and Responsibilities

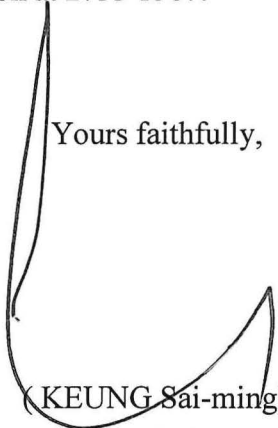
The owner, occupier or property management company of a building/premises shall provide the temporary standby means at designated locations as required by the FSD, and ensure that such measures operate effectively when the major FSI is not in efficient working order. In addition, when an RFSIC is engaged to install a TMFAD, the RFSIC shall ensure that the device complies with the specification set out in Appendix I of this CL. Should an RFSIC fail to install a TMFAD in accordance with the specification as required by this CL, the RFSIC may, in addition to contravening the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap.95B, be regarded as having engaged in improper conduct or negligence in the installation of FSIs. In

such circumstances, the Director of Fire Services may, pursuant to Regulation 10 of the Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations, Cap.95A, refer the non-compliant RFSIC to the Disciplinary Board.

(E) Commencement Date

The measures set out in this CL shall take effect on 1 September 2026. For enquiries, please contact the Fire Protection Facilities Supervision Division at 2733 1567.

Yours faithfully,



(KEUNG Sai-ming)

for Director of Fire Services

Encl.

Specification of Temporary Manual Fire Alarm Device (TMFAD)

When installing a TMFAD, an RFSIC shall comply with the following specification. For the issuance of a Certificate of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (F.S. 251), specify the “Type of FSI” as “Others” (code: “35”) and provide the details thereof.

1. Installation and Testing

TMFADs shall be installed by a Class 2 RFSIC and shall be subject to an on-site functional test.

2. Appearance

Each TMFAD shall contain an integrated alarm sounder and a red manual fire alarm call point within a single unit, and shall emit an audible alarm upon actuation. If a visual fire alarm installation is provided within the affected area of the building/premises, the TMFAD shall be equipped with a visual fire alarm function. The TMFAD shall be clearly marked in both Chinese and English as “臨時手動火警警報裝置 (Temporary Manual Fire Alarm Device)”.

3. Location and Interconnection

TMFADs shall be installed adjacent to every existing manual fire alarm call point within the affected area of the building/premises, and shall be mounted at a height between 0.9 metre and 1.2 metres above the finished floor level. The devices should preferably be interconnected by a wireless network so that, upon actuation of any one device, an audible alarm is emitted simultaneously by all interconnected devices.

4. Power Supply

TMFADs shall be connected to a fixed power supply or driven by batteries. When driven by batteries, the batteries shall be capable of supplying the device with its full rated power to maintain a continuous alarm operation for not less than 15 minutes.

5. Low-battery Alert

TMFADs shall be equipped with a low-battery alert function. Where the battery capacity falls to a level at which a continuous alarm of 15 minutes can no longer be maintained, an audible fault signal or fault alert shall be given. Where the TMFAD is not equipped with a low-battery alert function, new batteries shall be installed upon every reset.

6. Outdoor Protection

When used in outdoor applications, the TMFAD shall maintain an adequate level of protection against the ingress of water and dust.

7. Audible Output

The alarm sounder shall be capable of providing a minimum output sound level of 85 dB(A)

measured at 3 metres from the TMFAD. In any case, the maximum output sound level measured at 3 metres shall not exceed 110 dB(A).

8. Reset Function

Each TMFAD shall be equipped with a reset function.

9. Wiring Requirements

Fire resisting cables complying with the requirements in Appendix 8 of the Code of Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment shall be used for connection of power supply to the TMFAD. Cables under the following conditions shall be exempted from the above requirements: -

- (i) Cables inside the TMFAD; or
- (ii) Cables inside metal conduit/flexible metal conduit.

10. Visual Fire Alarm Signal (if applicable)

The visual fire alarm signals shall be wall-mounted and red in colour. The visual alarm shall flash at a rate between 30 and 120 flashes per minute, with a light output intensity of not less than 15 cd.

Note: The provision of visual fire alarm signals is a special requirement. The TMFAD shall be equipped with visual fire alarm signals as specified above only where the affected building/premises are already fitted with a visual fire alarm system.