## 消防處防火總區

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## FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FIRE PROTECTION COMMAND

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29 August 1997

## FSD Circular Letter No. 10/97 Visual Fire Alarm System as required under the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997

In accordance with Paragraph 5.3 of the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997 published by the Buildings Department, in buildings intended to be used by the public, visual alarm signals shall be provided to form part of the fire alarm system. The visual alarm signal shall be in the form of a flashing red light and be located at a prominent location in places which are intended to be accessible to the public to ensure that it can be seen from anywhere in those areas when the fire alarm is activated.

The above requirement will be applicable to all newly constructed or substantially altered buildings for which the first submission of building plans is received by this Department on or after 20 September 1997.

Basically, the fire alarm system shall comply with relevant sections of British Standard 5839: Part 1: 1988. Based on the agreement reached in the consultation meeting between this Department and representatives of concerned professional bodies and Government departments held on 28.7.1997, the visual alarm signals in the form of flashing red lights, labelled "FIRE ALARM 火警" shall conform to Section 6-4 of NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm Code. The height of English letters and Chinese characters shall not be less than 10mm and 15mm respectively. They can be indicated on a separate plate affixed nearby or engraved on the light cover.

The detailed positions of the visual alarm signals are not required to be marked on building plans, however, the area to be covered shall be indicated. Checking on locations and spacing etc. will be carried out during the acceptance test of the fire service installations (FSI) of the building. In this connection, please be reminded that details of the visual alarm signals shall be included in the FSI drawings and submitted to this Department together with Form FSI/314.

The requirements for visual alarm signals will be incorporated into the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment which is now under revision.

Signed (HSU King-ping)