



本處檔號 Our Ref: (83) in FP(LC) 322/03 Pt. 3  
來函檔號 Your Ref:  
圖文傳真 Fax: 2733 2197  
電話 Tel. No.: 2733 7744  
電子郵件 E-mail: lcpolic2@hkfsd.gov.hk

13 December 2021

The Property Management / Operators of Markets / Stalls

Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Fire Safety in Markets**

With the festive season drawing near, I am writing to seek your cooperation to protect your premises against the perils of fire by following the basic rules applicable to the common circumstances below:

- I. Shut down/ maintenance of fire service installations (FSI)
  - (i) Residents/occupiers should be notified beforehand and informed of any temporary measures to be taken;
  - (ii) All FSI water tanks shall remain topped up prior to commencement of repair/ maintenance;
  - (iii) The disruption to normal operation of FSI due to repair/ maintenance shall be kept to the minimum. Any undue delay on the work may result in Fire Hazard Abatement Notice action;
  - (iv) Shutting down of both fire hydrant/hose reel system and sprinkler system simultaneously should be avoided;
  - (v) Repair should be conducted in phases to refrain from shutting down the whole FSI system for a prolonged period as far as practicable; and
  - (vi) In case the whole system has to be suspended, stand-by means such as fire extinguishers shall be provided at suitable locations. The Fire Services Department/ operators/ management company, where appropriate, shall be notified of the arrangement.
- II. Obstruction to fire service installations
  - (i) Sprinkler heads are activated in case of fire and water will then be discharged automatically to extinguish the fire. The effective coverage of a single sprinkler head is limited. As such, sprinkler heads are

...../P.2

distributed in a predetermined pattern. Any obstruction to sprinkler heads will reduce the designed effectiveness of the sprinkler system and thus constitutes a fire hazard. The following irregularities are commonly found after refurbishment/ decoration of the premises originally protected by a sprinkler system:

1. **False ceiling** blocks sprinkler heads thus affecting their thermal sensitivity and water discharge pattern in case of fire. Rectification can be done by either removing the whole false ceiling, or conforming to the relevant FSD Circular Letter by:
  - (a) installing an additional layer of sprinkler heads below the false ceiling; or
  - (b) extending sprinkler heads below the false ceiling, if the concealed space at ceiling contains no other materials except those specified and its maximum height is less than:
    - (i) 800 mm (applicable to system installed in conformity with Rules of the Fire Offices' Committee for Automatic Sprinkler Installation or LPC Rules incorporating BS 5306-2); or
    - (ii) 300 mm (applicable to systems installed in conformity to FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2020).
2. **Partition** may reduce the coverage of adjacent sprinkler heads. The distance between a sprinkler head and a partition shall not exceed 2 m. Rectification can be made either by removing/ rearranging the partition, or relocating/ adding sprinkler heads.
3. **Ventilation air duct** may also affect the coverage of sprinkler heads. Rectification can be made either by removing/ rearranging the air duct, or relocating/ adding sprinkler heads. Additional sprinkler heads shall be installed below the air duct, if the width of air duct is:
  - (a) more than 800 mm for rectangular duct; or
  - (b) more than 1000 mm for circular duct.
4. **Obstruction by goods/ obstacles:-**

A 0.5 m clearance shall be maintained below sprinkler heads and should be kept free from any goods/ obstacles.

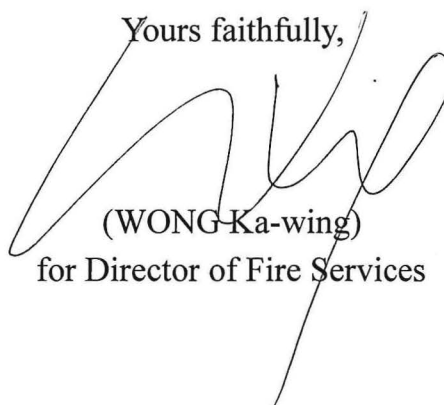
...../P.3

(ii) Other Fire Service Installations or Equipment

Other fire service installations such as fire alarm bells, fire hydrant outlets, hose reels, heat/ smoke detectors, extinguishers, etc shall not be obstructed at all times and shall be properly maintained for ready use.

We look forward to your cooperation in ensuring fire safety in your premises. In addition, in view of the recent epidemic situation, please continue to maintain personal hygiene and keep social distancing. Should you require any amplification of our advice or further assistance on fire safety, please do not hesitate to contact Fire Service Installations Task Force at 2733 1567 during office hours. For **urgent** enquiries **outside office hours** or **reporting** any fire hazard, please contact the Fire Services Communications Centre on the 24-hour telephone hotline **2723 8787**.

Yours faithfully,



(WONG Ka-wing)

for Director of Fire Services

With Chinese translation