



Fire Safety Requirements

for

Places of Amusement

(Billiard Establishment Licence

Public Bowling Alley Licence

Public Skating Rink Licence)

A. Restrictions on Location

The premises shall not be located : -

- (a) at any buildings/structures which are of substandard construction;
- (b) at level 4 of basement or below;
- (c) in areas designated for emergency use such as buffer or refuge floor;
- (d) in any industrial building;
- (e) in industrial portion of an industrial/office building.

B. Standard Requirements

1. All fire service installations and equipment (FSI) provided for the premises shall be retained and maintained in efficient working order at all times. For all maintenance, alteration and addition, such works shall be carried out by a Registered FSI Contractor who shall issue Certificate(s) of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FS 251) to the owner with copies forwarded to the Director of Fire Services within 14 days after completion of the works. A certificate of compliance (FSI/314A, FSI/314B or FSI/314C as appropriate) shall also be submitted by the responsible Registered FSI Contractor to the Director of Fire Services for the alteration and addition works.

2. A sprinkler system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment shall be provided if the premises : -
 - (a) are located in a curtain-walled building or a basement floor and occupy an area exceeding 126 square metres; or
 - (b) are located in other types of building and occupy an area exceeding 230 square metres.

3. Portable fire fighting equipment of the approved type, over and above those installed for the occupation of the building, shall be provided as follows:
 - 3.1 _____x 9 L water type fire extinguisher(s) at _____; and
 - 3.2 _____x 4.5 kg CO₂ type fire extinguisher(s) at _____.

4. A manual fire alarm system with visual alarm signals in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment with fire alarm call point at each of the following locations shall be provided :-
 - (a) near each exit,
 - (b) the main entrance,
 - (c) the cashier's counter, and
 - (d) the reception area.

5. The windows of the premises shall not in any way be obstructed by any decoration or sealed up for more than 50% of the designed openable/breakable window areas totally, nor 25% of these areas located on upper part, unless FSIs on the following scales shall be provided :
 - 5.1 A dynamic smoke extraction system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment;

For premises occupying an area exceeding 126 square metres : -

- 5.2 A fire hydrant/hose reel system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment;
- 5.3 A fire detection system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment.

6. All exits shall be suitably indicated by illuminated signs bearing the words and characters “EXIT 出口” in block letters and characters of not less than 125mm high with 15mm strokes. The colour of the letters/characters and contrasting colour on the background shall comply with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment.
7. If the exit signs are not visible from any location within the premises, sufficient directional signs in the same dimensions as the exit signs shall be provided to assist occupants to locate the exits in the event of an emergency.
8. Emergency lighting shall be provided in the premises and the attached Requirements for Self-contained Luminaires-Emergency Lighting System (PPA/104(A)) shall be complied with.
9. A ventilation/air-conditioning control system shall be provided to the premises if applicable and the attached Requirements for Ventilation/Air-conditioning Control Systems for Licensed Premises shall be complied with.
10. All panic exit devices fitted on exit doors shall be of the types accepted by the Director of Fire Services. The words “PUSH BAR TO OPEN 推門開門” in 100mm English and Chinese characters shall be painted on the inside face of the door immediately above the bar.
11. All combustible materials used for false ceilings, partitions or wall furnishings shall conform to British Standard 476: Part 7 Class 1 or 2 Rate of Surface Spread of Flame or to another standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services, or shall be brought up to any of those standards by treating with a fire retardant paint or solution acceptable to Director of Fire Services. In the latter case, the work shall be carried out by a Class 2 Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor and a certificate (FS251) to this effect from the Contractor shall be forwarded to this Department as documentary proof of compliance.
12. All draperies and curtains, if installed, shall be made of fire resistant material and conform to British Standard BS 5867: Part 2 (Type B performance requirements) when tested in accordance with BS EN ISO 15025:2002 or to any other standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services, or shall be brought up to any of those standards by treating with a fire retardant solution acceptable to Director of Fire Services. In the latter case, the work shall be carried out by a Class 2 Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor and a certificate (FS251) to this effect from the Contractor shall be forwarded to this Department as documentary proof of compliance.

13. PU Foam

- 13.1 All polyurethane (PU) foam filled mattresses and covering material used for fabrication of mattresses shall conform to British Standard 7177 (for use in medium hazard premises/building); or "Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets" - (Part 1633 of Title 16 of Code of Federal Regulations) as issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in the US; or to other standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.
- 13.2 All PU foam filled upholstered furniture and covering fabric used for fabrication of the furniture shall conform to British Standard 7176 (for use in medium hazard premises/building); or Flammability Test Procedure for Seating Furniture for Use in Public Occupancies (Technical Bulletin Number 133) as issued by the Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California; or to other standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.
- 13.3 Each PU foam filled mattress and upholstered furniture conforming to British Standard 7177 (for use in medium hazard premises/building) and British Standard 7176 (for use in medium hazards premises/building) respectively shall bear an appropriate label (Appendix).
- 13.4 Invoices from manufacturers/suppliers and test certificates from testing laboratories indicating that the PU foam filled mattresses and/or furniture items have complied with the specified standards shall be produced for inspection. Test certificate shall be issued by a testing laboratory accredited to conduct test according to the specified standard, and be authenticated by the company's stamp of manufacturer/supplier.

14. No cooking activities shall be conducted on the premises other than in a kitchen.

15. The electrical main switch gears shall be clearly indicated as to its purpose in English and Chinese characters. The door giving into any room, cabinet or locker containing the electrical main switch gear shall be provided with an indication label with both 25mm English and Chinese characters on the exterior.

16. Mechanical Ventilating System

The mechanical ventilating system installed at the premises shall comply with the Building (Ventilating Systems) Regulations, Cap. 123J, Laws of Hong Kong and the fire safety requirements for mechanical ventilating systems as stipulated in the Fire Services Department Circular Letter No.4/96 Part XI.

For Premises used for Public Bowling Alley

17. Any spray painting, lacquering of pins or similar operations (other than on fixed objects in the bowling alley itself), shall be carried out either in the open air or in a separate compartment or building specially constructed of fire resisting materials. In the latter case, all lighting shall be flame-proof and switches shall be fitted on the outside of the compartment/building.
18. As an alternative to the provision of sprinkler system, a gas flooding system may be provided to protect the pin-setting area which is fitted with electrically operated means for resetting pins.

For Premises used for Billiard Establishment

19. For billiard establishment occupying an area exceeding 126 square metres and with more than 30% of the total area are partitioned using combustible materials to form cubicles, FSIs on the following scales shall be provided : -
 - 19.1 A fire hydrant/hose reel system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment;
 - 19.2 A fire detection system in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment.
20. Additional Requirements (if any) : -

Remarks :

Should applicants have insurmountable difficulties in complying with prescribed requirements, they can submit alternative proposals for FSD's consideration. For example, applicants can adopt Fire Engineering-Approach, or submit a study report to explain how they can tackle problems of fire suppression, smoke control, evacuation and access for fire services personnel etc.

C. Fire Safety Precautions

1. Fire Service Installations and Equipment

All fire service installations and equipment provided shall be :

- 1.1 Kept clear from any obstruction;
- 1.2 Clearly indicated as regard to their locations and methods of operation;
- 1.3 Maintained in efficient working order at all times; and
- 1.4 Inspected at least once every twelve months.

Works related to para. 1.4 above shall be carried out by a Registered FSI Contractor who shall issue Certificate(s) of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FS251) to the owner with copies forwarded to the Director of Fire Services within 14 days after completion of the works. Failure to observe the FS precautions in para 1.3 & 1.4 may result in the owner of the installations being prosecuted under Regulation 8 of the Fire Services (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Chapter 95B, Laws of Hong Kong.

2. Means of Escape

All means of escape shall be kept free from obstruction. In particular : -

- 2.1 No article or thing shall be left in the means of escape at any time (if in a domestic building) / at all times when persons are present in the building (if in a commercial building); and
- 2.2 All exits/doors shall be kept openable from the inside without the use of a key and all metal gates and shutters, where installed, shall be kept in the open position at all times when members of the public are present in the premises.

Failure to observe these precautions may result in the operator being prosecuted under Sections 14 and 15 of the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, Chapter 95F, Laws of Hong Kong without prior warning.

- 2.3 All smoke stop doors provided in the premises shall be kept in closed position at all times.

3. Dangerous Goods

- 3.1 No storage or use of any dangerous goods in excess of the respective general exempt quantity (GEQ) within the meaning of the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012, Chapter 295E, Laws of Hong Kong is permitted without a licence granted by the Director of Fire Services.

4. Precautions for Resurfacing for Premises used for Public Bowling Alley with Timber (Lacquer-finished) Alleys

- 4.1 During sanding and resurfacing operations, no portion of the premises shall be open to the public.
- 4.2 When flammable solvents are being used, an independent means of ventilation shall be employed to disperse flammable vapour to the open air.
- 4.3 Fire extinguishers shall be available for immediate use at all times during the work.
- 4.4 Nail heads or metal parts protruding through the lane surface must be removed before sanding work commences.
- 4.5 No pin servicing work will be permitted during sanding operations or for a period of 24 hours after sanding/revarnishing work is finished.

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