

FIRE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENT IN RESTAURANT

A. General Requirements

1. Fire service installations and equipment

Fire service installations of the following description shall be provided in accordance with the following provisions and with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment as published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services:-

- (a) a fire hydrant and hose reel system;
- (b) a manual fire alarm system with operation switches provided at each of the following locations:-
 - (i) near each exit leading away from the premises;
 - (ii) at the main entrance;
 - (iii) at the cashier's counter;
 - (iv) at the reception area (if any); and
 - (v) at the waiting area (if any);
- (c) alarm bells of the fire alarm system in individual rooms intended to be used by customers;
- (d) where the premises are located in a curtain-walled building or on a basement floor and occupy an area exceeding 126 m², an automatic sprinkler system that uses fast-response-type sprinkler heads;
- (e) where the premises are located in a place other than those described in paragraph (d) and :-
 - (i) occupy an area exceeding 126 m² but not exceeding 230 m², either an automatic fire detection system or an automatic sprinkler system; or

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- (ii) occupy an area exceeding 230 m², an automatic sprinkler system that uses fast-response-type sprinkler heads;
 - (f) where the premises are located in a curtain-walled building or on a basement floor with a cubic volume exceeding 7000 m³, a smoke extraction system.
- 2. If more than 50% of the total surface area of the openable or breakable windows provided for the premises are rendered not openable or unbreakable, a smoke extraction system that conforms to the standard set out in the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment as published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services shall be provided.
- 3. All exits shall be indicated by illuminated signs, bearing the word and characters "EXIT 出口", installed in accordance with the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment as published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services. Adequate directional signs indicating the route to an exit shall be provided at locations where exit signs are not readily visible.
- 4. Low level directional signs capable of indicating the route to an exit in darkness shall be provided at 200 mm above floor level.
- 5. Emergency lighting shall be provided throughout the entire premises. It shall be installed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment or comply with the attached requirements for Self-contained Luminaries Emergency Lighting System (PPA/104(A)).
- 6. Ventilating Systems
 - (a) All ventilating systems shall comply with the requirements set out in the Ventilation of Scheduled Premises Regulation (Cap 132 sub. leg.) and conform to the fire safety provisions given in Part XI, FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96;
 - (b) Automatic cut-off devices shall be provided for mechanical ventilating systems to enable the ventilation supply to be cut off in case of fire.

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7. Fire Safety Precautions

- (a) All exits and exit routes shall be kept free from obstruction at all times.
- (b) All exit doors and doors along exit routes shall be readily and conveniently openable from inside the premises without the use of a key while the premises is in business. They shall open in the direction of egress in such a way that they will not obstruct the staircase or corridor when open.

8. All combustible materials used as 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 the Director of Fire Services. In the latter case, the work shall be carried out by a Class II Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor and a certificate (FS 251) to this effect from the Contractor shall be forwarded to this Department as documentary proof of compliance.

9. All draperies and curtains, if installed, shall be made of fire resistant material and conform to British Standard 5867: Part 2 fabric type B when tested in accordance with British Standard 5438 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 solution acceptable to the Director of Fire Services. In the latter case, the work shall be carried out by a Class II Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor and a certificate (FS 251) to this effect from the Contractor shall be forwarded to this Department as documentary proof of compliance.

10. All carpets within the protected means of escape shall:-

- (a) be made of pure wool;
- (b) conform to British Standard 5287 when tested in accordance with British Standard 4790; or
- (c) be manufactured to a standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.

Carpets that do not meet any of the above requirements shall also be accepted as complying with fire safety requirements if their pile height does not exceed 10 mm and they do not cover more than 5% of the protected means of escape calculated on a floor-by-floor basis.

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11. (a) All PU foam filled mattresses shall conform to British Standard 7177:1996 (for use in medium hazards premises/building) or to another standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.
 - (b) All PU foam filled upholstered furniture shall conform to British Standard 7176:1995 (for use in medium hazards premises/building) or to another standard acceptable to the Director of Fire Services.
 - (c) The PU foam filled mattress and upholstered furniture meeting the specified standards shall bear an appropriate label. Invoices from manufacturers/suppliers and test certificates from a testing laboratory both indicating that the PU foam filled mattress and/or furniture items comply with the specified standards shall be produced for verification. The test certificates shall be issued by a testing laboratory accredited to conduct tests according to the specified standards, and be authenticated by the company's stamp of manufacturers/suppliers.
12. An exit plan drawn to a ratio of not less than 1:200 showing the floor layout of the premises and the directions of egress to escape staircases and means of escape shall be displayed in each room intended to be used by customers. The size of the exit plan shall not be less than 250 mm x 250 mm and shall be affixed adjacent to the exit of each room at 1 500 mm above floor level.
 13. A short fire safety film shall be provided for showing to customers before they start the karaoke activity. The film content shall at least include the following:
 - (a) Actions to be taken in case of fire;
 - (b) Introduction of the exit route of the KE;
 - (c) Introduction of the Fire Alarm System provided inside the KE premises; and
 - (d) Introduction of the special arrangement on means of escape through the access panel / emergency exit door that has been provided for every entertainment room situated in a dead-end corridor.
 14. An emergency alert system which can interrupt the music or other sound and visual images produced by the karaoke equipment and at the same time produce visible and audible warning signals in case of a fire alarm shall be provided.

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B. Important Note

All the above requirements shall only be referred for the operation of Karaoke Establishment in Restaurant. For avoidance of doubt, compliance with these requirements SHALL NOT exempt any premises from any fire safety direction imposed under the provisions of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance or the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance for upgrading of fire service installation or equipment in any composite or commercial building which was constructed on or before 1 March 1987. Applicants for Karaoke Establishment in Restaurant in these composite or commercial buildings are strongly advised to negotiate with the respective building management for mutual arrangements before the actual commencement of work.