

Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)

1. Introduction

1.1 With a view to addressing discrepancies and issues related to fire service installations and fire safety requirements in the form of reviewing, advising and making recommendations on the standards and best practices for the trade, the Working Group on Fire Service Installation Inspection Procedures (WGFSIIP) has been upgraded and formed the FSSAG on 24.6.2004.

1.2 The terms of reference of the FSSAG are :

- To keep under review and to advise the Director of Fire Services on the inspection and testing procedures for fire service installations and equipment.
- To advise and make recommendations to the Director of Fire Services the standards of inspection pertaining to the acceptance of fire safety requirements of licensed / registered premises, e.g. food premises, cinema, school, etc.
- To advise and make recommendations to the Director of Fire Services on the acceptable standards for fire service installations with reference to international standards and local situations.
- To advise and make recommendations to the Director of Fire Services upon any other matters arising from the issues related to fire service installations and fire safety requirements.

1.3 The members of the FSSAG comprising of representatives from:

- Fire Services Department [FSD];
- Other government departments : Architectural Services Department, Housing Department; and
- Relevant Professionals, Academics and the Industry :
 - Hong Kong Institution of Engineers [HKIE];
 - The Institution of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch) [IFE(HK)];
 - Registered Fire Service Installation Contractor Association [FSICA]; and
 - FSI Consultants [FSIC].

The members of the Group are by invitation and on voluntary basis.

- 1.4 The meeting will be chaired by a directorate officer of FSD and held quarterly.
- 1.5 In addition, the FSSAG would also serve as an ‘administrative review panel’ which was recommended in the Departmental Business Study conducted by the Efficiency Unit of the HKSAR Government completed in April 2004 to review cases of appeal arising from projects and make recommendations to the Director of Fire Services for final decision. It was agreed that specific cases would not be discussed in the meeting and would be handled under a wider perspective of discussion on policy issues.

2. Matters Discussed in the 1st FSSAG Meeting

- 2.1 A meeting between HKIE and the Dangerous Goods Division of FSD on Generic Design for Fuel Oil System for Upper Floor Generators would be arranged in due course.
- 2.2 A guide on selection of suitable fire extinguishers for different types of fire was distributed for all members’ comments. Returns to the Secretary within one month were expected.
- 2.3 Guidelines on ventilation/air conditioning (VAC) control systems for air handling unit (AHU) Rooms would be uploaded to the FSD website in due course.
- 2.4 FSD Circular Letter on Checklist for Fire Detection System Designed & Installed to LPC Rules for Automatic Fire Detection & Alarm Installation had been issued and would be uploaded to the website in due course.
- 2.5 FSD would discuss with the property developers and relevant trades regarding the provision of fire hydrant riser in high-rise buildings / developments under construction.
- 2.6 Circular Letter on the installation of Standard Spreader System for Fire Service Pumps would be issued in due course.

- 2.7 Loss Prevention Certification Board approved Glass Reinforced Polyester tank should be used for sprinkler systems.
- 2.8 Generally self luminous exit signs with test report issued by an accredited laboratory are acceptable for use in HK. For self luminous signs of BS5499: Part 2 standard, FSD might consider accepting test reports issued by a reputable laboratory if no accredited laboratory could be located locally or overseas. The model number of products approved by FSD should be clearly shown on the relevant product for easy identification.
- 2.9 An information paper on ‘Proposed New Arrangement for the Submission of Fire Service Installation Drawings for New Developments’ was issued to members for comments. Returns to the Secretary within one month were expected.
- 2.10 The Code of Practice for Minimum FSI and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment of 1998 version was under updating.
- 2.11 Full load test for emergency generators during routine monthly test would be reviewed.

- End -