

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 9 September 2010 (Thursday)
Time : 1500 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

In order to take forward EU's recommendation, FSD had circulated the revised consultation paper to 10 related government departments / bureaux. FSD had subsequently responded to the comments proffered by the 10 departments consulted and they expressed no strong view on FSD's responses and the consultation paper had been revised according to the concern and FSD's responses made. SB's policy support and views on the scale of consultation was being sought for mapping out the way forward.

It was proposed to limit the scope of consultation to the industry given the lack of perceivable impact on the public. With SB's advice and clearance on the revised paper, it was anticipated that the consultation would be conducted in October / November 2010.

2. Inspection of Ventilating Systems in New Buildings

FSD would merely carry out one follow-up inspection, if required, to the selected project after the initial inspection. If outstanding defects were still noted during the follow-up inspection, AP should furnish both BD and FSD with relevant certification and photos to prove that the defects had been rectified in accordance with the FSD's requirements before occupation.

A draft circular letter on "Inspection of Fire Dampers before Application for Occupation Permit" had been sent to the trades for comments by BD in late August / early September. Meanwhile, the implementation date of the trial scheme was initially fixed on 1 January 2011.

3. Review of Codes of Practice (CoP)

398 suggestions were received from various Fire Services units and stakeholders. Amongst them, 360 suggestions / comments were on the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment; while 38 were on the Code of Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment.

NP Division and FSI Task Force were consolidating and analyzing the suggestions / comments received. Some of the suggestions were to be incorporated in the current updating work, and some would require further study so that they would be incorporated in the next major review.

4. Submission of Fire Engineering Report

Providing FSD frontline operational personnel with extracts of the information contained in fire engineering reports (FER) / fire safety strategies (FSS) crucial to operational deployment of FSD resources would enhance the operational efficiency of FSD in handling emergencies at developments adopting fire engineering approach.

The provision of synopsis would facilitate FSD officers to conduct inspection of fire safety installation / equipments at shopping arcades / buildings during festive seasons to ensure that such installation / equipment could function as designed.

The proposed arrangement would only focus on new buildings. It was agreed that the synopsis to be submitted to FSD would be based on the version of FER/FSS on which building inspection acceptance for obtaining OP was conducted.

5. Motor Vehicle Diesel and Unleaded Petrol Meeting Euro V Standards

With a view to better controlling the air quality in Hong Kong,

amendments to the Air Pollution Control (Motor Vehicle Fuel) Regulation (Cap. 331L) were enacted on 1 July 2010 which required the specifications of motor vehicle diesel and unleaded petrol to meet Euro V standards. Pursuant to the amended regulation, motor vehicle diesel meeting the Euro V standards had, inter alia, to possess a flash point of above 55⁰C as determined in accordance with EN ISO 2719:2002. With reference to the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulations, Cap. 295A, a substance having a flash point of or exceeding 23⁰C but not exceeding 66⁰C was classified as Cat. 5 Class 2 DG with an exempted quantity of 20L, whereas diesel having a flash point of or above 66⁰C was classified as Cat. 5 Class 3 DG with an exempted quantity of 2,500L. Meanwhile, the oil companies indicated that the motor vehicle diesel they were currently supplying was Cat. 5 Class 3 DG only.

6. Requirement of Materials used for Components / Devices / Equipment at Fireman's Lift Lobbies

According to FSD Circular Letter No. 4/96, any services installed inside protected areas had to be properly protected by fire-resisting material. For mechanical ventilation or air-conditioning equipment solely serving the protected area, these should also be of a non-combustible construction if not protected by a fire rated ceiling. In other words, non-combustible material should be used for all components / devices / equipment serving the fireman's lift lobbies unless they were encased in an FRP enclosure having an FRP value equivalent to the structural FRP of the lobbies.

7. BD's Code of Practice for Fire Safety Design for Buildings

The meeting noted that BD had consulted HKIE and HKIA on the draft Code of Practice for Fire Safety Design for Buildings. After receiving comments, BD would issue the new Code in November 2010. Some items revised in the new Code were not aligned with FSD's Code of Practice (e.g. the dimension of graphic symbol of exit signs).

END

