

Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons

Date : 2 August 2013 (Friday)
Time : 1530 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme

Two briefing sessions to potential service providers and potential service users of the RFE Scheme were conducted on 8 and 9.7.2013 at Auditorium, Kowloon Tong Fire Station. A total of about 200 stakeholders had attended the briefing sessions and they were briefed on the results of the BIA Study. During the briefing sessions, the attendees had raised various questions on the implementation schedule of the RFE Scheme, the supply of RFE, the demand of RFE services in the market, the service charges of RFE and the ways to recognize experienced contractors as RFE. All questions were properly addressed by the Task Group and the consultant.

The Task Group and the consultant had attended the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) on 18.7.2013. During the meeting, members of BFAC were in supportive of the RFE Scheme and considered that the Scheme could benefit the trades through speeding up the licensing process of licensed premises. The Chairman, Mr. YU Pang-chun, also welcomed the initiative from FSD and hoped that the corresponding legislative amendments could be put forward soonest possible.

A presentation on the RFE Scheme was conducted to Security Bureau (SB) on 25.7.2013. The details of the RFE Scheme and the results of the BIA Study were briefed to senior officials of SB. SB had supported the proposal and agreed on the phased implementation approach. A paper for the discussion in the Policy Committee meeting in September was being prepared. Upon the endorsement by the Policy Committee, SB and FSD would prepare the Draft Drafting Instruction and engage the Department of Justice for the legislative

amendments.

2. **Protected Access Routes for Firemen**

FSD had already put forward the matter to the Technical Committee (TC) on Review of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings to resolve the issue.

In the last TC held on 18.7.2013, BD had raised no objection to FSD's proposal of requiring fireman's lift lobby to directly connect to required staircase. After deliberation, all other members had expressed their understanding that the proposal aimed to providing safe and reliable protection for firemen to carry out firefighting operation and they preliminarily considered the proposal feasible and acceptable. TC members would further consult members of their respective building professional bodies and provide comments / inputs from the industry.

3. **Fire Hydrant Outlet and Hose Reel within 30m of Any Part of the Floor**

As the proposal was supported by the AP, a circular letter to this effect would be issued in due course.

[**Post-meeting Notes:** FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2013 – Fire Hydrant / Hose Reel System was issued on 20 August 2013 and had been uploaded onto the FSD Website.]

4. **Enquiry on Co-existence of Restaurants with Schools/Child Care Centres(CCC)/Residential Care Homes for the Elderly(RCHE) /Residential Care Homes for the Persons with Disabilities(RCHD)**

With the only information of locations of two registered schools in the subject building, the enquirer asked whether “approval-in-principle” / “no objection-in-principle” / “the floors concerned would not be rejected outright as unsuitable for F&B use if compliance could be shown on the mitigating factor imposed by FSD at the time of the application of the F&B licence” could be granted for the purpose of facilitating leasing arrangements.

Under the current licensing mechanism, FSD was required to conduct on-site risk assessment with respect to full details of the restaurant under application to address coexistence problems and to identify any remedial measures / provisions which might effect to overcome such problems for the applicant to follow-up and comply with, among other fire safety requirements, to the satisfaction of FSD, before the issue of the relevant fire safety certificate.

5. **Pressurization of Staircase and Firefighting and Rescue Stairway**

The Fire Safety Code specified requirements for means of escape, means of access and fire resisting construction (passive fire safety provisions) whereas the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI Code) specified requirements for fire service installations and equipment (active fire safety provisions). Passive and active fire safety provisions were designed for meeting different fire safety objectives.

Pressurization of staircase was a fire service installation. For firefighting and rescue stairway, the BD accepted pressurization of staircase as an alternative to the requirements of natural ventilation (Clause 19.1 and 21.1 of the Fire Safety Code) with an aim to providing flexibility to building designers given both pressurization of staircase and natural ventilation were for smoke controlling. By the same token, the FSD accepted natural venting of staircase (section 2 of BS 5588: Part 5: 1991) as an alternative to pressurization of staircase.

In view pressurization of staircase was an alternative ventilation method for firefighting and rescue stairway, the requirement of pressurization of staircase was not equivalent to firefighting and rescue stairway. In this connection, the application of these two requirements in different types of building pursuant to the two Codes therefore did not constitute any contradiction.

6. **Fire Shutter and Sprinkler System**

FSD had previously discussed the alternative for relaxing the FRR with regard to the criterion of insulation of fire shutters with BD. The layout / array of the sprinkler heads concerned should be provided to

substantiate the full coverage of each side of the fire shutter. The spacing of sprinkler heads should also comply with the LPC Rules incorporating BS EN 12845:2003. As those sprinkler heads formed a part of the sprinkler system of the building and shared the FS sprinkler valve and pump, it should comply with the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment.

The designed function of sprinkler system was for fire suppression. For the arrangement of sprinkler heads to improve the insulation performance of fire rated doors or fire shutters by wetting their surfaces, the FSD treated such application as a shared use of sprinkler system for other purpose subject to the designed function of sprinkler system was not adversely affected and the installation was in full compliance with the aforementioned standard. The FSD and BD had thorough discussion on the matter. The BD had taken up the responsibility for accepting the shared use of sprinkler heads for insulation purpose and the relevant administrative practice would be announced in due course.

7. **Paving Material on Emergency Vehicular Access (EVA)**

The provision of EVA was required under regulation 41D of the Building (Planning) Regulations. Details of the requirements were currently specified in Section 6, Part D of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011. The Code specified that an EVA should be hard-paved. In this connection, regulation 16 of the Building (Private Streets and Access Roads) Regulations stipulated that the carriageway of every private street, cul-de-sac and access road should be surfaced with:

- (a) concrete not less than 150 mm thick, laid on rolled hardcore
- (b) bitumen macadam not less than 75 mm thick, laid on rolled hardcore
- (c) other approved material

To assist the approving authority to consider other materials, the FSD would provide comment from user's point of view.

END

