

## **Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and Authorized Persons**

**Date** : 29 June 2017 (Thursday)  
**Time** : 1500 hours  
**Venue** : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

### **Matters Discussed in the Meeting :**

#### 1. **Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme**

After the Third Reading of the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2016 had been passed on 1.3.2017, it was gazetted on 10.3.2017.

Whilst no substantive Committee Stage Amendments was proposed upon resumption of the Second Reading Debate in the legislative process, the Ordinance would come into operation on a day appointed by the Secretary for Security by notice published in the gazette. The FSD would launch a consultation exercise and finalize details of control in a subsidiary legislation to be approved by the Legislature.

#### 2. **FSI Requirements for Buildings with Lifts Serving Direct to Occupancy**

As further discussion was not required, the meeting agreed to delete this discussion item at the next meeting.

#### 3. **Improvement Measures for Processing General Building Plans**

##### **Approval of GBP in connection with DG related items**

A proposed discussion item was received on 27.4.2017 enquiring if the existing mechanism for processing general building plans (GBPs) related to dangerous goods (DG) issues could be streamlined.

Due to limited time frame allowed in BD's Centralized Processing System, FSD would return the GBP proposals when there were adverse comments on DG storage/manufacture or deficiency of fire service

installations (FSI) provisions. Under this circumstance, a considerable time would be needed for APs to amend the plans with irregularities for DG storage/manufacture, which mostly were not minor amendments, with a view to meeting the pledge on GBP plan processing, FSD has no choice but to reject the proposal.

In fact, FSD had already streamlined the existing workflow and enhanced the plan processing procedure in accordance with the FSD Circular Notice "Improvement Measures for Processing of General Building Plans by Fire Services Department" dated 17.6.2014 and issued to all Authorized Persons (APs).

For cases with minor defect(s) noted by DG Division while processing the GBP, the case officer would communicate with APs and proactively elaborate FSD's comments to APs for resolving the irregularities. DG Division would then inform NP Division with details of the minor amendments, occasionally with amended part plan, but would not suggest rejecting the proposal. Finally, NP Division would facilitate with APs on the concerned GBP amendments.

Apart from meeting the performance pledge, it was equally crucial to strengthen APs' awareness on the required standards of GBP proposal such that the quality of further submissions after plan amendments could be uphold without causing extra delay. In future, to facilitate APs' rectification, FSD would also include the contacts of related case officers from DG Division in the rejection letter to APs for enhancing the communication between both parties.

With good responses from the two seminars on "Building Plan Processing by the FSD", together with other topics including "FSD's requirements on siting of fuel tank room for emergency generators/storage and/or manufacture of DG in premises", hosted by HKIA and HKIE in 2014, the Chairman suggested conducting similar seminars to provide opportunities for FSD to meet and discuss with building professionals, in particular with new APs, on issues of mutual interest related to the processing of GBP submissions.

#### Questionable non-compliance cases

In response to item 3 of confirmed notes of the last meeting held on

21.2.2017 in relation to some questionable non-compliance cases, an email was received which listed out the following cases that were frequently enquired by members in HKIE.

- Open kitchen design (sprinkler below kitchen cupboard for cooker protection)
- Dynamic smoke extraction for deep basement plant room.
- Sprinkler provision for raised floor
- Non-FSI Load connecting to FSI Genset
- Location of ATS
- FSI Genset or Non-FSI Genset power supply to Hospital and Sanatorium Evacuation Lifts

It was then replied in meeting that for-

- Open kitchen design (sprinkler below kitchen cupboard for cooker protection) - the design should follow the requirements as stated in the prevailing FSD Circular Letter 3/2006 and BSEN12845:2003. For special design not complying with prescriptive requirements, the consultant should submit design enquiry for further consideration.
- Dynamic smoke extraction for deep basement plant room - this should be one of the prescriptive requirements for providing static or dynamic smoke extraction system for the basement plant room. Any deviations from the prevailing codes requirements, the applicant may wish to consider adopting fire engineering approach with full justifications of the fire safety of the proposal.
- Sprinkler provision for raised floor - the design should follow the requirements as stated in the prevailing FSD Circular Letter 3/2006 and BSEN12845:2003. The exemption for the sprinkler provision of the raised floor would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Non-FSI Load connecting to FSI Genset – If any non-FSI load should be connected to the emergency generator, approval should be obtained from FSD beforehand. FSD would review the proposal by considering overall fire safety, reliability of emergency power supply and system performance of the emergency generator. This has been discussed and agreed in

previous FSSAG meeting.

- Location of ATS - if no non-FSI load was connected to the emergency generator, the ATS should be located at the main switch room. If non-FSI loads were connected to the emergency generator and the proposal has been agreed by FSD, the ATS should be located at the generator room.
  
- FSI Genset or Non-FSI Genset power supply to Hospital and Sanatorium Evacuation Lifts - this should not be a prescriptive provision under FSI CoP, and it should be subject to the approval and requirements of relevant authorities.

Even for cases which had already followed the requirements stipulated in FSI Codes and promulgated circular letters, some consultants / APs would still submit such proposals for comments via the existing enquiry system.

The Chairman emphasized that consultants / APs should first refer to the compliance standards stipulated in FSI Codes and promulgated circular letters. And for the compliance standards in specific systems and alternative designs, it should be assessed on a case-by-case basis since they might involve certain complicated technical issues. In this regard, the Chairman asked for members' assistance in reminding consultants / APs to make use of the enquiry mechanism as needed such that the manpower resources could be best optimized for plan processing.

It was suggested that this issue should be included in the coming seminars for building professionals as well.

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