

**Brief Notes of Liaison Meeting between Fire Services
Department(FSD) and the Authorized Persons (APs)**

Date : 27 February 2019 (Wednesday)
Time : 1600 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

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

For the matters related to conflict of interest, draft provisions to cater for the particular features of the RFE Scheme were sent to Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and Department of Justice (DoJ) for further advice. Replies from both ICAC and DoJ were received recently. Among others, ICAC recommended that all major relationships having a material conflict of interest with RFE should be covered and further advice would be sought.

Subject to the progress of drafting of the Fire Service (RFE) Regulation, another regulation for registration fees and the Cap. 95C Amendment Regulation would be introduced in the Legislative Council in a bundle.

The Chairman thanked a member for his earlier sharing of the controlling mechanism designed for APs in addressing the issue of conflicts of interest. Members were invited to provide comments on the draft Code of Practice for RFE at a later time. He advised that FSD was liaising with several universities regarding the introduction of a dedicated top-up course for the implementation of the RFE Scheme.

In response to a member's enquiry on the requirements for registration as an RFE, the Chairman advised that persons with relevant and sufficient academic qualification, professional training and working experience including registered professional engineers of the related disciplines under the Engineers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 409), persons with pertinent undergraduate or higher degrees to the duties of RFEs, and practitioners with sufficient experience would be allowed to enter the trade.

2. **Smoke Extraction System (SES) Associated with Fire Engineering Design with Verification by Hot Smoke Test (HST)**

The performance-based approach was re-visited and members were reminded that if the fire engineering design involved SES, according to the Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI Code) and FSD Circular Letter (CL) No. 2/2002, an acceptance test in the form of HST might be required if the criteria prescribed in FSI code were met to ascertain the effective performance of SES and associated fire services installation by verifying the hypothetical design criteria of fire engineering report (FER).

HST was a test required by FSI Code in case the criteria laid down were met even fire engineering design was not adopted in the design of SES. Vice versa, HST might not be required for SES with fire engineering design if the criteria were not met. For the acceptance inspection, unless otherwise stated in the endorsed FER, all SES required under the FSI Code should comply with the specifications and requirements stipulated in FSI Code and relevant CLs.

Before carrying out the HST according to FSI Code for verifying the performance of SES on site, the APs/consultants/ Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSICs) would be required to submit a HST methodology to the Fire Service Installations Division for review and acceptance. According to the FSD CL No. 2/2002, the size of the test fire should not be less than 1.0 MW.

The APs/consultants/RFSICs were reminded to conduct their own mock-up tests without the attendance of FSD prior to the formal HSTs in the acceptance inspection.

In accordance with the FSI Code, HST would be required for SES including dynamic or static system installed in compartments with headroom of 12 meters or more and the headroom should be measured from the lowest point to the highest point of the structure or ceiling soffit of fire rated false ceiling.

Consultants/APs should allow adequate redundancy and flexibility in the fire engineering design for smoke extraction system so as to suit the uncertain site installation conditions and cater different testing

conditions.

3. **FSIs for Modular Integrated Construction (MiC)**

The draft guidance notes on the arrangement of submission, approval and compliance inspection of fire service installations in MiC projects was being finalized. The FSI standards and requirements for the MiC would be assessed and considered by the New Projects Division and the current acceptance inspection practice for traditional buildings would be applicable for the MiC.

4. **Promotion of Installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in Buildings/Premises**

APs were briefed about the newly established Community Emergency Preparedness Division, which was a dedicated unit set up for instilling and fostering public's general sense of emergency preparedness. The Chairman also took this opportunity to advocate the concept of 「應急三識」 and promote the installation of AED in buildings/premises. He briefed that the deployment of AEDs had become more and more popular in the community and was essential in all buildings and premises to uplift survival rate when cardiac arrest took place. Places such as the Legislative Council Complex, the Hong Kong International Airport, MTR stations and many major shopping malls had already been equipped with AED.

5. **Specification of Pressurization of Staircase**

APs were informed that whenever pressurization of staircase was required to be installed in any building, the system design should be based on the requirements of "British Standard 5588 - Part 4", in particular for the location of the actuation device and the air relief path.

The Chairman reminded all members that the actuation device should not be placed inside the private flats/ residential units since such arrangement was not desirable from the fire safety point of view.

6. **Submission of Ventilation / Air-conditioning Control (V/AC) System**

With a view to expediting the vetting process of those submissions for

V/AC systems, APs were reminded to enhance the quality of submissions and observe the following common irregularities:-

A. Incorrect demarcation of fire compartments

Demarcation of fire compartments was not clearly indicated or inconsistent with the approved GBP, which led to omission of mechanical ventilating systems or causing the system failed to trip correctly as required under Part V Section 5.27 of The Code.

B. Incorrect exemption of V/AC systems for mechanical ventilating systems

V/AC systems which did not fulfill the exemption criteria as required under Part V Section 5.27 of the Code were included in the submission and led to incorrect exemption of mechanical ventilating systems.

C. Failure in identification of method of override control and actuating devices

The method of override control and associated actuating devices of V/AC systems for mechanical ventilating systems as required under Part V Section 5.27 of the Code were unable to identify.

D. Failure in provision or indication of manual override switch

Manual override switch of V/AC systems for mechanical ventilating systems as required under Part V Section 5.27 of the Code was not indicated and provided at the central fire control panel.

APs were reminded that the FSD CL No. 1/2019 was issued in January 2019 to facilitate the stakeholders to better understand the methods of proper installation of V/AC System. To facilitate open communication between the APs and development owners, a consent form was also available on FSD website for APs/project owners to provide contact information with the submission of form FSI/314 such that comments from FSD would be copied to them in addition to the reply to the RFSIC submitting the form FSI/314.

The Chairman reminded all APs to draw their members' attention to the aforementioned common irregularities and to observe the relevant guidelines provided.

7. **Smart City**

The Chairman told the meeting that in support of the Policy Address' initiatives on the Smart City Blueprint, FSD would actively explore a wide application of innovation and technology in delivering the services. also invited APs to explore the feasibility of introducing innovation and technology in the FSI monitoring system and welcomed all APs to provide further comments or recommendations on this issue.

8. **Fire Control Centre in FSI Code**

In response to a member's enquiry on whether the term fire control centre or fire control room should be used in the GBP, APs were advised that whenever the provision of a fire control centre was required under the FSI Code, the term 'Fire control center' should be used and the specifications of a fire control centre as stipulated in the FSI code should be strictly adhered to.

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