

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

Date : 9 March 2021 (Tuesday)
Time : 1600 hours
Venue : Conference Room, Fire Safety Command, FSD

Matters Discussed in the Meeting :

1. **General Building Plan (GBP) Submission and FSI Acceptance Inspection**

Performance Indicators

The figures related to the performance indicators for GBP processed and FSI acceptance inspection for New Projects Division, Airport Expansion Project Division and Railway Development Strategy Division were presented. APs had no comment on the performance indicators presented.

2. **Car Parking Facilities with Automated Parking System**

The information paper on fire safety provisions for car parking facilities with automated parking system had been issued to relevant departments for comments and views. Replies from a few departments were still pending for consolidation. Further development on the FSI provisions for Car Parking Facilities with APS would be reported in the next meeting.

3. **Review on Fire Safety Requirements for Car Ports**

The review on fire safety requirements for car ports was still in progress. The relevant information paper would be circulated to all concerned departments / relevant stakeholders for view / comments once available. The pamphlets for Electric Vehicle charging facilities had been printed and would be distributed to the APs concerned.

4. **Promotion of Wider-use of Stand-alone Fire Detectors**

With a view to enhancing the fire safety in buildings, FSD aimed to promote the use of stand-alone fire detectors. Such device was a self-contained battery-powered device that incorporated a fire detector and an alarm. To ensure the quality control of such devices available in the market, they were required to meet international/national standards, such as BS EN 14604 “Smoke Alarm Devices”, UL 217 “Smoke Alarms”, and GB 20517 “独立式

感烟火灾探测报警器” , etc. Legislative amendments would be required in order to cope with the measure.

In response to members' enquires on whether guidelines would be provided for installation of stand-alone fire detectors, it was advised that FSD would publish a set of guidelines advising the public on how to select and purchase the appropriate stand-alone fire detectors available in the markets which met certain established international/national fire safety standards. Such standards were generally adopted in various countries that holistically regulate the standard of stand-alone fire detectors, including their construction, components, performance, manufacturing and production, marking, etc. Compliance of these standards provided a benchmark to ensure the reliability of stand-alone fire detectors. In addition, the guidelines would provide proper procedures of maintaining the efficiency of the detectors through their own checking. For installation details, public could also refer to the instructions given by the manufacturer.

A demonstration on the types and use of stand-alone fire detectors was conducted.

In response to member's enquiry on whether the use of stand-alone fire detector would replace the requirement of sprinkler in units with open kitchen, the Chairman reiterated that the use of stand-alone fire detector was not an alternative to any FSI provisions as stipulated in the CoP for Minimum FSI and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment.

5. **Enquires from APs**

In response to member's enquiry on clause C14.2(a) of the Code of Practice (CoP) for Fire Safety in Buildings requiring smoke vents for basement to be not more than 30m apart, it was advised that the subject clause was under the jurisdiction of the Buildings Department. Should the project proponent encounter any difficulties in complying the clause, he/she might consider submitting application for modification of and/or exemption from the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance and/or Regulations to BD for consideration and approval via proper procedures. In case of referral for comment from BD was received, FSD would process the application in consideration of the related information supporting the application, such as genuine insurmountable site constraints and/or fire engineering report, etc., for coming up fire safety advices to BD on case-by-case basis.

Regarding the enquiry on whether provision of emergency lighting would be required for FS/Sprinkler inlet cabinet (outside) within 2m distance, it was advised that the function of the Fire Service inlet and Sprinkler inlet was to facilitate the water from street fire hydrant fed to the fire hydrant/hose reel system/sprinkler installation respectively via the FSD's Fire Engine. Each Fire Service / Sprinkler inlet would be in a prominent position on the exterior of the building and must be suitably identified and would be readily accessible by Fire Services personnel. With illuminance at the suitable prominent position, provision of emergency lighting specifically for the inlet would normally not be necessary.

Regarding the enquiry on lift homing during the activation of fire alarm signal, it was advised that the requirement of lift home landing operation was under the jurisdiction of EMSD. According to Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators (Lift Code) published by the EMSD, a manual switch should be installed at Building Management office or at the home landing floor for lift home landing operation. However, for the case with 'Lifts Not Discharging to Protected Means of Escape' as stipulated in FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2017, the requirements of 'Automatic Actuation Devices' on the following items should be complied.

- A. Installation of Smoke detectors outside every lift openings;
- B. Actuation of any one of the smoke detectors on any floor shall initiate "Home Landing Operation" of the respective lift car;
- C. Alarm signal transmission neither to actuate building's fire alarm, nor link to Fire Services Communication Centre;
- D. No overriding to fireman's lift switch or manually operated switch for lift home landing.

Moreover, for arrangement of connection of lift home landing load to emergency generator, the lift operation would not be reactivated before the reset of the fire alarm signal at the main FS control panel in case of lift homing due to fire. From fire safety and safe evacuation point of view, occupants should never use the lift in case of fire or activation of fire alarm. APs were suggested to consult EMSD for more explicit requirements and details.

For the enquiry on synchronization of flashing type directional/exit sign and VFA, it was advised that there was no requirement of FSD for synchronization between the flashing directional/exit signs and Visual Fire Alarm. However, according to item 2.6 of the 56th FSSAG meeting on 27.9.2018, the flashing exit sign and flashing directional sign would be

synchronized inside area prescribed with Audio / Visual Advisory System with effect from 1.5.2019 for all projects undergoing FSI Acceptance Inspection. For directional sign installed on tower area or podium level, the relevant requirements of directional sign were specified in Clause 5.1 & Clause 5.10 of the FSI CoP 2012 and should be followed.

Regarding the enquires on duct type electrical heater and fire and smoke control installation at protected area, it was advised that duct type electrical heater was not an FSI item under FSD CoP. It was not covered in the FSI acceptance inspection under application of FSI/501. For the protection requirements against fire and smoke in protected area, it had been stipulated in item 5 of Part XI, FSD Circular Letter No. 4/1996 and should be complied. Item 6 (E) of the guide highlighted the fire safety requirements for ventilating system installed in the protected area. The purpose of the guide was to assist applicants in their application for licences / alternations and renewal of licences.

6. ***A Practical Guide for Design, Installation, Acceptance and Maintenance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment***

With a view to materializing the benefits derived from the FSD Connects, FSD had compiled a corpus-based Guide (which had been promulgated via FSD Circular Letter 2/2021 dated 24.2.2021) for the trade practitioners and stakeholders, such as, authorized persons, registered professional engineers, registered fire service installation contractors and property management personnel. The Guide, though not exhaustive, outlined the general points to note regarding the design, installation, acceptance and maintenance of FSIs at various stages, specifies the DOs and DON'Ts for compliance with FSD's requirements, including useful checklists in the appendices and contains extracts from previous FSD Connects. To keep the trade abreast of the latest development, the Guide would be updated on a regular basis and enriched with useful information from the FSD Connects in future. It was FSD's hope that the Guide would provide APs with invaluable assistance in complying relevant requirements for achieving the building fire safety. APs might wish to download the Guide at FSD's webpage.