

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

Date : 21 June 2023 (Wednesday)

Time : 1600 hours

*Video conference was conducted

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.

Repeated Irregularities Found in GBP Submission/ during Acceptance Inspection

A number of repeated irregularities noted in recent GBP submissions and acceptance inspections:

- ◆ Amendments made in previous submissions were not incorporated in the latest submission;
- ◆ FS Notes amendments were not highlighted/ underlined;
- ◆ Top vent of natural venting of staircases should be clearly indicated and provided in accordance with relevant requirements; and
- ◆ Openable window calculation should be clearly indicated and should be provided in accordance to relevant requirements.

With a view to facilitating the trade in preparing GBP submissions, FSD was planning to upload a set of common irregularities noted in GBP submissions onto FSD website in late July tentatively for APs' easy reference. Further details would be provided to APs for their onward dissemination to members of their respective institutions/ associations. APs welcomed and supported such arrangement.

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

While the response from BD on the information paper was still pending, response-to-comment documents to other government departments were prepared and would be circulated in due course. Meanwhile, a liaison meeting with BD was held on 18.5.2023 to discuss BD's comments and relevant fire safety issues on APS.

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

FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2023 – Sprinkler System for Car Ports was issued on 1.3.2023 and uploaded onto FSD website subsequently. Relevant requirements had come into effect from 1.4.2023.

4. **Review of Code of Practice [previously named as Review of FSI Code (2012)]**

The hard copy of the new Codes of Practice in English version was available for sale in Government Bookstore. The Chinese version was under translation and expected to be issued in July 2023.

5. **Fire Protection Measures in Construction Sites**

A review of the requirements of fire protection measures in construction sites had started. Views and comments would be sought from the industry in due course. The progress/findings of the review would be brought up in the coming meeting for information/discussion.

A member commented that the feasibility of installing fire detection device in constructions sites could be explored since early detection of fire was crucial in view of the difficulties faced during fire incidents in constructions sites of high-rise buildings.

The Chairman responded that the feasibility of using equipment/device for detecting fire in construction sites at early stage would be discussed with the trade and stakeholders.

A member agreed that an overall review, including the operations of construction sites, should be done to prevent similar fire incidents from

recurring.

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

FSD proposed to introduce the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme in order to facilitate business and make good use of professional and qualified human resources in the market.

The Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 was enacted in March 2017 to provide a basis for making subsidiary legislation for the RFE Scheme. Three draft subsidiary legislations and the draft code of practice were still under preparation. FSD was seeking comments from the Security Bureau, Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, Department of Justice and Independent Commission Against Corruption on various issues. Another round of trade consultation would commence by the end of this year.

7. **Review of Precautions and Requirements in regard to Fire Safety in Mechanical Ventilating Systems**

The updated fire safety requirements for (i) Mechanical Ventilating Systems and (ii) Gas Extraction System in Battery Room and Electrical Charging Facilities were published in the newly issued FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2023 and FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2023 respectively on 7 June 2023. The revised requirements would take effect on 1 September 2023, thereby superseding relevant requirements stipulated in Part XI of FSD Circular Letters No. 4/96 and 4/97.

Part XI of FSD Circular Letters No. 4/96 and No. 4/97, in English and Chinese version respectively were issued with all FSD (Ventilation) Circular Letters [FSD CL (V)/89] incorporated at that time (Oct 1996). They governed certain precautions and requirements with regard to fire safety in mechanical ventilating systems falling within the scopes of the following government regulations respectively-

- i. Building (Ventilating Systems) Regulations (Cap. 123J);
- ii. Ventilation of Scheduled Premises Regulation (Cap. 132CE);
- iii. Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295); and
- iv. Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap. 95B.

With a view to enhancing fire safety standards of mechanical ventilating systems, FSD had set up a Sub-working Group, comprising representatives from the Ventilation Installation Liaison Group (VILG) and the Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG), to conduct a holistic review on relevant requirements. The Sub-working Group progressively revised the fire safety requirements for mechanical ventilating systems based on the latest implementation of the above-mentioned regulations in 2022 and 2023.