

**Summary of Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered
Fire Service Installation Contractors of HK Ltd (FSICA)
held on 19 September 2017**

1.1 Improvement of Fire Safety under the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance

Members were briefed on the latest inspection statistics.

1.2 Proposal to Improve Fire Safety in Private Buildings

Members were briefed on the latest enforcement statistics.

1.3 Checking the Standard of Maintenance Works Carried Out by Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSIC)

Members were briefed on the latest statistics related to the surprise checks carried out by FSD.

1.4 Registered Fire Engineer Scheme (RFireE)

The Security Bureau and Fire Services Department were preparing a trade consultation paper to solicit views on the RFE Scheme. Issues to be consulted included, among others, the prerequisite qualifications and work experience to be possessed by a RFE; the composition of various boards under the RFE Scheme and proposed offences (criminal and disciplinary) applicable to a RFE. The public consultation regarding the Scheme had been conducted previously

1.5 Commissioning of the Integrated Licensing, fire Safety and Prosecution System (LIFIPS)

The usage of e-FS 251 from May to August 2017 was 41.67% and the average usage of e-FS 251 in 2017 was 41.95%.

1.6 Annual Inspection of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSIs)

483 advisory letters (ALs) were dispatched to the building owners between June 2017 and August 2017 (Up to 31.8.2017) and 606 nos. of FS 251 were received in response to the ALs within the period.

For the Annual Inspection (AI) of open kitchen, contractors were recommended to submit the FS 251 in the form of entire building or individually for the unit undergone AI. To facilitate the tracing of the concerned units, the contractors were recommended to submit the FS 251 with the appendix listing those units not yet undergone AI. The 'Location' columns in the FS251 of the concerned units were also suggested to be remarked with 'Open Kitchen Included' for clear identification.

1.7 FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2016

With reference to FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2016 - "Revised Supply Tank Requirement for Hose Reel System in Connection with the Enforcement of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572), Laws of Hong Kong", was issued in October 2016. Nearly 95% owners of relevant targeted composite/domestic buildings (TCBs) were informed of the details of this circular and two in-house seminars to members of operational commands had also been conducted on 18 and 19 May 2017. Up to 31 August 2017, relaxation of 500 litres FS water tank (effective capacity) for its hose reel system was granted to 622 TCB.

1.8 General Guide on Buying Fire Extinguisher

It had been proposed to draw up a list showing the names and contact points of those registered FSI contractors (RFSIC) who sold approved portable equipment. Invitation letters were sent to all Class 1, 2 and 3 RFSICs on 16.6.2017 to collect their feedbacks. As a result, there were 88 Class 1 & 2 RFSIC, 4 Class 2 RFSIC and 96 Class 3 RFSIC expressed their interests in providing selling services of approved portable equipment. The list would soon be uploaded onto the FSD website for general public's information and reference.

1.9 FS water connection to the fresh water supply system/roof tank of target composite buildings under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, Cap 572

Meetings with Water Supplies Department (WSD) for FS Water Connection to Water Supply System in Buildings were held in November 2016 and January 2017 respectively. During the meetings, 5 proposals on the use of fresh water supply system and fresh water roof tank for fire service installations (FSIs) in targeted composite/domestic buildings (TCBs) under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, Cap. 572 were discussed. Approval-in-principle was given by WSD to the five proposals. In this connection, a FSD Circular Letter would be issued

to the relevant trades and stakeholders concerned in due course.

1.10 Fire Resistant Cables for Use in Fire Service Installations and Equipment

Apart from purchasing fire resisting cables (FRC) from reputable suppliers or authorized agents to ensuring that the FRC used in FSI were of the required product standards and quality, FSICA was reminded to take necessary means to prevent the mixing of genuine FRC with inferior/fake product during the delivery process and storage on construction site. As for the authentication of FRC delivered/installed, FSICA was recommended to use FRC that had adopted necessary means for facilitating authentication, such as the use of radio-frequency identification technology. Members were also informed that the subject matter had been discussed in a Sub-working Group Meeting under the Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG) of FSD for the past few months. A FSD Circular Letter in this regard would soon be issued.

1.11 Improvised FH/HR System (Phase III) for Targeted Composite Buildings of 7 storeys or above or over 20 m in height

After reviewing the actual water requirement by FS personnel in dealing with a building fire, the Senior Management of FSD had agreed to reduce the effective capacity of a fire service water tank of fire hydrant/hose reel system for all TCBs of 7 storeys or above or over 20 m in height from 9,000 litres to 4,500 litres if there was an emergency vehicular access (EVA) to at least one façade of the building and there was a street fire hydrant within 50 m of the building. Such arrangement would not apply to new buildings. A FSD Circular Letter would be issued in this regard shortly. In this connection, a press conference on introducing the Improvised FH/HR system Phase II & III was scheduled for 21.9.2017. Subsequently, seminars to various stakeholders were scheduled from 25 to 27 September 2017.

1.12 Disposal of Portable Fire Extinguishers and Cylinders

Members were informed that FSD had convened an inter-departmental meeting with Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on 18.8.2017 to explore ways to properly dispose of the obsolete fire extinguishers and compressed gas cylinders, especially for cylinders dumped at the Refuse Collection Points. Representatives of the concerned departments visited the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre at Tsing Yi on 18.9.2017 and further discussed the co-ordinations and logistic arrangements.

In order to enhance the public awareness of the issue, FSD, EPD and FEHD agreed to jointly publish a pamphlet on the issue. Moreover, a new FSD Circular Letter for proper disposal of fire extinguishers was under preparation.

Statutory requirements of the disposal of the obsolete fire extinguishers and compressed gas cylinders were introduced in the meeting. Illegal dumping of fire extinguishers and compressed gas cylinders, albeit empty, was an offence under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570).

As regards the disposal of unserviceable fire extinguishers, it was advised to approach the suppliers of the fire extinguishers or RFSICs for the recycling or handling of such fire extinguishers. The suppliers and the RFSICs were reminded to follow appropriate procedures when discharging an unserviceable extinguisher or recovering its contents prior to disposal in accordance with the Notes on Fire Extinguishers as set out in Appendix 11 to the Code of Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment.