

**Summary of Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered
Fire Service Installation Contractors of HK Ltd (FSICA)
held on 14 October 2019**

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 conducted by FSD.

1.4 Registered Fire Engineer Scheme (RFireE)

A liaison meeting between FSD and Hong Kong Registered Ventilation Contractors Association (HKRVCA) was held in early September 2019. During the meeting, HKRVCA's concerns over the RFE scheme, including the role of Registered Specialist Contractor (Ventilation Works Category) in the RFE Scheme were discussed.

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

The average usage of e-FS 251 (Barcode) was 44.8% in 2018, whilst the average usage of the first three quarters in 2019 was 45.52%.

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

587 advisory letters (ALs) dispatched to the building owners between June 2019 and August 2019. There were 592 nos. of FS 251 received in response to the ALs within the period.

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

For incorporation of fresh water supply system into FH/HR system, 7 TCBs were processed under the pilot scheme. Among them, the improvement works of 1 TCB were completed. Letter of compliance was issued to relevant owners on 21.9.2018. Besides, the installation works of FSI for 1 TCB was in progress.

In order to facilitate the application of “pilot scheme”, contractors would be notified individually of the feasibility of utilizing the scheme upon their appointment by building owners. In connection with this “pilot scheme”, a FSD Circular Letter 3/2017 was issued to relevant trades in September 2017.

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

As at 30.9.2019, approval was given for a total of 583 TCBs to have the capacity of their FS tanks reduced to 4500 litres. FSI drawings for 117 TCBs (out of the 583) were received and 36 nos. of those were approved.

1.9 Checklist for Major Defects of FSI Drawings Submission under Cap. 502 / Cap. 572 launched in 2015

From April to June 2019, 409 sets of FSI drawings were received. Only 27 sets (6.6%) were approved on fresh submission whereas 53 sets (13.0%) were approved upon re-submission for twice or more, and 57 sets (13.9%) failed on checklist screening.

Members made a lengthy discussion on the reasons for the low successful rate in the submission of FSI Drawings. To enhance the performance, it was agreed that FSD would conduct a brief analysis to find out all the factors affecting the low successful rate for further discussion in the next meeting.

1.10 General Procedures for Handling Shutdown of FSI

An ad-hoc meeting between FSD and FSICA was held on 30.9.2019. During the meeting, the revised Shutdown Notice and the proposed revised procedures for notification to FSD on the occasion of FSI Shutdown was discussed. FSD was in the process of refining the procedures and the finalized Shutdown Notice procedures would be tabled at this Liaison Meeting in due course.

1.11 Decommissioning of the Existing FSI under FS(B)O Cap. 572

94 nos. of Advisory Letter (AL) and Supplementary Notes for Retaining-Conversion-Removal of existing FSI had been issued to building owners. As at 8.10.2019, 13 nos. of reply forms were received. The relevant procedures would be reviewed upon completion of the trial in January 2020.

1.12 Proposed Amendments to the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations, Cap 95B for stand-alone smoke alarm

FSD was still waiting for SB's comments on the proposed revised amendment. Members agreed that the item would be deleted for the time being until there was new development to report.

1.13 Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS)

URA had already issued "Approval-in Principle" letter (AIP) by batch to successful applicants for the FSWS. FSD would closely monitor the status of the applications and provide necessary assistance.

1.14 Smart Technology for FSI

As agreed in the last meeting, a Working Group (WG) comprising members of FSD, FSICA, FSI suppliers and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation was established in August 2019. The 1st meeting of the WG on Application of Smart Technology in FSI was held on 29.8.2019. The following salient issues were discussed:

- Smart technology was mature and well available in the market for FSI products and solutions;
- Smart technology was able to facilitate early notification to user; mitigate false alarms; enhance big data analysis; and assist monitoring and preventative maintenance of FSI;
- Optimizing human resources management; providing alarm information to end users and minimizing panic to consumers/occupants would be the incentives to promote the adoption of smart technology in FSI; and
- Since information relay function was regarded as an add-on notification/monitoring feature to the fire control panel, the WG agreed

that it was not under the definition of FSI and the promotion strategy of smart technology in FSI could be initiated in this aspect.

1.15 Checklists for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of FSI

After discussion in the working group meeting held on 25.6.2019 with the representatives of FSICA, updated version of checklists was received on 6.8.2019. The drafted checklists were being finalized and would be issued shortly. The Chinese version of the finalized checklists would be issued in due course.

1.16 Review of Application for Inspection and Testing of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI/501)

To inform registered professional engineer of the revamped application procedures for FSI compliance inspection, a meeting with the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) was held on 6.9.2019. In addition, AP representatives were briefed on the revised procedures during the FSD/AP liaison meeting on 26.9.2019. The revamped procedures were well received and supported by members of ERB and AP representatives. Having consolidated all comments from relevant stakeholders, the finalized forms (FSI/501 & FSI/501a) were tabled at this Liaison Meeting before putting into use. Members were briefed on the contents of the revised forms FSI/501 and FSI/501a in detail.

1.17 Adoption of “Flexible Sprinklers” in Hong Kong

The issue about flexible sprinkler in Hong Kong should be discussed in the FSSAG meeting instead of FSICA/FSD liaison meeting as it related not only FSICA but the trade and the fire safety standard. In fact, the issue had been discussed in FSSAG meeting some years ago and the result was negative at that time from operation and enforcement point of view.

The meeting concluded that FSICA was suggested to put up the issue for discussion in the FSSAG meeting if needed.

1.18 Review of FSI Code

Members were informed that FSD had embarked on the review of current FSI Code and internal discussion amongst different echelons was in progress. Among others, new classification of premises and definitions together with

related fire safety requirements would be considered in order to cope with new types of occupancy and latest building development. With a view to providing clearer guidance on acceptance of FSI, the specifications for acceptance of certain kind of FSI systems, such as smoke extraction system and pressurization of staircase would be further elaborated. Upon completion of the draft proposed amendment, trade consultation would be conducted in due course.

Representatives of FSICA expressed the concern of the relevant trades on two aspects. The first one was about the provision and dimension of fire control room (FCR) and the second one was about the provision of the sprinkler control valve room (SCVR).

The problems stated above had been noted by FSD and were addressed to during the FSI Code review. From operational point of view, FCR and SCVR should be placed side by side.

1.19 Automated Parking System

Members were informed that a pilot scheme of Automated Parking System (APS) would be implemented in Hong Kong in order to address the serious shortfall of parking spaces and to increase spatial efficiency. The scheme would be adopted with 5 types of APS on six suitable government Lands, namely:

1. Puzzle Stacking System (Puzzle)
2. Tower Lifting System (Tower)
3. Circular Shaft Lifting System (Circular)
4. Rotary Carousel System (Rotary)
5. Vertical Lifting and Horizontal Sliding System (VLHS)

In view of the unique design and packed parking areas as well as deep basement design, some of the major FSI, such as smoke control system (SES), in-rack sprinkler system and access walkway (to every point of every deck) would be formulated for the APS within building. In short, consultation to all stakeholders would be arranged regarding the fire safety requirements for APS.

1.20 Targeted Time for Vetting of Smoke Control Submissions

Members were updated that in response to the trade's concern about the waiting time of general application for smoke control submission i.e. Pressurization of Staircase, Smoke Extraction System and VAC System, FSD would like to inform

that all such applications would be processed on a first-come-first-serve basis. The target processing time was 3 months in general from the date of receipt of submissions. For those submissions were complicated in nature, the case officer might approach the applicant for clarification, if necessary.