

**Summary of Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered  
Fire Service Installation Contractors of HK Ltd (FSICA)  
held on 1 February 2021**

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

During the period from January to December 2020, the average usage of FS251 (Barcode) was 48.35% whilst the average usage of FS251 (Online submission) was 1.01%.

**1.5 Annual Inspection of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSIs)**

722 advisory letters (ALs) were dispatched to the building owners between October 2020 and December 2020. There were 655 nos. of FS 251 received in response to the ALs within the period.

The first stage of trial use of the Pictorial Label for Hose Reel Operating Procedures had been completed in three public housing estates with HR sets in all housing blocks thereat attached with the labels. The second stage was anticipated to commence in February 2021.

FSD Circular Letter (9/2020) regarding Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) for FH/HR Systems was published on 24.12.2020. The circular letter served as a reminder of the requirement that FH/HR systems, including PRVs fitted to the

systems shown on the record drawings of FSIs submitted to the D of FS. All FSIs should be all the time maintained in good order and condition.

PRVs were fitted to FH/HR systems to ensure that performance of the systems met the technical requirements specified in the CoP. FH/HR systems equipped with PRVs could maintain the integrity and functionality of its piping and components such that no part of the internal pipework was subjected to excessive water pressure. Where PRVs were installed, a bypass arrangement should be incorporated to enable isolation of any defective PRV for necessary repair or replacement. Under no circumstances should the bypass be used as a permanent means of water supply for the FH/HR systems.

RFSICs were reminded to note that FSIs should be conformed to the plans submitted to FSD. All FSIs should be all the time maintained in good order to the satisfaction of the D of FS. Any removal of PRVs in the FH/HR systems of a building would be deemed to be a fire hazard if it was not hydraulically necessary to do so for compliance with the requirements of system performance specified in the Codes, and submissions for applying for such removal under the item “Alteration and Addition works to FSIs” in FSI/314A would not be accepted by the Fire Services Department.

**1.6 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, while the improvement works of two TCBs were completed in mid-January 2021, ten TCBs were being processed under the pilot scheme, and one case was under initial screening prior to approval.

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

As at 15.1.2021, approval was given for a total of 693 TCBs to have the capacity of their FS tanks reduced to 4,500 litres. FSI drawings for 172 TCBs (out of the 693) were received and 88 nos. of those were approved.

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

From July - September 2020, 405 sets of FSI drawings were received. Only 25 sets (6.17%) were approved on fresh submission whereas 71 sets (17.5%) were approved upon re-submission for twice or more, and 43 sets (10.6%) failed on checklist screening.

## **1.9 General Procedures for Handling Shutdown of FSI**

With a view to streamlining the handling procedures of FSI shutdown for work(s), viz. maintenance, inspection, modification or repair which was/were expected to be carried out **overnight or for more than 24 hours continuously**, and enhancing the fire safety of the building/premises during the period of FSI shutdown, FSD conducted an internal review and FSD Circular Letter 1/2021 was issued on 15.1.2021 to announce a set of revised handling procedures of FSI shutdown to be observed by RFSICs. The notification to FSD should **ONLY** be made using the Notification of FSI Shutdown (SDN) and the RFSIC should notify the FSD the defect(s) as soon as possible within 24 hours after the defect(s) was/were identified literally.

To allow more time for the trade to acquaint themselves with the revised handling procedures for reporting FSI shutdown, the implementation of the revised procedures and SDN would take effect on **1 March 2021**.

## **1.10 Decommissioning of the Existing FSI under FS(B)O Cap. 572**

Regarding the procedures on handling the existing FSI such as dry riser or fire extinguisher, it was agreed in the meeting held on 23.9.2020 that:

- i. The option form from building owners for Removal/Retaining/Conversion of Existing FSs would be ceased; and
- ii. The advisory letters to the building owners would not be copied to the concerned consultant/RFSIC.

For facilitating a comprehensive review on the effectiveness and practicability of the coordinated workflow, several recommendations to refine the relevant procedures were still under review by the working group.

## **1.11 Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS)**

In view of the positive response by the public for the FSWS, 2<sup>nd</sup> round FSWS was open for application from 2.7.2020 to 30.10.2020. As at 31.12.2020, the total nos. of application for 2<sup>nd</sup> round FSWS was 900 as reported by URA.

## **1.12 Checklists for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of FSI**

The implementation arrangement of Annual Inspection (AI) checklist for sprinkler system was introduced via FSD Circular Letter No. 8/2020 on 15.12.2020. To allow more time for the trade to acquaint themselves with the new arrangement and practice, the AI checklist for sprinkler system would take effect on 1 June 2021. The Chinese version of the AI checklist for sprinkler system was being prepared and would be issued in due course.

## **1.13 Review of FSI Code**

Comments amongst different units of FSD on the current FSI Code were being consolidated. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft revision would be circulated to the trade for views / comments once available. For the information paper on fire safety requirements for car ports, it was still under preparation.

## **1.14 Car Parking Facilities with Automated Parking System (Automated Parking Facility - Heading revised)**

An Information Paper had been issued to relevant departments to invite comments and views. Replies from a few departments were still pending for consolidation.

## **1.15 Enhancement on Application procedure for Approval/Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSI) and other Products**

Regarding the subject matter, the relevant FS Circular Letter was issued on 15.7.2020. The equipment list was also updated on this occasion. Recently, it was observed that under the existing equipment list, some brands of PRV could not obtain the acceptance letter issued by FSD mainly because their standard could not meet the requirement. About the technical requirement of PRV, the standard of WSD and FSD was the same. The requirement was stated in WSD Technical Requirement (11/2020 version) in which PRV should follow the standard of BS EN 1567 (1999).

Regarding the issue of acceptance letter on different brands of PRV, so long as the fire safety aspect would not be affected, FSD would consider issuing the acceptance letter for PRV.

## **1.16 Voluntary Recognition/Training Scheme for FSI workers**

A visit to the CIC Trade Test Centre was made on 3.11.2020 for discussion over the preliminary idea of the proposed Scheme, recognition requirements and CIC's similar programmes in partnership with other Government Departments.

To acquire the latest employment situation of the industry as well as the expectation of the stakeholders on the Scheme, an online survey was conducted from 1.12.2020 to 8.1.2021. The survey results were being analyzed.

## **1.17 Promotion on use of Stand-alone Detectors**

The technology of stand-alone fire detector was well developed and widely popular in overseas. It was considered as a very cost-effective means to further beef up of fire safety among the public. To promote the voluntary use of stand-alone fire detector, FSD was going to initiate legislation amendments exercise for relaxing current regulatory regime.

Under s. 2 of the Fire Services Ordinance, stand-alone fire detectors were regarded as Fire Service Installations and Equipment, hence the installation, maintenance and annual inspection were required to be performed by an RFSIC. With the proposed legislative amendments to exempt stand-alone fire detectors installed in any premises which was not required by any Authority in exercising of their legislative functions, from the application of regulations 6, 7 and 8 of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations. In other words, any person on his own volition wish to install a stand-alone fire detector was no longer required to employ an RFSIC in its installation and maintenance. Statutory duties, including annual inspection under regulation 8 of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations was also not applied on voluntary use of stand-alone fire detectors. In this regard, an Information Paper would be ready for uploading onto the FSD website for information of the relevant trades and public.