Summary of Notes of Liaison Meeting between FSD and the Association of Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors of HK Ltd (FSICA) <u>held on 10 May 2021</u>

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 March 2021, the average usage of FS251 (Barcode) was 49% whilst the average usage of FS251 (Online submission) was 1.37%.

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

484 advisory letters (ALs) were dispatched to the building owners between January 2021 and March 2021. There were 506 nos. of FS 251 received in response to the ALs within the period.

The 2nd stage of trial use of the Pictorial Label for Hose Reel Operating Procedures (the Label) had commenced in April 2021. It was envisaged that all the public housing estates in Hong Kong would have used the Label in July 2021. With the support of Building Management Committee, the trial use of the Label would be extended to private buildings in the 3rd stage.

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, 12 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 15.4.2021, approval was given for a total of 706 TCBs to reduce the capacity of their FS tanks to 4,500 litres. FSI drawings for 177 TCBs (out of the 706) were received and 93 nos. of those were approved.

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

From October-December 2020, 338 sets of FSI drawings were received. Only 28 sets (8.3%) were approved on fresh submission whereas 61 sets (18%) were approved upon second or more re-submission, and 26 sets (7.7%) 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 works, viz. maintenance, inspection, modification or repair which were expected to be carried out <u>overnight or for more than 24 hours continuously</u>, and enhancing the fire safety of the building/premises during the period of FSI shutdown, a set of revised handling procedures of FSI shutdown to be observed by RFSICs was announced via FSD Circular Letter 1/2021 issued on 15.1.2021 and put in effect since 1.3.2021.

Members were reminded that failure to follow the revised handling procedures as stipulated in FSD Circular Letter might be considered as negligence in the maintenance of FSI and might be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

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 cease; and
- (ii) The advisory letters to the building owners would not be copied to the concerned consultant/RFSIC.

The Working group was still reviewing the procedures of the coordinated workflow.

1.11 Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS)

In view of the positive response by the public for the FSWS, 2nd 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 2nd round FSWS was 903 as reported by URA. Among 903 nos. of applications received, 845 nos. of application met the eligible criteria.

1.12 Checklists for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of FSI

The Chinese version of the AI checklist for sprinkler system was introduced via FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2021 on 7.4.2021.

The AI checklist for Water Supplies was being devised and under consultation. Meanwhile, the AI checklist for FH/HR system and Supplies Tank were under review and comments from FSICA had been received and being studied.

1.13 Review of FSI Code

Updating of the current FSI Code was still in progress and would be circulated to the trade for views / comments once available. For the information paper on fire safety requirements for car ports, it had been finalized and would be circulated for comment shortly.

1.14 Car Parking Facilities with Automated Parking System

Comment on the Information Paper from a department was still pending. Further development on the FSI provisions for Car Parking Facilities with APS would be reported in the next meeting.

1.15 Enhancement on Application procedure for Approval/Acceptance of Fire

Service Installations and Equipment (FSI) and other Products

FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2020 in respect of the facilitation measures of application procedure for approval of portable equipment / acceptance of FSI and equipment and fire safety products was issued on 15.7.2020. Views and comments were received and addressed to during the previous meetings.

As no further update of the issue was required, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

1.16 Voluntary Recognition/Training Scheme for FSI workers (VRS)

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would be formed to advise the Director of Fire Services on the implementation and technical issues of the VRS. Invitation memo/letter together with an information paper about the VRS was sent on 19.4.2021 to departments/organizations concerned to serve as members of the TAC.

According to the preliminary implementation plan, the VRS would be rolled out in September 2021 with the first batch of FSI Technicians recognized in November 2021.

1.17 Promotion on use of Stand-alone Detectors

The proposal of promotion of wider use of stand-alone fire detectors had been tabled on the Legislative Council Panel on Security for discussion. The proposal was generally supported by the Panel.