Summary of Notes of 81st Ventilation Installations Liaison Group Meeting

(held on 19.3.2026)

2	**Matters arising from Last Meeting**
2.1	**e-Submission on AIC and Report of Completion on Ventilating System** For the trade's reference, FSD advised that the percentage of e-submission for AIC and Vent/425 in 2025 were 6.9% and 5.7% respectively. The Chairman advised that there were rooms for improvement on percentage of e-submission and strongly recommended the trades to make every effort to support electronic submission for AIC as well as Report Completion on Ventilating System - Vent/425. Members agreed to further promote the captioned electronic services to their members and relevant trades.
2.2	**Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme** The RFE Scheme was implemented on 1 November 2025. The Code of Practice for RFE was uploaded to FSD website in March 2026 for the Trade's reference to cope with implementation. A Professional development course of the RFE Scheme was arranged between Nov 2025 to May 2026 to facilitate the application of RFE registration, if required. Application for registration of RFE commenced in March 2026. Details please refer to the related information on FSD's Website.
2.3	**Electronic Issuance System (eIS) for Letter of Compliance** FSD had launched e-Issuance System (eIS) for issuance and delivery of Letter of Compliance (LC) for Ventilating System (VS) to applicant applying for licensing to premises from the Licensing Authority (FEHD) with effective from 1 July 2024. To enhance the e-IS feature, QR Code was provided on the digital LC for VS to facilitate online verification in June 2025. To cope with the implementation of RFE Scheme, the LC for Licence types in the initial phase of RFE Scheme (for Food Business), i.e. general restaurants, light refreshment restaurants, factory canteens, food factories (whether or not for preparation of bakery products only) and composite food shops would be

	changed from LC to Fire Safety (Ventilating System) Certificate. It would be applied to those application to the Licensing Authority (FEHD) after 1 November 2025. There were 11 nos. of Fire Safety (VS) Certificate in digital mode with QR code were issued up to mid-March 2026. FSD also advised that there was adjustment for application fee (reduction) for the above Licence type by the Licensing Authority (FEHD) and application fee (new) for the Fire Safety (Ventilating System) Certificate by FSD.
2.4	**<u>Phasing out of BS 476 Standards</u>** The phasing out of testing standards of BS476 is scheduled in stages, with withdrawal date from Mar 2025 to Sep 2029. To minimize the disturbance to the applicant, the test reports prepared according to BS 476 Part 6 or Part 7 is still accepted by VSG at present moment, provided that the adopted test standards are still within the scopes of accreditation granted by one of the accreditation bodies for the relevant accredited testing laboratory. According to the FSD CL No. 2/2023, VS materials complied with other equivalent national or international standards to the specified standards, e.g. BS476 Part 6 or Part 7, would be also acceptable. As such, the Standards, e.g. BS EN 13823, which superseded BS 476 Part 6 and Part 7, was also acceptable for testing VS material application by VSG. Further to the deliberated discussion with the <u>members</u> during, and benchmarking the Fire Code of BD / Singapore Fire Code and reference made by previous approved applications, the following preliminary fire safety requirements was preliminary suggested by FSD: 1. FSR of BS 476 Part 6 to be equivalent to BS EN 13501-1, Class B (Fire behavior) 2. Enhance the FRS of BS 476 Part 7 for VS product of FSD CL No. 2/2023 (e.g. Section 5.4.1, external insulation for ductwork and pipework; and Section 5.4.2(a), Aluminium foil vapour barrier) to new Standard of BS EN 13501-1, Class B (Fire behavior) 3. Provision of additional fire safety requirements on method of test for fire propagation and surface spread of flame in the classification BS EN 13501-1 under BS EN 13823, e.g. smoke production S and flaming droplets d. (*For the additional fire safety requirements, s3 and d2 classifications in BS

	EN 13501-1 are performance levels not to be tested, and are equivalent to no requirement. To enhance the fire safety performance, it is recommended that these requirements be be tightened to s2 and d1, respectively.) FSD would suggested members to collect relevant technical information from the trade for further discussion and review.
3	**AOB**
3.1	**Accredited Testing Laboratory for Material Assessment** FSD reiterated that as stipulated in FSD CL No. 1/2024, the test report for the Product Assessment application to FSD should be issued by accredited testing laboratories holding an accreditation certificate, specifying the **scopes of accreditation** granted by one of the **accreditation bodies**.
3.2	**Review of Fire Safety Requirements for Separation Distance for Internal Insulation from Electric Heating Element Assembly in VS** HKACRA suggested to review the Clause 6.1.5 of FSD CL No. 2/2023 of separation distance requirement for ductwork internal acoustic / thermal insulation from the electric heating element assembly. Similar to the exemption condition for separation distance on ductwork internal lining / silencers from fire damper by providing securely encased in perforated galvanized steel sheet / metal was referred as per Clause 3.4.7 of FSD CL No. 2/2023. HKACRA suggested similar exemption condition to be applied to acoustic insulation of the VAV box to its heating element also. FSD advised that this topic had been discussed generally in the previous VILG meeting. The acoustic insulation for the VAV box with heating element should be assessed individually in Product Assessment application by FSD in accordance with FSD CL No. 1/2024. However, FSD requested HKACRA to provide some relevant drawings / schematic diagrams and recommend the members to review the safety requirement for control and sequence interlocking of electric heating element for further discussion.
3.3	**List of Product Approved for Use in Ventilating Systems Updates** HKRSCVA informed that the List of Product Approved for Use in Ventilating

	Systems for Electrostatic Precipitator was not updated yet in FSD website. In addition, they suggested to add the date of last revision on the List for easy reference. FSD advised that there was a series of updates for the Approval Letter of Electrostatic Precipitator issued in January 2026. The List of Approved for Use in Ventilating Systems would be updated soon including incorporation of date of last revision.