

## **Fire Safety Standard Advisory Group (FSSAG)**

### Matters Discussed in the 56<sup>th</sup> FSSAG Meeting held on 27 September 2018

#### **1. Review of PPA 104 (Issued under cover of FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2006)**

Since last FSSAG meeting, comments had been received from members. Revision was completed and the relevant FSD Circular Letter (CL) was being prepared for formal promulgation.

#### **2. Review on Fire Resisting Cable Requirements for Fire Service Installations**

Following the report in the last FSSAG meeting, the forming of the new Sub-working Group (SWG) for fire resisting cables requirements would be halted at present until the completion of at least one former tasks including review on BS EN 12845:2015, BS 5839-1:2017 and BS 5266-1. During the interim, special cases in this regard could be brought up to seek advice of FSID on project basis or for discussion and clarification in the FSSAG meeting if necessary. It was agreed in the meeting that the item would be put on shelf for the time being until the restart of the SWG meeting which would be likely in the first quarter of 2019.

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

The enhancement programme was in Phase 5 (Final stage). A study on the incorporation of continuous surveillance mechanism for quality assurance was still being conducted. The Fire Protection Notice No.15 with the Circular Letter would be launched in due course.

#### **4. Review of the Requirements for Emergency Lighting**

The scope of the sub-working group (SWG) was under review. The main direction would be focused on the major concerns of relevant trades in relation to the requirements for emergency lighting. Upon the completion of the review exercise, the 6<sup>th</sup> SWG meeting would be arranged.

**5. Implementation of BS 5839: 2013 “Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings – Part 1: Code of Practice for Design, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Systems in Non-domestic Premises”**

The sub-working group meeting would be conducted on 4/10/2018 morning to review the new edition of standard.

**6. Flashing Requirement for Exit Sign and Directional Sign in Audio / Visual Advisory System (AVAS)**

To clearly illustrate the function/performance of different options of Flashing Light for Exit Sign and Directional Sign, a demonstration test arranged by FSICA was conducted on 11 July 2018. Representatives from FSICA, HD, IFEHK, SFPE-HK Chapter and FSD attended this demonstration test. It had been concluded by all attendees that the option with both flashing Exit Sign and flashing Directional Sign was the best and the most suitable method to indicate the evacuation route in case of fire, while incorporating the AVAS. It was also recommended that the flashing Exit Sign and flashing Directional Sign should be synchronized inside AVAS protected area if applicable. The details of demonstration test could be found in the document “Flashing Test Record for AVAS 20180711”.

The ways to put forward the recommendation made in the aforesaid paragraph was discussed. After a lengthy discussion, the following conclusions were made and agreed:

- (i) A clause “flashing exit sign and flashing directional sign shall be synchronized inside AVAS protected area” should be included in the relevant FS CoP in future when updating the FS CoP ;
- (ii) No FSD Circular Letter regarding (i) would be issued; and
- (iii) With effect from 1 May 2019, all projects undergoing FSI Acceptance Inspection should meet the new requirement as that stated in (i) above.

**7. Review on LPC Sprinkler Rules 2015 incorporating BS EN 12845**

The third and fourth sub-working group (SWG) meetings had been held on 4 July 2018 and 8 August 2018 respectively. Many items had been discussed and consolidated during the meetings. The next meeting was scheduled on 10 October

2018. The targeted date to accomplish this task was early of year 2019.

**8. Briefing to the Construction Industry in relation to Building Plan Submission and FSI Acceptance Inspection on 24.11 2017**

The enhanced procedures and measures for FSI acceptance inspection were fully implemented and the effectiveness of such measures was reported in the seminar on 25.6.2018. In order to further enhance the transparency of the vetting on FSI/314 for smoke control systems, it was proposed that FSID would copy comments arising from drawings vetting to the AP or owner of the project for their information if they could provide a duly signed consent form with relevant contact information to FSID under the cover of FSI/314 submission. The proposal was discussed in the liaison meeting with FSICA and AP and no adverse comment was received. The consent form was uploaded onto FSD website for public use. In addition, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of document checklist was also uploaded onto FSD website.

As the consent form and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of document checklist had been uploaded onto the FSD website for public use, the task under this item had been completed, hence the meeting agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

**9. Fire Service Equipment Product Approval**

Since last FSSAG meeting, the product approval process was in a good progress and it would be maintained in view that there was no adverse comment received from the stakeholders. As the product approval process had become a routine, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

**10. FSD Approval for Fire Resistant Cable and FS Equipment**

Regarding the acceptance of fire service installations and equipment (FSI), any FSI which was required by FSD for the protection of buildings should be of an accepted type. If the equipment had not yet been listed by Product Certificate Bodies (PCBs), it should be accepted by FSD. Procedure of application for acceptance as stated in FSD Circular Letter 1/2007 should be followed. As no further update for the item was required, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

## **11. Colour Contrast for Exit and Directional Sign**

According to the minutes of the last meeting, members were reminded to forward case of doubt to FSD for discussion. There was no case of doubt referred to FSD since last meeting.

The design and colour combination of the exit and directional signs should strictly follow the requirements that stated in the relevant FSI CoP and FSD Circular Letter 5/2008, this should be the prevailing practice adopted in FSI Acceptance Inspection. Instead, it was very important for the contractor to make sure that the design and colour of the signage could be clearly and easily seen by people on site after installation. It was agreed that contractors should pay attention to the background environment when doing installation work such as light reflection, etc. As the design and colour contrast for exit and directional sign had been discussed and elaborated in the last meeting and this meeting in detail, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

## **12. Review and evaluation of Sprinkler Stop Valve Management System (SSSMVS) and Stop Valve Management System (SMVS)**

It was proposed that the existing department's liaison mechanism; i.e., liaison meetings with Authorized Persons and the Housing Department would be adopted for consultation. Furthermore, the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong (REDA) and the Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society (BSOMES) could be invited to attend next FSSAG for the purpose of consultation. The aforesaid proposal was supported by the meeting.

## **13. Fire Shutter Operation**

For fire safety reason, fire shutters should be tested to confirm that the designed functions for compartment separation of the driven shutters could be achieved timely and be maintained in efficient working order at all times. The whole fire shutter assembly should at all times be capable of sustaining continuous operation. Any interruption to fire shutter materially affecting the effective operation of fire shutter would not be accepted.

Since the previous discussion had explicitly defined the operation mode of fire shutter operation and its actuation, there was no update to report and no further

discussion on the issue was required. The meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

**14. Minor Changes on Smoke Extraction Drawing (SED) or Staircase Pressurization Drawing (SPD) occurred after approval**

Since the previous discussion had explicitly clarified the drawing amendment mechanism, the existing procedures for plan submission should be strictly followed. As no further discussion on the issue was required, the meeting agreed to delete the item in the next meeting.

**15. PCB Listed Fire Resistant Cables Inside Conduit**

Multi-core cables conforming to BS 6387: 2013 was not required to be installed in metal conduit according to standard. For single core cable, it might be installed inside a metal conduit or it had at least one metallic element built in. This requirement was applicable for all fire resistant cables conforming to BS 6387:2013 whether it was a listed product or it possessed the acceptance letter of FSD.

**16. Interpretation on Colour Contrast for Exit and Directional Sign (clause 5.10 of CoP)**

As this issue had been discussed thoroughly under item 11 above, the meeting agreed that no further discussion on the issue was required and hence the item would be deleted in the next meeting.

**17. Proposed Amendment to FSD Circular Letter No. 2/2005**

After the promulgation of FSD Circular Letter no. 2/2005 relating to V/AC control systems, registered ventilation contractors in the past liaison meetings with FSD had discussed various installation scenarios encountered. Consent from the FSSAG was sought for issuing an updated FSD Circular Letter to supersede the 2/2005.

The issue was discussed in detail. It was agreed in the meeting that the updated Drawing Numbers FS-VEN-128A to 130A and 132A would provide the relevant trades with a clearer requirement and better understanding about licensed premises ventilating system. In this regard, an updated FSD Circular Letter would be

issued to supersede FSD Circular Letter 2/2005. The draft updated FSD Circular Letter would be circulated to all FSSAG members for information prior to issue.