Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG) Matter Discussed in the 72nd FSSAG Meeting held on 13 June 2023

1. Review of Precautions and Requirements in regard to Fire Safety in Mechanical Ventilating Systems

It was revealed that the updated (i) Fire Safety Requirements for Mechanical Ventilating Systems and (ii) Specification of Gas Extraction System for Battery Room and Electrical Charging Facilities have been published with the newly issued FSD Circular Letter Nos. 2/2023 and 3/2023 respectively on 7 June 2023. The captioned FSD Circular Letters had been circulated to members of the FSSAG for information prior to this meeting. It was stated that further promotion would be launched subsequently to remind the trade to acquaint with the revised requirements and specification accordingly.

It was added that the captioned revised requirements and specification would take effect on 1 September 2023. It reserved sufficient time to conduct bridging and communication work with the trade to adopt the revised requirements.

2. Clarification for Low Level Directional Sign

The above issues had been discussed in the 71st FSSAG meeting and the requirements would be incorporated into the Code of Practice for Minimum Fire Services Installations and Equipment (CoP) in due course.

Members expressed concerns for the aforesaid arrangements and enquired whether additional publication or issue of FSD Circular Letter be required to incorporate the revised requirements prior to the amendment of CoP. It was responded and suggested that the adoption of the requirements of low level directional signs being concluded in the 71st FSSAG meeting should take immediate effect to facilitate the efficiency of the trade. In this connection, special application of phosphorescent signs as low level directional signs in audio/visual advisory system during general building plan submission was not necessary. As such, the captioned revision would not be required to announce via FSD Circular Letter at the moment.

The Chairman agreed the suggestion and confirmed the adoption of the requirements of low level directional signs being concluded in the 71st FSSAG

meeting came into effect. There being no further updates on the item, it was suggested to delete the item in the next meeting.

3. Review on the Application of Flexible Sprinkler Drop in Hong Kong (FSD)

Members raised concerns from the trade, including the procedure of the prior approval for the use of flexible connectors, the fitting of the distribution pipe, the related label description and the scope of application. It was replied that enquiries could be made to FSD in the course of building plans submission on project basis in order to obtain prior approval for the use of flexible connectors. The requirements of the fitting of the distribution pipe and label description were not stipulated and be subjected for further discussion. Also, the applicability of the subject referred to the respective operational needs and might not be specified in details to allow greater flexibility for the operation of the trade. In short, it was stated that members were encouraged to provide comments to review the application, technical specification, design and installation details and maintenance requirements of the flexible sprinkler drop to ensure safe and efficient working order of sprinkler installation.

It was supplemented that the consultation of the above subject with the trade was still underway and comments from members and parties of interests were welcomed to conduct a comprehensive review pertinent to the local situation.

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