



HONG KONG

CODES OF PRACTICE
(MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE
INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT)
AND
(INSPECTION AND TESTING OF
INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT)

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HONG KONG FEBRUARY 1964

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BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, 1955.

(No. 68 of 1955).

**CODE OF PRACTICE (MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE
INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT).**

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

The Building Authority may, under section 9B(1)(aa) of the Buildings Ordinance, 1955 (1960 Reprint) refuse to approve any plans of building works where, *inter alia*, the plans are not endorsed with or accompanied by a certificate from the Director of Fire Services certifying either—

- (i) that, having regard to the purpose to which the building is intended to be put no fire service installation or equipment is necessary in connexion with the building that will result from the carrying out of the building works shown on the plans; or
- (ii) that the plans have been examined and are approved by him as showing all such fire service installations and equipment as in his opinion, having regard to the purpose to which the building is intended to be put, comprise the minimum fire service installations and equipment necessary for the building in accordance with a Code of Practice published from time to time by the Director of Fire Services.

This Code of Practice (Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment) is accordingly published for general information and guidance only. It is not intended to lay down any hard and fast rules. Special factors or circumstances may arise in a particular case which necessitate, in the Director's opinion, the provision of fire service installations or equipment not indicated in this Code. Alternatively, other factors and circumstances may enable the Director to relax, in regard to a particular building, any of the requirements specified for that class or type of building, and consideration will be given to all representations made for relaxation in any particular case. Accordingly, this Code of Practice indicates only the general principles, considerations, factors and circumstances which are normally taken into account and acted upon by the Director of Fire Services in forming his opinion as to the minimum fire service installations and equipment necessary for certain type and classes of buildings.

CODE OF PRACTICE (MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS
AND EQUIPMENT).

PART I.

INTERPRETATION.

Interpreta-
tion.

1. In this Code, unless the context otherwise requires—

“downcoming main” means the pipe connecting the supply tank to a fixed fire pump at a lower level;

“drencher installation” means an arrangement of pipes and discharge heads so positioned that a curtain of water may be interposed between a fire and the property being protected;

“dry riser” means a vertical water main which is normally dry, of appropriate size, and fitted with hydrant outlets which can be charged with water by Fire Services Department pumps via a fire service inlet;

“fire alarm installation” means an installation capable of warning persons of an outbreak of fire;

“fire hydrant/hose reel installation” means an installation of pipes, water tanks, pumps, hydrant outlets and/or hose reels in a building to provide a ready means by which a jet of water can be delivered in any part of the building for the purposes of fire fighting;

“fixed fire pump” means a permanently primed pump set between the reserve source of water supply and the various hydrant/hose reel outlets;

“hose reel” means any standard type hose reel of a pattern approved by the Director of Fire Services;

“sprinkler installation” means an installation of water supplies, pump, pipes, valves and delivery points so arranged as to automatically and instantaneously detect a fire and attack it with water and sound an alarm;

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37/56).

“storey” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2 of the Building (Planning) Regulations, 1956, and for the purposes of this Code includes a mezzanine;

“sub-main” means either a dry or charged pipe connecting from the principal water main (either charged or dry) to a fire hydrant outlet;

“supply tank” means a water tank containing the specified quantity of water reserved solely for fire fighting;

“wet rising main” means any permanently charged vertical water main other than a down coming main for fire fighting within the boundaries of a building.

PART II.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

2. At the discretion of the Director of Fire Services, one or more of the following eight installations may be required—

Types of installations that may be required.

- (1) A fire hydrant/hose reel installation consisting of permanently charged pipes of suitable dimensions leading to one or more hydrant/hose reel points as approved by the Director of Fire Services, with each hydrant point fitted with a standard 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Hong Kong Fire Service Round Thread male outlet and each hose reel point consisting of smooth bore $\frac{3}{4}$ " internal diameter rubber tubing on a suitable drum permanently connected to the hydrant supply main adjacent to the hydrant. The system to be capable of continuous and uninterrupted use by keeping the system charged by F.S. pumps even after the supply of water in the water supply tanks has been exhausted.
- (2) A "dry riser" to provide ready means, without recourse in the early stages of a fire to firemen running hose up staircases, to deliver a supply of water for fire fighting purposes to each floor.
- (3) A "sprinkler" installation to automatically and instantaneously detect a fire, attack it with water from suitably placed points and sound an alarm.
- (4) A "drencher" installation which provides a curtain of water for protection against internal and external "exposure" to fire, and/or the protection of large openings.
- (5) A fire alarm installation to either automatically warn occupants of a building of an outbreak of fire in the building and locate by an annunciator board the place of the actuated alarm point or in the case of a manual alarm installation to provide a ready means whereby anyone discovering a fire can rapidly warn others in the building of an outbreak.
- (6) Hand appliances and/or other preventive media which may be required by the Director of Fire Services.
- (7) Fixed installation capable of either automatic or manual operation or both and designed so as to discharge an extinguishing media such as water, foam or dry powder or CO₂ etc. in any place for the purpose of extinguishing or preventing the spread of fire.
- (8) A fixed fire pump which shall preferably be electrically driven and shall be permanently connected between the water supply and the hydrant/hose reel outlets and capable of remote starting and providing either alone or together with other fixed pumps, the quantity and pressure of water specified in paragraph 6.

Buildings
and type of
installations
generally
required
therefor.

3. The type and extent of installation called for will depend on a number of variable factors which are too numerous for any simple scale to be laid down. The main factors, however, are cubic content of rooms, floor areas and number of floors. The following indicate the type of installation that will generally be required for the buildings specified—

- (1) *Fire hydrant/hose reel installation.*
 - (a) Domestic buildings of more than 12 storeys or 100 ft. in height whichever is the lower.
 - (b) Any other building whether by virtue of height, volume, life risk, accessibility, availability of water supplies and nature of occupancy which in the opinion of the Director of Fire Services warrants the provision of such installation.
 - (c) Commercial buildings as required by the Director of Fire Services and in any case commercial buildings of two storeys or more in height where the area of any floor exceeds 5,000 square feet.
 - (d) Commercial buildings of more than 6 storeys in height, irrespective of floor area factor.
 - (e) Industrial buildings, single storey where the floor area exceeds 7,500 square feet.
 - (f) Industrial buildings of 2 storeys where the 1st floor area exceeds 5,000 square feet.
 - (g) Industrial buildings more than 2 storeys, irrespective of floor area factor.
 - (h) Restaurants, hotels or dance halls as required by the Director of Fire Services.
 - (i) Cinemas, theatres and other places of public entertainment and/or public assembly as required by the Director of Fire Services.
 - (j) Godowns and warehouses where a fire service installation is considered necessary by the Director of Fire Services and in any case all godowns and warehouses over 2 storeys in height, irrespective of floor area factor.
 - (k) Hospitals and clinics that are more than 2 storeys in height where the floor area of any storey exceeds 3,000 square feet.
 - (l) Hospitals and clinics over 4 storeys in height, irrespective of floor area factor.
 - (m) Schools.
- (2) *Dry riser installation.*

Domestic buildings of more than 6 storeys and under 13 storeys in height or 100 feet whichever is the less.

(3) *Sprinkler installation.*

- (a) Bowling alleys, and dressing rooms, scenery docks, stages and stage basements of theatres.
- (b) Underground garages and car parks exceeding 1,000 square feet.
- (c) Any room or other compartment of a building exceeding 250,000 cubic feet.
- (d) Departmental stores or shops that totally exceed 250,000 cubic feet.
- (e) Basements for storage (except strong rooms, safe deposit of banks) which exceed 5,000 square feet.
- (f) Non-domestic floors of composite buildings exceeding 15 storeys in height where such non-domestic floors are considered to constitute a hazard unless the domestic floors are provided with separate staircases.
- (g) Godowns and warehouses where considered necessary by the Director of Fire Services.
- (h) In certain circumstances the provision of a sprinkler installation may be waived in favour of compartmentation.

(4) *Drencher installation.*

- (a) Theatre proscenium openings.
- (b) High fire exposure risks.

(5) *Fire alarm installation.*

- (a) Buildings of over 6 storeys in height.
- (b) Other buildings of high fire/life risks, e.g. hotels, schools, hospitals, office blocks, factories, etc.

(6) *Hand appliances or other preventive media.**Minimum Requirements.**Buckets.*

Not less than 2-gallon capacity filled with water.

Not less than three buckets for each 250 square yards or part thereof of floor area but not less than six buckets on each floor.

Alternatives to the above in rooms containing only electrical apparatus and rooms in which inflammable liquids are stored or used.

- (a) Buckets may be filled with dry sand instead of water.

- (b) In place of each bucket, either:
- (i) 4 lb. approved Dry Powder (Gas-expelled) extinguisher, or
 - (ii) Two Dry Powder (canister type) extinguishers each of not less than 100 cubic inches capacity or one of not less than 200 cubic inches capacity or
 - (iii) An approved Carbon Tetrachloride or Chlorobromomethane extinguisher of not less than one quart (nominal) size.
- (c) An approved Dry Powder (Gas-expelled) extinguisher containing not less than 20 lb. of dry powder or an approved carbon dioxide extinguisher containing not less than 7 lbs. CO₂ may be allowed as equivalent to three buckets of water.

OR

Extinguishers.

Approved Portable Extinguishers having an aggregate capacity of two gallons for each 250 superficial yards or part thereof of floor area, but not less than four gallons on each floor.

The extinguishers provided for are those of the Water (Soda-acid), Water (Gas-expelled), or Foam types. Where inflammable liquids are stored or used an approved Dry Powder (Gas-expelled) Extinguisher containing not less than 20 lb. of dry powder may be allowed as equivalent to a 2-gallon Foam Extinguisher.

(7) *Fixed installation.*

In any place containing a special or high fire risk as required by the Director of Fire Services.

Dimension of hydrant mains & sub-mains.

4. Each hydrant main or sub-main on every floor, whether for a wet or dry installation, shall be of such a dimension as to be capable of passing the quantity of water required by the Water Table given in paragraph 6 at pressures specified in paragraph 8 below.

Number of hydrants & length of hose reels.

5. There shall be sufficient hydrants and hose reels on each floor to ensure that every part of each floor can be reached by a length of not more than 100 feet of Fire Services hose or hose reel tubing.

Water requirements for fire hydrant/hose reel installation.

6. The minimum quantity of water required to be available to the fire hydrants on any one floor from the supply tank and fixed fire pumps is shown in the following table:

WATER REQUIREMENTS TABLE.

Gallons per minute required on any one floor.

(at a pressure of between 60-100 lbs. per square inch)

Floor area per storey sq. ft.	No. of storeys in buildings					
	Not exceeding six		Over six but not exceeding twelve		Over twelve	
	Gallons per minute	Minimum number of hydrants	Gallons per minute	Minimum number of hydrants	Gallons per minute	Minimum number of hydrants
Not exceeding 5,000	300	2	400	3	500	3
Over 5,000 but not exceeding 10,000	500	3	500	3	600	4
Over 10,000	800	5	800	5	800	5

7. Supply tanks serving fire hydrants shall be of a capacity sufficient to provide ten minutes supply for any one floor in accordance with the table given in paragraph 6. Capacity of supply tanks.

8. The water pressure available for every fire hydrant/hose reel installation at each fire hydrant/hose reel when all hydrants on one floor are in use shall be not less than 60 lbs. per square inch or more than 100 lbs. per square inch. Water pressure for fire hydrant/hose reel.

9. In every building of over 8 floors a fireman's lift shall be provided, which shall satisfy the following conditions— Fireman's lifts.

- (1) It shall be provided with a separate fire-resisting lift shaft.
- (2) Lift shaft openings shall be provided with fire-resisting doors.
- (3) It shall be of a minimum size of an 8 persons lift.
- (4) It shall be provided with a suitable escape hatch.
- (5) It shall discharge at each floor into a smoke lobby or similar protected area.
- (6) It shall be provided with suitable control switch at ground floor level to enable the Fire Services Department to gain immediate control over the lift and return it to ground level, such control gear isolating the lift from control by the public.
- (7) It shall be so wired as to enable the lift to be operated when the normal electrical supply to the building fails or is cut-off, and provision also made for connecting a power supply from a Fire Services generator.

(8) It shall be suitably indicated by the words "FIREMAN'S LIFT" (消防員專用升降機) in English and Chinese.

- Designation of Fireman's Lift. 10. Where more than one lift is to be provided in a building of over 8 floors, the Director of Fire Services shall designate which lift is to be a fireman's lift.
- System for fire alarm installation & wiring thereof. 11. A fire alarm installation not of the automatic type must normally consist of a push button or break glass system so installed that each floor of the building is provided with one or more actuation points and bells to the requirements of the Director of Fire Services, and they must be so wired that the operation of any one actuation point will operate all the alarm bells in the building for the purpose of giving alarm of fire to the occupants.
- Annunciator boards etc. 12. The Director of Fire Services in any particular case may require a fire alarm installation of the automatic type to be provided or also a non-automatic type to be provided with an annunciator board to indicate the location of the actuation point which has been operated.
- Inter-connections. 13. Except where the Director of Fire Services in any particular case specifies otherwise, the means of operating fire alarms may be inter-connected with the means of operating fixed fire pumps or fire hydrant/hose reel installations.
- Communication wiring and outlets. 14. (1) Every building in which the provision of a fireman's lift is required shall also be provided with suitable wiring to enable the Fire Services Department to connect and use hand telephone apparatus in conjunction with such wiring.
(2) The wiring shall be affixed inside the lift shaft and shall be fire-resisting.
(3) Every floor including the ground floor shall be provided with a suitable telephone type jack-socket outlet on the external face of the lift shaft.
- Requirements as to specifications. 15. (1) The fire service installations specified in sub-paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7) and (8) of paragraph 2 shall be in accordance with the specifications respectively laid down in Part III.
(2) All materials and fittings used in any fire service installation shall be in accordance with the current British Standard Specifications for such materials and fittings.
- Electrical supplies. 16. Where an electrical installation is required to comply with this Code, a primary and secondary source of supply shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Director of Fire Services and all electrical devices shall be fed from both the primary and secondary source of supply.

PART III.
SPECIFICATION.

Fire hydrant/hose reel installation.

17. Each hydrant outlet shall be prominently sited in an approach lobby to a staircase or in the staircase enclosure. It should preferably be recessed into a wall which is not a staircase enclosing wall or smoke lobby wall. When recessed there shall be an all round clearance between any part of the hydrant outlet and valve and the enclosing walls sufficient to permit the free use of the hydrant, the fitting of an adaptor, and the employment of hose spanners. When not recessed the hydrant shall be adequately defended against damage. Siting of hydrants.
18. No hydrant outlet shall be less than 2' 6" nor more than 4' above floor level. Height of hydrant outlet.
19. (1) The hydrant shall not obstruct wholly, partly or indirectly, any door opening. Obstructing hydrants.
- (2) The hydrant shall be so sited as not to be concealed by the leaves of an adjacent door when that door is opened.
20. Hydrant outlets shall be of non-corrosive metal. The outlets of all hydrants shall be of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " standard Hong Kong Fire Services Department round thread and be controlled by a wheel operated screw valve designed to open by counter-clockwise rotation. The direction of opening of the valve shall be clearly engraved in both English and Chinese on the wheel of the valve. Hydrant outlets.
21. The hose reel shall be located outside any smoke lobby or staircase enclosure to enable the occupants of the buildings to attack a fire. The hose reel shall be supplied by metal piping from the charged side of the hydrant supply main and a simple on-off control valve shall be provided in this piping by the hose reel. The discharge nozzle shall not be fixed more than 4' 6" above floor level. Location etc. of hose reel.
22. (1) The tubing of every hose reel must be capable of being readily wound round a drum of 8" diameter without kinking, must not kink when led around sharp obstructions, and shall be capable when fitted with branch pipe and nozzle, of projecting a jet not less than 20 feet in length. Hose reel tubing.
- (2) The tubing of every hose reel shall have a bursting pressure of not less than 400 p.s.i. and shall not be porous nor exhibit any signs of percolation below 300 p.s.i.
23. The hose reel branch nozzle shall have a 3/16" orifice and be fitted with a simple two way valve to open or shut off jet; the jet must be capable of being opened by pulling the valve towards the operator and must not be spring loaded. Hose reel branch.

- Design of hose reel. 24. The design of the hose reel shall be such that the tubing is permanently connected, via pipes in the drum of the hose reel and such stuffing boxes as may be necessary, to the hydrant supply main.
- Hose reels in Exit ways. 25. Any hose reel sited in any Exit way shall be carried on a swinging cradle so recessed into the wall that when not in use the outer face of the reel is flush with the wall and when required for use the cradle may swing out into the corridor or passage, without undue obstruction and without serious interference with any exit point.
- Water supplies to fire hydrant/hose reel installation. 26. (1) The reserve water supply for fire fighting shall be contained in a supply tank.
(2) Supply tanks shall be fed from such source of supply as the Water Authority and the Director of Fire Services may approve.
(3) Where the installation of a supply tank is impracticable or undesirable then an alternative supply may be provided subject to the approval of the Director of Fire Services.
- Siting of tanks. 27. It is preferable to site supply tanks at roof level.
- Provision of fixed fire pumps. 28. Fire pumps provided shall be permanently primed.
- Wet rising main. 29. The water supplied through the fixed fire pump shall feed a wet rising main to all fire hydrants and hose reels.
- Inlet of wet rising mains. 30. The wet rising main must be provided with a Standard Fire Services Department inlet situated at ground floor level. Provision must be made for the water supplied to the inlet to by-pass the fire pump in the event of failure of the pump.
- Air valves. 31. All wet rising and downcoming mains shall be fitted with suitable air relief valves to prevent airlocks in the installation.
- Specification respecting tanks. 32. (1) The quantity of water specified need not necessarily be contained in one tank provided that where more than one tank is installed the tanks shall be so inter-connected that all the water will flow by gravity to the downcoming main.
(2) The tank may be used for the combined storage of domestic (e.g. flushing) and fire fighting water provided that the maximum potential draw off by domestic services can in no way diminish the supply for fire fighting below the required reserve.
(3) The connexion between the base of the tank and the downcoming main to the fixed fire pump must be provided with a non-ferrous non-return valve and a non-ferrous filter having a mesh of not less than 12 to the linear inch.

33. (1) The pump should preferably be electrically driven but, whatever mode of power for driving the pump is employed, means shall be provided for starting the pump by electric remote control button. Where the motive power for any pump is not electricity, alternative means of starting the pump motor manually, in addition to remote control buttons, shall be provided and directions for so starting prominently displayed in the pump house. Remote starting points shall be wired solely for starting the pump; there shall be no means of stopping the pump other than by one switch of the press button type and which resets the remote control start switches.

Starting & motivation of fixed fire pumps.

(2) Where fixed fire pumps other than the pump fed direct by the supply tank are provided in wet rising mains, suitable stop/start switches shall be provided to enable the Fire Services to exercise control of such booster pumps independently of the switches required by sub-paragraph (1). Such switches must be situated at or near the Fire Services Department Inlet and clearly indicated.

34. Remote control buttons for fixed fire pumps shall be sited near the hose reel. Starter buttons shall be enclosed in an independent glass fronted cabinet and must be clearly marked in English and Chinese characters "FIRE PUMP STARTER" (救火泵發動掣).

Remote control buttons for fixed fire pumps.

35. All fixed fire pumps shall be housed in suitable enclosures, preferably brick or concrete, designed solely for occupation by the pump. Such pump houses shall lie clear of any exit or normal communication routes through the premises and shall be clearly marked in English and Chinese characters "FIXED FIRE PUMP" (固定救火泵).

Housing of fixed fire pumps.

36. (1) Each wet rising main shall be connected to an independent fire service inlet. Where, however, there are several wet rising mains in one installation, one fire service inlet may be provided for all risers in the system subject to the following conditions—

Fire service inlets.

(a) the number of inlet valves shall be not less than 2 per riser; and

(b) the cross sectional area of the pipe between the fire service inlet and each wet rising main shall be equal to the sum of the cross sectional areas of all the wet rising mains served thereby.

(2) Each fire service inlet shall be in a prominent position on the exterior of the building and must be suitably enclosed by glazing and protected against corrosion and abuse.

(3) The inlet couplings shall be not less than 2 feet nor more than 3 feet above the ground level and shall be of a standard pattern approved by the Fire Services.

(4) Each inlet shall be clearly marked in English and Chinese characters "FIRE SERVICE INLET" (消防入水掣).

(5) There shall be a non-return valve behind each inlet to prevent "back flow" of water.

(6) The fire service inlet shall be so situated as to be within easy reach of a fire appliance parked in a thoroughfare adjacent to the building protected.

Dry riser installations.

Specifications
respecting
dry riser
installations.

37. (1) The number and position of hydrant outlets shall be as specified by the Director of Fire Services.

(2) Hydrant outlets shall be fitted with a suitable locking device to prevent unauthorized opening of the valve.

(3) No equipment should be provided at hydrant points other than a blank cap which shall be kept connected to the outlet and shall be held captive by a suitable chain to discourage theft.

(4) Dry rising mains should be normally sited either within a ventilated lobby of a staircase lobby approach or, where this is not practicable, in the staircase enclosure.

(5) Where only one outlet per floor is specified the internal diameter of the riser shall be not less than 3". Where two or more outlets per floor are specified and are supplied from one dry riser the internal diameter of the riser shall be not less than 4".

(6) The riser shall be provided with a standard pattern inlet fitted with non-return valves and approved by the Fire Services.

(7) The dry rising mains shall be effectively electrically earthed.

(8) All dry rising mains shall be fitted with suitable air relief valves to prevent air locks.

Sprinkler Installations.

Installations.

38. (1) Sprinkler installations shall be installed in accordance with the Rules of the Fire Offices Committee (Foreign) for Automatic Sprinkler Installations with the exception that the Rules governing "Water Supplies" and "Town's Water", (Rules 6 and 7, Ninth Edition) shall be replaced by paragraph 39 of this Code.

(2) Any reference in the aforesaid Rules to electrical installations shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph 16 of this Code.

Water supply
for sprinkler
installations.

39. Sprinkler installations shall be provided with two separate and adequate sources of water supply always available.

The following are accepted sources of water supply:—

- (a) Town's main.
- (b) Elevated tank.

- (c) Pressure tank.
- (d) Pump.
- (e) Elevated private reservoir.
- (f) Salt water mains, as approved.

Note 1: An elevated private reservoir shall have a capacity of about 200,000 gallons if proposed as a substitute for town's main, but reservoirs of somewhat less capacity may possibly be approved if the conditions are exceptionally favourable.

Note 2: The normal accepted sources of water supply will be an elevated tank and town's mains, including approved salt water mains.

Drencher and Fixed Installations.

40. Drencher and Fixed Installations shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Director of Fire Services having regard to the risk to be protected. Installations.

Hand Appliances and other Preventive Media.

41. Any hand appliances or other preventive media must be of a type approved by the Director of Fire Services. Equipment to be approved.

PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

42. The inspection and testing of fire service installations and equipment is dealt with in a separate Code called the Code of Practice (Inspection and Testing of Installations and Equipment) published by the Director of Fire Services. Inspection and testing.

43. For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the Director of Fire Services may, in the case of any particular building, vary any of the requirements of this Code (whether by requiring the provision of any fire services installation or equipment not indicated in this Code either in addition to or in substitution for any installation or equipment so indicated or by relaxing any of the requirements in this Code or otherwise) where, in his opinion, such a variation is required in order to ensure the provision of all such fire service installations and equipment as, having regard to the purpose for which the building is Director of Fire Services may vary requirements of Code in particular cases.

intended to be put, comprise the minimum fire service installations and equipment necessary for that building, or, as the case may be, where such a variation is not inconsistent with the provision for the building of all such fire service installations and equipment as aforesaid.

R. G. Cox, G.M.

Director of Fire Services.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

6th February, 1964.

CODE OF PRACTICE

**(INSPECTION AND TESTING OF INSTALLATIONS
AND EQUIPMENT)**

BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, 1955.

(No. 68 of 1955).

CODE OF PRACTICE (INSPECTION AND TESTING OF
INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT).

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

Where the plans of a building have been certified by the Director of Fire Services under s. 9B(1)(aa)(ii) of the Buildings Ordinance, 1955 as showing all such fire service installations and equipment as in his opinion, having regard to the purpose to which the building is intended to be put, comprise the minimum fire service installations and equipment necessary for such building, the Building Authority may, under s. 12(6)(d) of that Ordinance, refuse to issue a temporary occupation permit or an occupation permit (which is necessary before the building can be occupied in any way except by not more than two caretakers) unless the applicant for the permit produces a certificate from the Director of Fire Services certifying that he is satisfied that the fire service installations and equipment shown on the plans have been provided and are in efficient working order and satisfactory condition.

This Code of Practice (Inspection and Testing of Installations and Equipment) is published for information only, to indicate the type and nature of inspections and tests which installations and equipment must normally pass in order so to satisfy the Director of Fire Services, and to give guidance as to the conduct of inspections and tests. It does not lay down any hard and fast rules. Special factors and circumstances may require variations in respect of any particular building, and in particular cases the Director may require additional inspections or tests before he is so satisfied.

CODE OF PRACTICE (INSPECTION AND TESTING OF
INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT).

PART I.

GENERAL.

1. Inspections and testing shall be carried out by an inspecting officer of the Fire Services Department by arrangement with the company, firm or individual who installed the installations and equipment. Inspection and testing by officer of Fire Services Department.
2. Applications for inspection and testing, proposing a time and day therefor, should be made in writing to the Director of Fire Services and should be given so as to allow at least seven days before the date Application for inspection and testing.

proposed for the inspection and testing and should be accompanied by a certificate from the company, firm or person who installed the installations that the installations are in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice (Minimum Fire Service Installations and equipment) applicable thereto (which Code is obtainable from the Director of Fire Services).

Written notice to applicant confirming time and date of inspection and testing.

3. Written notice will be given to the applicant of the time and date mutually acceptable to him and the Fire Services Department for any such inspection and testing.

Responsible person may attend inspection and testing.

4. A responsible engineer of the company or firm concerned, or the individual who installed the installation and equipment, shall be at liberty to attend the inspection and testing.

Issue or refusal of certificate.

5. The inspecting officer of the Fire Services Department will make his report on any such inspection and testing to the Director of Fire Services who will thereupon either issue his required certificate or, where he is not satisfied in the terms indicated in section 12(6) (d) of the Buildings Ordinance, 1955, he shall in writing notify the applicant of the reason why he is not so satisfied, and may advise the applicant what further work is necessary before he would be so satisfied.

Inspection and testing after further work.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1 to 5 will apply, so far as possible to any further inspection and testing arising from additional work done pursuant to paragraph 5.

PART II.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

Hose reel tubing.

7. (1) The tubing of every hose reel must be capable of being readily wound round a drum of 8" diameter without kinking, must not kink when led around sharp obstructions, and shall be capable when fitted with branch pipe and nozzle, of projecting a jet not less than 20 feet in length.

(2) The tubing of every hose reel shall have a bursting pressure of not less than 400 p.s.i. and shall not be porous nor exhibit any signs of percolation below 300 p.s.i.

Hose reel branch.

8. The hose reel branch nozzle shall have a 3/16" orifice and be fitted with a simple two way valve to open or shut off jet; the jet must be capable of being opened by pulling the valve towards the operator and must not be spring loaded.

9. The design of the hose reel shall be such that the tubing is permanently connected, via pipes in the drum of the hose reel and such stuffing boxes as may be necessary, to the hydrant supply main. Design of hose reel.

10. The testing of sprinkler installations will be carried out according to the tests specified from time to time by the Fire Offices Committee. Testing of sprinkler installations.

11. The testing of drencher and fixed installations will be carried out according to such tests as the Director of Fire Services may require having regard to the nature and purpose of the installation. Testing of drencher and fixed installations.

12. The tests for fire hydrant hose reel installations shall consist of— Testing of fire hydrant hose reel installations.

- (1) visual examination of installation;
- (2) test of water tightness to a maximum of 250 lbs. per square inch, static pressure;
- (3) a capacity and pressure test;
- (4) the "static" pressure, without pump, at the topmost hydrant will be taken;
- (5) a flow meter and pressure gauge will then be fitted to the hydrant, the fixed fire pump or pumps started, and readings taken;
- (6) a practical charging and supply of water through the wet rising main via the fire service inlet.

13. The tests for dry riser installations shall consist of— Testing of dry riser installation.

- (1) a visual examination of the fittings and piping and their location;
- (2) a practical charging of the rising main to show that the system can be easily charged via the fire service inlet within a reasonable time having regard to the size of the installation and with particular attention to the efficiency of air relief valves;
- (3) the installation must prove clear of percolation and leakage for 10 minutes after being charged with water.

14. The tests for hand appliances and other preventive media shall be in accordance with the tests specified by the Director of Fire Services from time to time. Pamphlets describing testing procedure can be obtained from the Director of Fire Services. Testing of hand appliances, etc.

PART III.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Code of Practice (Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment).

15. This Code deals only with the inspection and testing of fire service installations and equipment after the same have been provided for a building. The general requirements as to what installations and equipment are to be provided in buildings are dealt with in another Code called the Code of Practice (Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment), published by the Director of Fire Services.

Director of Fire Services may vary requirement of Code in particular cases.

16. For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the Director of Fire Services, in his absolute discretion, may, in any particular case, vary any of the requirements of this Code and in particular may require different inspections or tests in regard to any installation or equipment than the inspections or tests indicated in this Code, either in addition to or in substitution for the inspections and tests so indicated.

R. G. Cox, G.M.

Director of Fire Services.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,

6th February, 1964.