

**Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)**  
**Matter Discussed in the 75<sup>th</sup> FSSAG Meeting held on 14 March 2024**

**1. *Review on the Application of Flexible Sprinkler Drop in Hong Kong***

It was informed that the Circular Letter on the application on the sprinkler drop was expected to be issued shortly.

**2. *Clarification for Interconnection of Sprinkler Inlets***

It was enquired under the interconnection scenario, the quantity of sprinkler inlets required to provide sufficient maximum water flow.

It was responded that as discussed in the 46th FSSAG meeting, the system flow requirement for calculation of the provision of sprinkler inlets should be determined according to the maximum demand flow as stipulated in TB210.T5 of BS EN 12845. Moreover, the installation of sprinkler inlets for high-rise building should be at least two.

It was advised no further discussion on the issue was required. Therefore, it was proposed and members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

**3. *Trade Facilitation Measures in relation to the Approval of Portable Equipment and Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Fire Safety Products***

FSD stated that FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2024 “Enhanced Mechanisms for Approval of Portable Equipment and Acceptance of Fire Service Installations and Equipment (FSIs) and Fire Safety Products” was issued on 19 February 2024 and the enhanced mechanisms would take effect on 1 April 2024.

To facilitate the trade to have a better understanding about the mechanisms, a session of “FSD Connects” on this subject would be held on 26 March 2024.

It was advised no further discussion on the issue was required. Therefore, it was proposed and members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

**4. Clarification on Drencher Installation for High-rise Building Refuge Floor Opening Protection (Appendix I)\* (FSICA)**

With reference to Appendix I, FSICA presented to members the proposed alternative arrangement of drencher installations for high-rise building refuge floor and enquired whether the arrangement of the sample cases as proposed in method (1) and method (2) detailed in Appendix I was acceptable to FSD.

FSD responded and advised that according to clause 5.6 of Codes of Practice for Minimum Fire Service Installations and Equipment and Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Installations and Equipment (CoP), the system should normally be actuated by pilot sprinkler or heat detectors, considering the system was actuated by the above means, FSD would have no comment on the proposed actuation method. However, members' attention was drawn that the deluge valve set shall be installed close to the inlet for the drencher system according to the CoP. In this connection, FSD remarked that the proposed method (2) in Appendix I, with the control valve set installed at different floor with the corresponding inlet, prior approval on the relocation should be required with proof justification, i.e. technical calculation, building height difference, etc.

FSICA enquired whether a conceptual design in the design stage without a full hydraulic calculation would be acceptable for FSD. FSD revealed that it would be feasible not to provide a full hydraulic calculation given that a specific and rational justification should be submitted along with the prior approval request.

FSICA enquired whether all existing installations including the originally installed pressure switch should also need to comply the requirement but proposed method (1) in Appendix I was in addition to the existing pressure switch near the pilot sprinkler. FSD supplemented that if the existing pilot sprinkler could actuate the system, it was not necessary to add pressure switch. As mentioned in method (1) in Appendix I, it was considered that adding the pressure switch could provide more flexibility, such as faster response time.

It was advised no further discussion on the issue was required. Therefore, it was proposed and members agreed to delete this item in the next meeting.

*\*Remark: To avoid confusion, the appendix was not attached.*

**5. *Streamlining Application Procedures for Exemption of Sprinkler Installation underneath Canopy or in Inaccessible Voids (FSD)***

FSD revealed that from time to time, New Projects Division received applications for exemption of sprinkler installations at certain areas (e.g. canopy, flat roof, raised floor voids, etc.) in proposed new sprinkler-protected buildings. In accordance with Technical Guidance in FSD Circular Letter 5/2020, “sprinkler protection need not be provided for all external canopies where goods are not stored or handled”.

While processing the applications, it was found that, in some cases, the areas under exemption were too extensive, yet the information provided was insufficient or the demarcation was not clearly indicated. As a result, such cases could not be further proceeded or the processing time of the case had to be extended due to supplementary information being required for further consideration.

FSD briefed that in order to streamline application procedures, two forms for two common locations of sprinkler exemption (i.e. one is for canopy, flat roof, etc., and the other is for inaccessible void) had been designed with a view to facilitating applicants for providing adequate information. Upon implementation, an applicant, i.e. Authorised Person, shall submit the application together with a duly completed form(s) as well as relevant drawings.

With the application forms in place, it was expected that all the essential information being provided would be sufficient for processing and the overall efficiency in such applications could be enhanced. In this connection, FSD welcomed stakeholders to provide valuable comments on the captioned forms to suit the needs.

[Post meeting note: The proposed forms for Application for Exemption of Sprinkler Installation (i) at the underside of canopy/flat roof/balcony/projected floor slab/AC platform and (ii) inside raised floor void/ceiling void/inaccessible void/other areas had been circulated to members for comment on 21 March 2024.]

**6. *Any Other Business***

The Chairman informed the meeting that in view of the feedback on acceptance inspection received from the trade, a focus group would be formed by officers from various FSD departments to review and explore measures to streamline the mechanism.

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