

Fire Safety Standards Advisory Group (FSSAG)
Matter Discussed in the 76th FSSAG Meeting held on 14 June 2024

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

It was informed the meeting that the FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2024 “Requirements on the Use of Flexible Connectors for Connecting Single Sprinklers to Range Pipes in Sprinkler System” was issued on 18 April 2024. The relevant applicability and modified specification for the use of flexible connectors to connect single sprinklers to range pipes stipulated in the FSD Circular Letter No. 3/2024 took effect on 1 May 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.

2. *Streamlining Application Procedures for Exemption of Sprinkler Installation underneath Canopy or in Inaccessible Voids*

FSD informed the meeting that subsequent to 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 circulated to members for comment on 21 March 2024, comments and feedbacks from FSICA, SFPE-HK Chapter and ArchSD were received and would be taken into account accordingly. Upon receipt of other stakeholders’ view (i.e. Authorized Persons) in a separate circulation, the revised version of forms would be circulated to all stakeholders again in due course.

3. *Establishment of Focus Group in Reviewing and Exploring Measures to Streamline FSI Acceptance Mechanism (FSD)*

FSD informed the meeting that a Focus Group in reviewing and exploring measures to streamline FSI acceptance mechanism was formed by FSD with the following objectives:

- (i) To collect feedback and suggest initiatives with stakeholders;
- (ii) To formulate strategies and propose recommendations; and
- (iii) To review and evaluate measures implemented.

It was further briefed that Senior Divisional Officer of Fire Protection and Facilities Supervision (FPFS) Division and Senior Engineer of Fire Protection Engineering Compliance (FPEC) Division, would be advisors of the Group. Representatives from FPEC, FPFS, Dangerous Goods Control and New Projects Divisions would join the Focus Group to review and explore measures to streamline FSI acceptance mechanism.

It was expected that the establishment of the Focus Group would strengthen the coordination with the trade and explore measures to prioritise the FSI acceptance mechanism in the near future.

4. Clarification for Technical Guidance for LPC Rules incorporating BS EN 12845:2015 (Technical Guidance) (Appendix I)* (SFPE – HK Chapter)

With reference to Appendix I, representatives of SFPE presented to members the background of the issue and would like to seek clarification on the 2 conceptual schematics (i.e. Figures E2.4(a) and E2.4(b)) about the modification to Clause E2.4 in the Technical Guidance.

FSD stated that the information contained in the conceptual schematics (i.e. Figures E.2.4(a) and E.2.4(b)) as shown in Appendix I should be indicative to illustrate the location of the point of intersection of main riser tee off to the zone subsidiary stop valve nearest to the control valve to facilitate the calculation of distribution pipework for pre-calculated system. The response of FSD was summarized as follows:

A. Figure E.2.4(a)

1) The 45m height

The proposed 45m height shown on this figure should be accounted from the highest sprinkler to lowest sprinkler for high-rise installation according to the Clause E.2.2 of the LPC Rules.

2) The 0.5 bar friction loss for low zone installation

It is advisable that the indication of friction loss calculation be revised from the design point to the intersection of main riser and zone subsidiary stop valve nearest to the control valve according to the revised Clause E.2.4 in the Technical Guidance.

B. Figure E.2.4(b)

1) Pump Duty Requirement

The pump duty requirements shown on this figure is indicative only. The pump duty of the installation should be referenced to applicable hazard group in Table TB210.T5 (Revised) in the Technical Guidance.

2) The additional pressure “S” (pressure loss due to friction and static head)

For high-rise installation, the additional pressure “S” shall be added between the intersection point of main riser tee off to the zone subsidiary stop valve nearest to the control valve and the pump outlet.

Members agreed the interpretation of FSD and supplemented that under local practice, the additional pressure “S” would be counted not less than zero even though the height difference between the intersection point of main riser tee off to the zone subsidiary stop valve nearest to the control valve and the water supply (pump outlet) was negative. FSD stated that if the height of the water supply (pump outlet) was higher than the intersection point of main riser tee off to the zone subsidiary stop valve nearest to the control valve, the practice of not deducting additional pressure “S” in such case should be more conservative considering the water supply of the system would be sufficient.

It was concluded that the provisions stated in Technical Guidance should be clear and concise. The conceptual schematics (i.e. Figures E.2.4(a) and E.2.4(b)) would be used only for illustration of the modification to the revised clauses. Members were welcome to approach FSD to further discuss issues in case of doubt.

5. ***Symbol for Clean Fire Extinguishing Agents (Appendix II)* (FSICA)***

With reference to Appendix II, FSICA briefed members for the identification symbols and labels being used in the clean agent fire extinguishing systems (i.e. automatic fixed installation other than water or fixed sprayer units) as mentioned in FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2017 and minutes of the 42nd FSSAG meeting. It was suggested that the use of the name of agent designation (instead of trade name) be applicable for easy identification for all stakeholders.

FSD stated that FSICA’s proposal on the symbol for clean fire extinguishing agents was noted. The basic design requirements of identification symbols and labels were promulgated in FSD Circular Letter No. 4/2017 for trade reference and members’ attention was drawn to the remarks under para. 9 on page VIII.7 “The use of trade name is for easy identification of fire extinguishing agents commonly used locally

only and does not imply that such trade name is the only accepted product for the corresponding fire extinguishing agent.” The registered fire service installation contractors (RFSICs) should check with the manufacturers/authorized suppliers to ensure that the correct trade names should be used in symbols and other identification labels/notices. On this account, if the RFSICs/manufacturers/authorized suppliers considered appropriate to adopt agent designation to be shown in the identification symbols/labels, FSD had no objection given that such symbols/labels reflected the respective agent being used in the protected area.

FSD supplemented that the identification labels shown in the relevant FSD Circular illustrated examples for trade reference and the use of trade names therein served for the purpose of easy identification.

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

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