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**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Security**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 3 November 2015**

**Proposed introduction of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme  
by the Fire Services Department**

Currently, a person who intends to run certain types of premises (e.g. general restaurants, cinemas, child care centres, places of public entertainment, etc.) has to obtain a fire safety certificate/letter issued by the Director of Fire Services, before the applicant can be issued a licence or a similar instrument by the relevant regulatory authorities. The applicant has to engage the services of the Fire Services Department ("FSD") for risk assessment and formulation of fire safety requirements, as well as compliance certification.

2. When the Panel on Security ("the Panel") was briefed at its meeting on 20 January 2014 on the Security Bureau's initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address, members noted that FSD planned to introduce a Registered Fire Engineer ("RFE") Scheme to enable third party to participate in fire safety certification. Under the proposed Scheme, licence applicants could use the services of FSD or RFE for fire safety risk assessment and compliance inspection of fire service installations etc. Information was sought on whether licence applicants who engaged RFEs for fire safety certification would still be required to seek approval from FSD for the issue of a licence. According to the Administration, a RFE would be involved in risk assessment and drawing up fire safety requirements, after which FSD would be responsible for compliance inspection and the issue of a licence.

3. According to information provided in the Administration's reply to a question raised by a Member on fire service installations and equipment at the Council meeting of 15 May 2013, FSD had conducted consultation among the relevant trade on the proposed Scheme in 2007-2008 and 2011-2012. The majority of the trade supported the proposed Scheme.

In light of the views of the trade and to assess the possible impact of the proposed Scheme on the trade, FSD commissioned a consultant in mid-2012 to conduct a study on the business impact assessment of the proposed Scheme, including the potential supply of RFEs and their service charges. Subject to the findings of the assessment and the views of the trade, FSD would set up a working group comprising representatives from the Engineers Registration Board, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the trade etc. to further discuss and formulate the implementation details. The executive summary of the study report is available on FSD's website at [http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/news/BIA\\_Final\\_Report\\_2013\\_eng.pdf](http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/news/BIA_Final_Report_2013_eng.pdf).

4. The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed introduction of RFE Scheme by FSD at the meeting on 3 November 2015. Members may wish to note that the Administration has included the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 2015 in the Legislative Programme 2015-2016.

Council Business Division 2  
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