

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1377/20-21
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/SS/9/20

Subcommittee on Fire Service (Installations and Equipment)
(Amendment) Regulation 2021

Minutes of second meeting
held on Friday, 9 July 2021, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mrs Vicki KWOK WONG Wing-ki, JP
Deputy Secretary for Security 2

Miss Rebecca CHEUNG Pui-ling
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr Jason CHOW Chin-ching
Assistant Secretary for Security B2

Mr LEUNG Kwun-hong, FSDSM
Assistant Director (Licensing and Certification)
Fire Services Department

Mr NG Chan-leung
Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Licensing and Certification)
(Acting)
Fire Services Department

Mr Michael YUNG Kam-hung
Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Building Improvement
Strategy Office) (Acting)
Fire Services Department

Mr Vincent WAI Yun-lam
Government Counsel
Department of Justice

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Miss Rachel DAI
Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Ms Gloria TSANG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Lulu YEUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

I. Meeting with the Administration

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members noted that as agreed at the meeting on 2 July 2021, written submissions from the public on the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) (Amendment) Regulation 2021 ("the Amendment Regulation") were invited. So far, two written submissions expressing support for the Amendment Regulation had been received. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would issue all submissions so received to members after the submission deadline (i.e. 5:00 pm on 9 July 2021) and if needed, forward to the Administration for written responses.

(Post-meeting note: A total of three submissions were received, which were issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1285/20-21 and CB(2)1300/20-21 on 12 and 16 July 2021 respectively.)

3. The Chairman concluded that the Subcommittee had completed scrutiny of the Amendment Regulation. Members noted that the Chairman had moved a motion at the Council meeting of 7 July 2021 to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Regulation to the Council meeting of 18 August 2021. The deadline for giving notice of motion to amend the Amendment Regulation was 11 August 2021. Members also

noted that the Subcommittee Chairman would make a verbal report on the Subcommittee's deliberations on the Amendment Regulation to the House Committee on 16 July 2021, to be followed by a written report.

II. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:25 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 August 2021

**Proceedings of second meeting of the
Subcommittee on Fire Service (Installations and Equipment)
(Amendment) Regulation 2021
held on Friday, 9 July 2021, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
000359 - 000519	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000520 - 001541	Chairman Admin	Briefing by the Administration on the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) (Amendment) Regulation 2021 ("the Amendment Regulation") with the aid of a powerpoint presentation (LC Paper No. CB(2)1280/20-21(01))	
001542 - 002427	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Admin	<p>Mr Tony TSE expressed support in principle for the Amendment Regulation.</p> <p>Mr TSE expressed concern about the installation and operation of the stand-alone fire detectors ("SFDs"), the quality and safety of SFDs, as well as the tests on SFDs before they were put on sale in the market, and the promotion of a wider use of SFDs in ethnic minorities.</p> <p>The Administration pointed out that the Amendment Regulation, being a measure to facilitate fire safety enhancement measures, aimed to encourage members of the public to install SFDs of their own volition. Following the commencement of the Amendment Regulation, the Fire Services Department ("FSD") would publish a set of guidelines in different languages (including ethnic minority languages) to advise the public on the selection and installation of appropriate SFDs and details of maintenance. As for installation, SFDs were advised to be installed at the center of a bedroom or living room, and at an appropriate distance away from bathroom, kitchen, air-conditioner and lightings, etc. so as to avoid false alarm.</p> <p>The Administration further pointed out that during the implementation of the Amendment Regulation, FSD would carry out checks on shops selling SFDs and advise retailers on the importance of ensuring the quality of SFDs. When receiving reports on the sale of SFDs which did not meet the international/national standards or was suspected of false description of the devices, FSD would look into the cases and refer them to the relevant enforcement authorities for follow-up.</p>	

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002428 - 003124	Chairman Mr Wilson OR Admin	<p>Mr Wilson OR expressed support for the Amendment Regulation.</p> <p>Mr OR was concerned about the durability and quality of SFDs. He also called on FSD to collaborate with the Housing Authority, District Fire Safety Committees and the relevant stakeholders to promote a wider use of SFDs in public housing estates and in the community at large respectively.</p> <p>The Administration said that FSD had conducted a comprehensive research on SFDs. An SFD adopting modern technology was highly reliable and normally had a lifespan of around 10 years. Besides, FSD would liaise with the relevant trade representatives to advise them to import and sell SFDs which met established international/national standards. As for the promotion of SFDs, FSD would collaborate with District Fire Safety Committees and the relevant government departments to organize promotional activities to raise public awareness of the benefits of using SFDs, as well as explore with the Housing Department the feasibility of installing SFDs at public housing estates.</p> <p>The Administration further drew members' attention to the fact that the Housing Authority had launched a pilot scheme to install visual fire alarms free-of-charge for tenants with hearing impairments in 34 public housing estates. The Housing Society had also implemented a similar scheme for its tenants with hearing impairments.</p>	
003125 - 005539	Chairman Mr CHAN Han-pan Admin	<p>Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed support for the Amendment Regulation and asked:</p> <p>(a) whether consideration would be given to exploring the exemption of other fire service equipment, such as fire extinguishers, from the application of regulations 6(1), 7(1) and 8 of the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulation (Cap. 95B) ("FS(IE)R"); and</p> <p>(b) whether further facilitation measures would be adopted to assist owners and residents of old buildings in carrying out fire safety improvement works to comply with the fire safety requirements under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) ("FS(B)O").</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p>	

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		<p>(a) it was the Government's objective to implement the Amendment Regulation as soon as practicable to encourage members of the public to install SFDs of their own volition first;</p> <p>(b) FSD would take into consideration various factors (such as safety and technical issues) and the possibility of exempting other fire service equipment from the application of FS(IE)R would not be ruled out;</p> <p>(c) having regard to the community's concern to enhance fire safety in old buildings, the Government was going to launch a pilot scheme to distribute fire extinguishers and fire blankets (commonly known as the "two treasures of firefighting tools") to residents of eligible old buildings in Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po starting from the third quarter of 2021. Upon reviewing the effectiveness of and response to the pilot scheme, the Government would consider the way forward for the scheme; and</p> <p>(d) for compliance with FS(B)O, FSD and the Buildings Department had, without compromising fire safety, adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach in handling cases in complying with the fire safety requirements. Notably, FSD had introduced a series of facilitation measures, including the "improvised hose reel system" and lowering of the capacity requirements for fire service water tanks for respective eligible buildings, with a view to assisting owners in overcoming technical difficulties associated with the improvement works.</p> <p>Mr CHAN urged the Administration to extend the pilot scheme to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools" to other districts, such as Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing. The Administration noted Mr CHAN's view, and anticipated that the pilot scheme could help encourage community donation of the "two treasures" for households in need. According to available information, there would be some 110 buildings meeting the eligibility criteria of the pilot scheme in districts other than Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po.</p> <p>Mr CHAN further suggested that, for old buildings of six storeys or less, consideration should be given to installing "improvised hose reel systems" with direct water supply from government pipes on the ground floor of the</p>	

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		buildings. The Administration said that FSD had been working closely with the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") and remained open to Mr CHAN's suggestion.	
005540 - 011212	Chairman Admin	<p>The Chairman expressed support for the Amendment Regulation and asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) whether consideration would be given to assisting persons in need in installing SFDs or launching a pilot scheme to distribute SFDs to owners or residents of old buildings; (b) whether FSD would collaborate with the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") or the Consumer Council to ensure the quality of SFDs; (c) the progress of the pilot scheme to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools", as well as the feasibility of relaxing the annual inspection requirement of fire extinguishers without compromising fire safety; and (d) whether further facilitation measures would be adopted to assist owners and residents of old buildings in carrying out fire safety improvement works to comply with the requirements under FS(B)O. <p>The Chairman considered that it was worthwhile to extend the pilot scheme to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools" to other districts.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) FSD was going to launch a pilot scheme in selected districts under which its volunteer teams would reach out to persons in need, such as the elderly living alone and ethnic minorities, and help them install SFDs through paying home fire safety visits. FSD would evaluate whether the pilot scheme be extended to other districts at a later stage; (b) it hoped to, as soon as practicable, review the effectiveness of the pilot scheme to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools" to residents of eligible old buildings in Yau Tsim Mong, Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po, and consider the way forward; (c) residents receiving the "two treasures" would be reminded of the statutory duty to ensure the proper 	

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		<p>maintenance of fire extinguishers. FSD would provide them with information on inspection and maintenance of fire extinguishers. In case of uncertainty on whether the fire extinguishers were functioning properly, residents could return them to registered fire service installation contractors ("RFSICs") or chemical waste collectors licensed by the Environmental Protection Department;</p> <p>(d) FSD had discussed with the Consumer Council the feasibility of the Council conducting tests on different models of SFDs in the coming future. For SFDs involving suspected false description of the device, FSD would refer to C&ED for follow-up; and</p> <p>(e) FSD had been actively discussing with WSD the feasibility of extending the installation of "improvised hose reel systems" to old buildings of four to six storeys. FSD would also explore further facilitation measures as appropriate. FSD had also been liaising closely with RFSICs to explore measures for facilitating the processing of their submissions to FSD.</p>	
011213 - 011909	Chairman Mr CHAN Han-pan Admin	<p>The Chairman and Mr CHAN Han-pan suggested allocating more resources to the District Fire Safety Committees in the coming financial year to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools" to other districts. They also urged the Administration to expedite the legislative amendments to FS(B)O to implement the Government's proposal to undertake some of the fire safety improvement works for the owners of old buildings and recover the costs plus surcharges from them thereafter.</p> <p>The Administration noted and would take members' views into consideration when reviewing the pilot scheme to distribute "two treasures of firefighting tools". As regards the legislative amendments to FS(B)O, the Administration was working on the details of the proposal and would seek Members' views at a later stage.</p>	
011910 - 012753	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Admin	<p>Examination of the provisions of the Amendment Regulation</p> <p>Mr Tony TSE's view and the Administration's response on the Chinese version of the drafting of interpretation of "stand-alone fire detector" under section 3(2) of the Amendment Regulation.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s) / Discussion	Action Required
012754 - 012955	Chairman	Completion of the scrutiny work on the Amendment Regulation and the legislative timetable.	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 August 2021