

## FOREWORD

Fire safety standards for buildings in Singapore are governed by the Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Buildings or better known as the Fire Code. The code serves as an authoritative source on fire safety standards for local buildings and is used by Qualified Persons (QPs), registered architects and engineers, to facilitate their design of fire safety works in buildings.

The Fire Code, first introduced in 1974, is a living document which is periodically reviewed by the SCDF in ensuring that the fire safety standards keep pace with the changing building landscape and reflect the needs of the building industry. Its evolution is influenced and shaped by the local building industry's practices, experiences and architectural heritage based on feedback which the SCDF had received from QPs through the consultation sessions, dialogues, and Standing Committee Meetings.

The latest 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fire Code, published in January 2013, is the result of concerted efforts put in by members of the Fire Code Review Committee, led by the SCDF. Its members comprise esteemed representatives from SCDF's stakeholders of professional bodies, academia and statutory boards namely: SIA, IES, IFE, ACES, REDAS, NTU, NUS, BCA, LTA, TUV SUD PSB and HDB. The revised code involved many months of deliberation by the committee members on a slew of changes made in the past 5 years.

In the process of review, the committee was guided by the need for a code that not only emphasizes on fire safety but one that is user-friendly, pro-business and keeps pace with the latest developments. The review also utilizes research studies based on fire engineering tools to improve the quality of the Fire Code requirements. One of the key changes of the code is the incorporation of new fire safety features within buildings to facilitate the evacuation of persons with disabilities during an emergency situation.

Prior to the publication of the latest edition of the Fire Code, the SCDF had already disseminated some of the changes in the code to the members of the building industry via circulars. These changes were also discussed and presented in SCDF's recent fire safety seminars. In addition, to aid the users of the Fire Code to interpret the latest changes and appreciate their rationale, the Fire Code Handbook, through its rich diagrammatic illustrations, will be updated by the SCDF by mid 2013 to reflect these changes.

Through the years, SCDF and its stakeholders have successfully built sound and reputable fire safety standards in buildings. This is something which we can all be proud of and a standard we must continue to upkeep. In essence, we must continue to be nimble and keep abreast of latest operating environment such as the new building designs which are increasingly sophisticated in nature, requiring ingenuity, innovation and creativity to be infused into the building architectural as well as fire safety building design requirements.

SCDF has and will continue to welcome feedback and suggestions on the fire safety requirements and I look forward to the building industry's continued support and stakeholders' strong partnership with the SCDF in periodically reviewing and enhancing the document.

On that note, allow me to place on record my appreciation for the Fire Code Review Committee for assiduously putting together a robust and comprehensive 7th edition of the Fire Code. Let us continue to make Singapore a fire safe city to live, work and enjoy in.



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