

Fire Safety Engineers (FSE) Workshop 2021

Date: 23 Apr 2021 (Friday)
Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Mode/Venue: Virtual online workshop

S/No	Agenda for discussion	Summary of discussion
01	<p>Update on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PB regulatory system, • Continuing Professional Education (CPE) matters, and • SCDF Performance-Based fire engineering websites • Relevant Fire Safety Act amendments • CORENET 2.0 	<p><u>Presentation</u> See <u>Annex A</u> for the presentation slides.</p> <p>The workshop was attended by 40 participants. LTC Tong Hong Haey started by sharing with FSEs on updates to the number of registered FSEs as well as the number of performance-based (PB) & fire engineering waiver submissions up to Dec 2020. He reminded FSEs on the CPE program and CPE declaration requirements, especially for this year which many FSEs are due to submit their CPE declaration. He also shared with FSEs on the additional and updated FSE-related information which can be found on the SCDF website (for example, list of approved CPE courses, etc).</p> <p>At this session, FSEs were also informed that SCDF is reviewing some aspects of the performance-based fire safety regulatory framework to align with the Registered Inspector (RI) framework such as the qualifications of Peer Reviewer, and mandatory participation at the annual FSE Workshops. FSEs are welcome to provide any feedback on these matters.</p> <p><u>Feedback/Comment/Queries from participants</u></p> <p><u>PB waivers vs full-PB</u></p> <p>An FSE commented that there is an increasing use of PB approaches through waivers. Such approaches do not require O&M manuals and Peer Reviewers. Without the O&M manual, buildings owners may not be aware that the building has gone through some form of PB study. They may not be aware of the PB-related systems which they need to maintain.</p> <p>LTC Tong concurred and shared that PB waivers are usually only allowed for clauses stated in a previously issued circular, which SCDF has also shared with the industry. This has always been our advice to the FSEs. In situations where the deviations are not cited in the circular, but waiver Chairman</p>

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		<p>opinioned that a full PB study is not required, they can also direct the assessment to go through a fire engineering waiver. This usually applies to more straightforward issues only.</p>
02	<p>Sharing on fire engineering technical and administrative requirements</p>	<p>HTX Nicholas Lee updated the FSE participants on some of the administrative processes pertaining to PB submissions (e.g. enhancements to mark-up drawings, contact points between SCDF and PB project teams, Templates for Letters of Undertaking, etc). On the technical requirements, HTX Nicholas Lee also elaborated on matters such as double-knock activation of smoke control systems, as well as situations which could be unsuitable for PB assessment.</p> <p><u>Feedback/Comment/Queries from participants</u></p> <p><i>Use of smoke detectors to activate the smoke control system in car parks in industrial developments</i></p> <p>An FSE queried why only car parks in industrial developments may consider the use of other means (in lieu of smoke detectors as stipulated in the Fire Code, subject to appropriate quantitative assessment by FSE) to activate smoke control systems, but not car parks in other Purpose Groups (PG). HTX Nicholas Lee explained that currently, it is only intended for driveways and car parks in industrial developments as these are common cases that SCDF have come across. For car parks in other PG, these proposals will be reviewed on a case by case basis, but they will likely be granted given that the occupancy type is similar.</p> <p><i>Meetings between SCDF and project team</i></p> <p>As FSE asked why QPs must be excluded from PB meetings involving FSE and SCDF, since the FSE may not be familiar with every aspect of the PB project. LTC Tong explained that there were previous occasions in which FSEs are found to be totally unfamiliar with the PB project, and FSEs relied solely on the QP to explain on the PB aspects of the project. This compromised the quality of the discussions at the meeting. SCDF expects all FSEs to be familiar with their projects.</p> <p>LTC Tong added that it was never SCDF's intention to prohibit QPs from attending PB-related discussions, although from experience, their involvement is of little value. In fact, their presence often resulted in discussions being side-tracked to non-PB issues. To end off, LTC Tong assured FSEs that QPs are always welcome to attend discussions if FSE can justify the need for QP's presence.</p>

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03	<u>Q&A Session</u>	<p><u>Q1</u> As FSE asked how to obtain the CPE hours for an approved CPE course.</p> <p><u>SCDF reply to Q1</u> LTC Tong shared that such information can be found on the List of Approved CPE courses on the SCDF website.</p>
04	<u>AOB</u>	<p>Lastly, as there were no other outstanding matters, FSEs were informed to complete an online quiz relating to the FSE Workshop 2021 materials. Participants of the previous FSE Workshop/Dialogue (held physically) were usually awarded 3 CPE hours without the need to go through any form of quiz. However, considering the reduced opportunities for training during this Covid period, SCDF will award 12 CPE hours for FSEs who participated in this FSE Workshop 2021, provided FSEs complete the quiz with all the correct answers. LTC Tong and HTX Nicholas Lee emphasized that the award of 12 CPE hours is only for this workshop and participation at future workshops will likely be awarded 3 CPE hours. An email will be sent to the FSE to acknowledge their proper completion of the quiz.</p> <p>Before ending the workshop, HTX Nicholas Lee shared that the Project Priority Card scheme will still be in place with similar conditions for its use as per previous years, but its administration will now be handled electronically. Details can be found in the presentation slides.</p>

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Date: 10 May 2021