Date: 1 Dec 2021

Registrar, Board of Architects
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board
President, Singapore Institute of Architects
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore

Dear Sir/Mdm,

ADVISORY ON INSTALLATION OF GATES/TURNSTILES IN BUILDINGS

Gates/turnstiles are commonly used in buildings for entry access control. Their installation affects the means of escape when installed along the egress path and shall be subjected to approval from SCDF as stipulated in Cl.2.3.1 of the Fire Code.

1. This circular serves to remind building industry stakeholders on the needs to ensure that any installation of gates/turnstiles along egress paths in buildings shall comply with the following guidelines:

   a. Minimum width

      The use of revolving turnstiles as access control is prohibited. Only non-revolving turnstiles and gate-type access control that flaps open or swings open in the direction of escape are permitted. Their minimum clear width shall be at least 460 mm.

   b. Capacity of exits

      Gates/turnstiles designated as exit facilities or installed across the path of main entrance or entry points that has been designated as exit facilities will be required to cater for the required exit capacity as stated in Cl. 2.2.5. See Annex A on example of possible layout for gates/turnstiles installation at main entrance of building.
c. Determination of Travel distance

The maximum travel distance shall comply with Cl 2.2.6, taking into account the additional travel distance due to the gates/turnstiles installed along the escape route.

3. The content of this circular shall take immediate effect.

4. Please convey the contents of this circular to members of your Board/ Institution/ Association. This circular is also available in CORENET’s e-Info: http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo.

5. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact LTC Tan Chung Yee at 68481457 or email address Tan_chung_yee@scdf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully

(transmitted via email)

LTC Tan Chung Yee
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force

Distribution list

CEO, BCA
CEO, URA
CEO, HDB
CEO, JTC
CE, LTA
CE, Enterprise Singapore
President, REDAS
President, IFE
President, SISV
President, FSMAS
President, SCAL
Honorary Secretary, SPM
Manager (Fire Safety & Building Control Unit), DSTA
SCDF Fire Safety Standing Committee
Fire Code Review Committee
Note:
1) Swing gate should be linked to fire alarm if using EM locking otherwise it should always be openable and unobstructed during the occupancy of the building.
2) Turnstile with clear width more than 460mm
3) Swing gate to cater for equivalent exit capacity xx of designed exit