

FSE Dialogue Session on 12 Mar 2018 (Monday)

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 	<p><u>Presentation</u> See <u>Annex A</u> for the presentation slides.</p> <p>LTC Tong HH shared with the Fire Safety Engineers (FSEs) on the number of registered FSEs and the number of performance-based (PB) submissions up to Dec 2017. He also informed FSEs on the updated list of approved CPE courses and list of performance-based buildings available on SCDF website, and reminded FSEs on the CPE fulfillment and submission requirements.</p> <p><u>Feedback/Comment/Queries from participants</u> Nil.</p>
02	<p>Sharing on fire engineering technical and administrative requirements</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> See <u>Annex A</u> for the presentation slides.</p> <p>Mr Nicholas Lee shared with the Fire Safety Engineers (FSEs) on common fire engineering scenarios and acceptance criteria, how FSEs can improve on their submission reports/drawings, and minimise submission errors. He reminded FSEs that submissions that contain unacceptable errors and are of poor quality will be rejected by SCDF, or deferred for review until rectifications are made by FSEs to improve the clarity of the submitted documents/plans. He reiterated that it is not the role of SCDF's officers to help check and improve the quality of FSEs submission.</p> <p>In terms of submission requirements, Mr Nicholas Lee also gave examples and provided guidance on how submissions for fire engineering waivers should be carried out for different design scenarios. He also cited distinct circumstances in which full performance-based submissions, fire engineering waivers, or letter of no objections should be submitted.</p> <p><u>Feedback/Comment/Queries from participants</u> An FSE queried whether multiple blocks in the same development with similar/identical designs and similar Fire Code non-compliance can be submitted together as a single waiver issue. LTC Tong and Mr Nicholas clarified that there is a need for different "identical" blocks to be submitted as different waiver issues for the following reasons:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There could be difference in discharge conditions; • There could be other factors that affect the study (different airwell size); • There must be a means to approve and reject some identical blocks (if there is a need to); and/or • Sometimes, it may appear identical to FSEs, but it may not appear identical to SCDF. <p>Some FSEs commented that QPs should not be allowed to issue Letter of No Objection (LNO) as they may not be technically competent to undertake the assessment. Mr Nicholas Lee shared that if the QP is unsure, it is his/her professional duty not to issue LNO but to refer to the Operations and Maintenance manual and consult a FSE instead. He added that LNO is only intended for cases where the A&A works clearly do not affect/influence the original performance-based design.</p> <p>Some FSEs cited that the fire engineering waiver approach was sometimes adopted due to time constraints, and asked whether the list of allowed clauses to be considered for fire engineering waivers could be increased. LTC Tong replied that the list was not cast in stone and may be reviewed, but it should be reviewed based on appropriateness of adopting the fire engineering waiver process for assessment, rather than based on amount of time required for assessment.</p>
03	<u>Q&A Session</u>	<p><u>Q1</u> Some FSEs enquired on the use of Fractional Effective Dose (FED) for fire engineering analysis.</p> <p><u>SCDF reply to Q1</u> Mr Nicholas replied that use of FED is typically allowed for certain deviations involving staircases only (when SCDF inform FSE to conduct an additional FED analysis). Its use in most other scenarios are unlikely to be allowed, and this should be taken as the default position. FSEs can refer to the Singapore Fire Engineering Guidelines for such guidance.</p> <p><u>Q2</u> Some FSEs enquired whether SCDF will share the content of this FSE Dialogue with QPs at other platforms.</p>

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		<p><u>SCDF reply to Q2</u> Mr Nicholas informed FSEs that SCDF already share appropriate fire engineering matters with professional bodies where QPs are also members. Some of the more relevant information are also shared at various SCDF committees in which QPs are also members.</p> <p><u>Q3</u> An FSE asked on the progress of the works involving modification of CORENET to enable FSEs to submit performance-based plans and fire engineering plans directly, rather than relying on QP's CORENET account.</p> <p><u>SCDF reply to Q3</u> LTC Tong informed that works on this aspect are still on-going, and make take some time, but he assured that such efforts (e.g. to enable FSEs to have a CORENET account to make plan submissions) are underway to enable us to provide better service to FSEs.</p> <p><u>Summary</u> SAC Chris Tan thanked FSEs for their feedback. He explained that works on the revised CORENET system may take time as it is a multi-agency platform, but reassured FSEs that their interest will be taken into consideration.</p> <p>On the technical/administrative requirements, he urged FSEs to work together with the SCDF's performance-based team, and follow the submission requirements closely. Those requirements arose from SCDF's observations of the reports gathered over the past 2 to 3 years. Adhering to the requirements will enable FSEs and SCDF to streamline the submission requirements and processes, leading to high quality work, faster turnaround time, and ultimately benefiting benefiting the whole fire engineering community.</p> <p>Mr Nicholas Lee ended the Dialogue Session by highlighting that FSEs who attended the FSE Dialogue 2018 on 12 Mar 2018 will be awarded 3 CPE hours.</p>

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