

## Fire Safety Engineers (FSE) Workshop

**Date:** 1 July 2022 (Friday)  
**Time:** 9.30am to 12.30pm  
**Mode/Venue:** Hybrid workshop (HQ SCDF Meeting Room 2 and Zoom)

S/No	Agenda for discussion	Summary of discussion
01	<p><b>Update on</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PB regulatory system (update)</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>FSE registration</b></li><li>○ <b>Number of PB cases</b></li></ul></li><li>• <b>CPE programme (update)</b></li><li>• <b>Admin requirements (update)</b></li></ul>	<p><b><u>Presentation</u></b></p> <p>See <u>Annex A</u> for the presentation slides.</p> <p>The workshop was attended in person by 12 participants and 38 participants joined virtually. LTC Tong Hong Haey started by sharing with FSEs on the number of registered FSEs and the number of performance-based (PB) &amp; fire engineering waiver submissions. He reminded FSEs on the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements.</p> <p><b><u>Eligibility as Peer Reviewer (PR)</u></b></p> <p>LTC Tong refreshed the FSEs on the proposal circulated to FSEs: FSEs to be eligible to practice as a PR only when they have been registered as an FSE for 10 years or more. He shared that out of 12 responses received, 10 supported the proposal. One FSE did not agree with the proposal, while another FSE suggested a shorter duration to be eligible as PR, i.e. 5 years after FSE registration, instead of 10 years.</p> <p>SAC Lian added that this additional 10-year eligibility requirement for PR was intended to prevent situations where a more experienced FSE's work was reviewed by a PR with much less practicing experience, resulting in less value-add in appointing the PR. LTC Tong thanked FSEs for the feedback and shared that after considering all feedback, SCDF would adopt the requirement for PR to have at least 10 years of practical experience. This timeframe would also be consistent with that adopted for</p>

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		<p>Registered Inspectors and Accredited Checkers to determine adequacy of experience based on years of practice.</p> <p>An SCDF circular would be issued subsequently to inform FSEs and the building industry of the implementation details, with adequate grace time for FSEs to adjust to this new requirement. This would be an administrative requirement and there would not be another separate registration scheme set up to list eligible PRs. Instead, an additional column would be included in the FSE Register to reflect an FSE's eligibility to be a PR. For FSEs who did not meet the minimum requirements to be a PR, SCDF advised them to be cognisant of this upcoming requirement and implementation details before accepting PR appointments.</p> <p><b><u>Mandatory attendance at FSE Workshop</u></b></p> <p>LTC Tong shared that with effect from the next CPE training cycle, it would be mandatory for every FSE to attend the FSE Workshop at least once during each training cycle. An FSE's practicing status would be restricted (i.e unable to make plan submission to SCDF) if the FSE fails to attend at least one FSE Workshop during a CPE training cycle. SAC Lian highlighted that the FSE Workshop was a useful platform to update and brief FSEs on the latest PB requirements, and hence attendance at the FSE Workshop would be mandatory. This would come into effect from the next training cycle (commencing from Sep 2023 for most FSEs).</p> <p>An FSE queried if attendance at all FSE Workshops would be required. LTC Tong clarified that there would typically be two FSE Workshops organised in each two-year CPE cycle, and FSEs would be required to participate successfully in at least one of the FSE Workshops.</p>
02	<p><b>Update on fire engineering technical and administrative requirements</b></p>	<p><b><u>Presentation</u></b></p> <p>See <u>Annex A</u> for the presentation slides.</p> <p>HTX Nicholas Lee reminded participants on the acceptance criteria for exit staircases. Also, he explained that activation of engineered smoke control systems by sprinklers could be allowed in</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acceptance criteria for exit staircases and activation of smoke control systems</b></li> <li>• <b>Situations deemed unsuitable for a PB study</b></li> <li>• <b>Mark-up drawings</b></li> </ul>	<p>carparks/driveways of all Purpose Groups (not just limited to industrial developments). HTX Nicholas Lee thanked the FSEs for the improvement in the quality of mark-up drawings submitted to SCDF and reminded FSEs to have clear and specific description of waiver clauses and issues. In addition, he instructed FSEs not to combine prescriptive and fire engineering waiver issues into a single waiver application, even though each waiver application could contain multiple issues [i.e waiver submission should be either (1) all solely prescriptive issues or (2) all fire engineering issues]. HTX Nicholas Lee also emphasised that the declaration forms submitted by the Qualified Person (QP), FSE and PR in full PB submissions must be in a single document so that all the endorsements would be linked to the same project title.</p> <p><b><u>Activation of smoke control system</u></b></p> <p>Regarding the activation of smoke control system using smoke detector, an FSE advised that he would be tabling a proposal to the Fire Code Review Committee to allow halving of the spacing between detectors to facilitate double-knock activation for the purpose minimising false alarms). SCDF noted the FSE’s intention.</p> <p><b><u>Situations deemed unsuitable for PB study</u></b></p> <p>LTC Tong shared with the participants on the list of situations unsuitable for PB study. He explained that this list would help FSEs avoid spending resources to prepare for PB reports that have a higher chance of rejection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An FSE asked whether SCDF could exercise flexibility in allowing internal exit passageway (IEP) that could not comply with the maximum 2-door opening requirement to undergo engineering assessment, as the client was already making attempts to improve the fire safety and there were also site constraints. SAC Lian explained that SCDF would exercise flexibility and pragmatism in reviewing any site constraints but for such an assessment which are more qualitative in nature, it would be more appropriate to be evaluated using a prescriptive approach.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An FSE asked whether he/she could still submit a fire engineering assessment when requested in the waiver decision letter, despite the issue being in the list of situations unsuitable for PB study. LTC Tong and HTX Nicholas Lee clarified that if this were the case, the FSE should submit a fire engineering assessment as the waiver committee had determined that situation to be suitable for PB study. Such cases would be exceptional and rare.</li> </ul>
03	<b><u>AOB</u></b>	<p><b><u>FSE involvement in Fire Certificate (FC) renewal</u></b></p> <p>An FSE queried whether FSEs should also be allowed (either mandatory or as an option) to endorse on FC renewals as many buildings incorporated PB elements which may be better evaluated by FSEs. SAC Lian opined that FC renewals generally involved testing and inspection of mechanical systems, and most QPs would already possess the competency to carry out the evaluation. The QP could and should also consult the FSE if unsure. SAC Lian explained that SCDF would need to balance the cost and complexities involved in FC renewals and had instructed LTC Tong to follow up with the FC team and discuss this matter with the FSEs.</p>
04	<b><u>Q&amp;A Session</u></b>	<p>Lastly, as there were no other outstanding matters, FSEs who attended the workshop virtually were informed to complete a mandatory online quiz relating to the FSE Workshop 2022 materials, and the award of 3 CPE hours to virtual participants would only be applicable if they answer all questions in the quiz correctly.</p> <p>FSEs who attended the workshop physically at HQ SCDF would be awarded 3 CPE hours and would not be required to participate in the quiz.</p>

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