

system

Architectural Services Department indicated that the existing arrangement in the submission of Form 314/501 after the new registration scheme is put into effect has to be sorted out as it is likely that there will be two or even more FSI contractors of different classes involved in the construction of new building. This could be sorted out internally by FSD in consultation with other relevant parties.

5.6 Competence of RSC(V) in handling staircase pressurization and smoke extraction system

Buildings Department indicated that as the competence of an RSC(V) in handling staircase pressurization and smoke extraction had not been tested under Buildings Ordinance, they suggested that RSC(V) should be assessed, say by interview, on these aspects to assure their quality for inclusion as Class 4 FSIC. The observation of the Buildings Department is agreed and knowledge on those installations which exceeds the scope of an RSC(V) will be assessed by interview during their registration with FSD as Class 4 FSIC.

6. Transitional Arrangement to the New Classification Scheme

6.1 In conducting the review, the Working Group is mindful of the interests of the existing FSIC to minimize the impacts. In order to ensure smooth transition, the following transitional arrangement is proposed:

6.1.1 Grace Period

Suggestion : A grace period of three years is proposed for the existing FSIC to continue with their business before the new Scheme is implemented. However, existing FSIC will have to acquire the revised qualifications, either by acquiring them personally or by employing new employees possessing such qualifications, unless the requirements set out in 6.2 are fulfilled. For continuation of business after expiry of the grace period, existing FSIC have to register as an appropriate class of FSIC under the new classification scheme.

6.1.2 Works permitted under the Grace Period

6.1.2.1 Suggestion : During the grace period, all existing FSIC are permitted to carry out works according to the existing classification.

6.1.2.2 Suggestion : For new FSIC registered under the new classification scheme, works permitted will be in accordance with the new classification.

6.2 Detailed Arrangement for Conversion of the Existing FSIC's Registration to the New Classification

Existing Class 1 FSIC

6.2.1 Suggestion : It is suggested that the electrical engineering degree of the qualified person (QP) of an existing Class 1 FSIC can be recognized as satisfying the academic requirement under the new Class 1(a) provided that such qualified person has been working for the FSIC for not less than three years or has not less than three years relevant working experience;

Apart from the above, the new requirement of REW is required. If there is no change in the existing registration particulars relating to its workshop, workshop inspection may be waived during the initial registration to the new scheme.

6.2.2 Existing Class 2 FSIC

(i) Suggestion : If the existing Class 2 FSIC is registered by virtue of the academic qualification of a QP who is a holder of an Electrical Engineering degree or equivalent as accepted by the Director in the existing registration, it is suggested that such degree of the QP can be recognized as satisfying the academic requirement

Suggestion : It is suggested that after the conversion to the new classification by virtue of the qualification of QP referred to in para. 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, if such QP ceases to work for the FSIC concerned, new qualification requirements will be required for the replacement QP.

6.2.4 Existing Class 3 FSIC

Since there is no change in the qualification requirements, all existing Class 3 FSIC can register under the new Scheme as Class 3 FSIC **upon application**.

Regarding the workshop, if there is no change in the existing registration particulars, workshop inspection may be waived during the initial registration to the new scheme.

6.2.5 New Applicant

Applications for registration as an FSIC under the new scheme will be accepted after a date to be specified by the Director.

6.3 New Registration Scheme

To ensure a more comprehensive registration scheme being maintained by FSD, the following are suggested:

6.3.1 **Suggestion** : In considering all applications for FSIC under the new scheme, it is suggested that FSD shall have the authority to accept or reject an application for registration having regard to the qualifications, competence, experience and past performance of the applicant including its directors, partners, or any qualified persons in the field. If FSD rejects an application, it shall give reasons for the rejection.

6.3.2 **Suggestion** : Regarding the qualified persons, it is proposed to extend the disciplinary mechanism to cover all qualified persons such that, in considering an application, FSD can take into

account the past disciplinary record or any conviction record of the qualified persons (for offence related to IC/IE Regulation) on deciding whether they should be accepted for registration purpose (This should be read in conjunction with Section 8.8) .

6.3.3 **Suggestion** : To enable FSD to enforce the above provisions, it is proposed to confer FSD the power in requiring the applicant to submit relevant information and documentary evidence to support a claim to qualifications, competence or experience. If the applicant fails to provide the required information, the processing of such application will be discontinued. (Please see relevant suggestion under 8.3.4)

6.3.4 The existing appeal mechanism as contained in regulation 6 of the Fire Service (Installation Contractors) Regulations will be retained.

7. Renewal of Registration

At present, once the FSIC has registered with FSD, they will not be required to renew their registration. This gives rise to problems such as no up-to-date record of FSIC who are still operating can be maintained. As such, the following suggestions are made:

7.1 In order to enhance the control mechanism on registration of FSIC :

7.1.1 **Suggestion** : all FSIC are required to renew their registration with FSD at a regular interval;

7.1.2 **Suggestion** : In this regard, we propose to renew registration every three years upon application by the FSIC.

7.2 **Suggestion** : To avoid bottleneck in processing subsequent renewal registration after the initial one, it is suggested that flexibility should be given to the Director in deciding the first renewal period after initial registration to the new scheme. The period is proposed to range from 1 year to 3 years. After that, all renewal will be back on a regular 3-year basis.