

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

Our Ref. : CD/FSSD/12/02/03/01

Your Ref :

Date : 07 Mar 2012



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Registrar, Board of Architects (BOA)
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board (PEB)
President, Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)

Dear Sir/Mdm,

PROVISION OF MAXIMUM DOOR OPENING FORCE FOR INSTALLATION OF SELF-CLOSING ACCESS DOORS IN BUILDINGS IN SINGAPORE

1. Arising from feedback on the difficulty in opening self-closing doors by older persons and persons with disability, the Fire Code Review committee has carried out a review and will revise the current maximum door opening force for access door.
2. The current Fire Code 2007 stipulates that the manual perpendicular force required to open the door shall not be more than 70N when applied at the door handle or catch/knob located at the opening edge of the door under still air conditions. The requirement is stated in clause 2.3.9(h) (iii) of the Code.
3. The Code on Accessibility in the Built environment, 2007 stipulates that the maximum door opening forces for exterior hinged doors and interior hinged doors along the accessible route are 38N and 22N respectively. The requirement for doors along accessible route is stated in clause 3.8.9.1.
4. To ease the effort required by older persons and persons with disability to open self-closing access doors installed in buildings, the Fire Code Review Committee has decided that the maximum **door opening doors shall be 30N at 0 deg and 20N at 30 deg opening**. Door suppliers are given 3 years to comply with the requirements. The time frame is to enable them to



make the necessary changes to the existing door opening force to meet the requirements.

5. The circular shall take effect 3 years from 1 Apr 2012. I.e. 1 Apr 2015. *Any building projects that have their building plans submitted to BCA or SCDF on or after the effective date, whichever is earlier, must comply with this requirement.*
6. Please convey the contents of this circular to members of your Institution / Association / Board. The circular is also available in CORENET-e-Info: <http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo>.
7. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact the following persons for clarification:
 - a. Ms Goh Siam Imm (BCA) at Tel: 63258661, Email: Siam_Imm_Goh@bca.gov.sg or ,
 - b. Mr Pang Tong Teck (SCDF) at Tel: 68481403, E-mail: Pang_Tong_Teck@scdf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully,

(transmitted via e-mail)

Cpt Lim Boon Hsing
Secretary, FSSD Standing Committee
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force

cc

All members of FSSD Standing Committee
President, REDAS
President, IFE
President, SISV
CEO, BCA
CEO, URA
CEO, HDB
CEO, PSA
CEO, JTC
CE, LTA
CE, TUV SUD PSB – (Attn: Ms Emily Mok/ Mr Joseph Chng)
CE, SPRING Singapore – (Attn: Mr Kenneth Lim)
President, FSMAS
Honorary Secretary, SPM