

Your Ref :

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

Date : 2 July 2015

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

AMENDMENT TO THE FIRE CODE 2013 – Appendix (20) FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD) FSR 7:2011

SCDF has received feedback from Qualified Persons (QPs) on the difficulty in incorporating fire safety requirements for PWD in buildings, when addition and alteration (A/A) works are carried out only to tenancy spaces and not the common areas e.g. common corridor, smoke-stop lobby, fire-fighting lobby or exit staircase, etc.

2. In consultation with professional institutions namely, SIA, IES, ACES, IFE, SISV & REDAS, the extent of PWD requirements that are applicable to the following types of A/A works shall be as follows:

- (i) Where the A/A works affect the common corridor that is under the jurisdiction of MCST or passageway/corridor created under a single ownership in a non-strata title building, the provision of visual alarm system shall be incorporated to the affected floor(s). Other PWDs requirements such as PWD Holding Point, PWD Evacuation lift, Distress/Communication means, etc. need not be incorporated.



SCDF – A member of the Home Team

- (ii) Where A/A works affect smoke-stop lobby, fire-fighting lobby or exit staircase, the provision of visual alarm system, PWD Holding Point and Distress/Communication means shall be incorporated to the affected floor(s).
- (iii) Where new lifts are installed, all the PWD requirements i.e. stipulated in Appendix (20) shall be incorporated to all the floor(s) served by the new lifts.

3. SCDF had also reviewed the type of buildings that are currently exempted from PWD requirements which include Purpose Groups I and II buildings (residential) and health care occupancies as defined in the Fire Code. Apart from these buildings, SCDF will also exempt PWD requirements to industrial buildings that are exempted from barrier-free accessibility compliance under the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA) Code on Accessibility in the Built Environment. In SCDF's context, industrial buildings would therefore include Purpose Group VI (Factory) and Purpose Group VIII (Storage) as defined in the Fire Code.

4. However, it shall be noted that while industrial buildings and health care occupancies are exempted from PWD requirements, the provision of visual alarm system shall still be applicable to these buildings. The visual alarm system complements the audible fire alarm system to cater to able-bodied occupants who are hearing impaired. Visual alarm system is not applicable to Purpose Groups I & II buildings that are also exempted from PWD requirements.

5. This circular shall take immediate effect. Please convey the contents of this circular to members of your Board / Institution / Association. This circular shall take immediate effect and is also available in CORENET-e-Info: <http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo>. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact: Mr Randy Tan at DID: 68481461 or Email: Randy_Tan@scdf.gov.sg.



SCDF – A member of the Home Team

Yours faithfully,

(transmitted via e-mail)

MAJ Tan Chung Yee
Fire Safety & Shelter Department
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force

cc

CEO, BCA
CEO, URA
CEO, HDB
CEO, JTC
CE, LTA
CE, SPRING Singapore
President, REDAS
President, IFE
President, SISV
President, FSMAS
President, SCAL
Honorary Secretary, SPM
SCDF Fire Safety Standing Committee
Fire Code Review Committee



SCDF – A member of the Home Team