

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

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

Your Ref :

Date : 25 June 2013



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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

AMENDMENT TO FIRE CODE – Fire Safety Requirements for Persons with Disabilities FSR 7: 2011 Appendix (20)

SCDF issued a circular dated 21 Jan 2011 to the building industry pertaining to fire safety requirements for persons with disabilities (PWDs). One of these requirements is the provision of at least a PWD evacuation lift in a non-residential building so long as it is installed with lift(s). The design of the PWD evacuation lift essentially follows that of the fire lift i.e. need for lift to open into a protected lobby and provision of emergency power supply to the lift.

2. We have received feedback from the industry that the provision of PWD evacuation lift, which opens into protected lobby and requires emergency power supply to the lift for evacuation operation, is too onerous for low-rise buildings i.e. not more than 4 storeys.

3. SCDF has considered this feedback and agreed to remove the requirement of a PWD evacuation lift for buildings that are not more than 4 storeys*. However, should passenger lifts be installed in such buildings, these lifts shall be provided with lift evacuation switch for use by emergency responders and PWD holding points. If there is no protected lift lobby provided for the said passenger lifts, the PWD Holding Point shall be located inside a protected staircase or along the external corridor (Clause 2.3.3(b)). *For the avoidance of doubt, the “storey” is defined under the Clause 1.2.58(A) of the Fire Code 2013.



4. Where such a low-rise building is not provided with lifts or other means of access such as stairlift or ramp, the upper floors of the building would be deemed non-accessible to wheelchair users and therefore the provision of PWD Holding Point is not required.

5. SCDF would also like to clarify that the Fire Safety Requirements on “Persons with Disabilities FSR 7: 2011” that was issued via circular on 21 Jan 2011 and the requirements on “Using Lifts for Evacuation of Building Occupants during Emergency FSR 8: 2011” that was issued via circular on 25th Mar 2011 are two separate sets of fire safety requirements. The latter circular, which applies to non-residential buildings exceeding 24m in habitable height, complements and does not supersede the former, which applies to all non-residential buildings.

6. The changes mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall take immediate effect. 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>. For any inquiry or clarification, please contact: Mr Randy Tan at DID: 68481461 or Email: Randy_Tan@scdf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully,

(transmitted via e-mail)
MAJ Lee Kok Chuen
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