

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

*Points to note for installation of digital projectors in cinemas*

**Background**

According to Clause C18.1 (d) of the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011, all projectors and the associated equipment should be placed within a projector room or projector rooms which are separated from the cinemas and other accommodations by walls, floors and doors having a specified fire resistance rating.

**Trade's Concern**

2. At the previous Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings for cinemas, the trade opined that nowadays the majority of cinemas in Hong Kong were adopting digital projectors instead of the traditional 35 mm film projectors, and the fire risk of digital projectors was apparently much less than that of the traditional 35 mm film projectors. The trade therefore requested the Administration to consider (a) whether cinemas using digital projectors could be exempted from complying with the above fire safety requirement of a projector room, and (b) whether the Buildings Department (BD) could provide some guidelines to facilitate them in applying for installation of digital projectors over the seating area of existing and new cinemas.

**Administration's Response**

3. In response, BD explained at the recent BLG meeting that if the trade could provide documentary proof that the proposed digital projectors would not generate hazardous gases, dusts or radiation, the department would consider granting them the exemption from complying with the fire safety requirement of a projector room on a case-by-case basis. To facilitate the trade in applying for waiving the fire safety requirement of projection rooms,

BD also set out some points to note (**Annex**) for the installation of digital projectors in existing or new cinemas. The points to note include the major considerations (e.g. structural, means of escape, fire resisting construction, etc.) that the department will take into account when processing the applications.

4. It is envisaged that the trade could gain a practical understanding on the above requirements through preparation and submission of a real trial application.

### **Way Forward**

5. Members are invited to note the above business facilitation measure.

Buildings Department  
January 2014

## Annex

### **Points to Note (Note 1 & 2) for Application for Installation of Digital Projector over the Seating Area of Existing Cinemas [with a view to applying for waiving the requirement of Clause C18.1(d) of Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011]**

**(The points to note below are based on the photos and information provided by the Cinema Trade at the 18<sup>th</sup> BLG meeting for cinemas held on 10 April 2013)**

#### **(a) Structural Considerations**

- (i) The size, principle dimensions and weight of the digital projector together with its fixing arrangement and details of supporting frame/structure of its enclosure should be indicated on the building plan for consideration.
- (ii) False ceiling or other non-structural elements should not be used as support of the digital projector.

#### **(b) Means of Escape Considerations**

The digital projector (including its enclosure) should not reduce the clear height of headroom to less than 2m from finished floor level.

#### **(c) Fire Resisting Construction Considerations**

Documentary evidences should be submitted to demonstrate compliance with Clause C18.1(d) of Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 ([http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/fs\\_code2011.pdf](http://www.bd.gov.hk/english/documents/code/fs_code2011.pdf)) i.e., the digital projector to be used and placed outside the projection room will not generate hazardous gases, ducts or radiation.

#### **(d) Other Considerations**

- (i) Detailed fitting-out of other equipment in projection room should be indicated on the building plan for consideration on case-by-case basis (the purpose is to ensure that the equipment in the projection room is in compliance with the standard for waiving of fire resisting

requirement).

- (ii) It is presumed that the existing projection room will be vacant after installation of digital projector at seating area. The proposed use of existing projection room should be specified on the building plan for consideration, and additional requirements may be imposed.
- (iii) Application for waiving the fire resisting requirements of projection room by installation of digital projector at seating area of cinema requires formal plan submission for approval by the Building Authority. Where alteration and addition works involving the structure and/or means of escape of a building are to be carried out, the applicant is advised to seek the professional advice of an Authorized Person or a Registered Structural Engineer in advance. Each application proposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis on its own merits.

Note 1: The points to note relate to building safety aspects and may not be exhaustive. They are for the general reference of the trade. Detailed requirements shall be formulated upon formal plan submission for approval by the Building Authority.

Note 2: The points to note [except (d)(ii) and (d)(iii)] are applicable to applications for installation of digital projectors in new cinemas.

Buildings Department  
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