

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

***Fire Retardant Treatment Requirements
for Curtains and Wall Furnishings of Cinemas
for Places of Public Entertainment Licence Renewal***

Background

Pursuant to the general renewal requirements for Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL) issued by the Fire Service Department (FSD), all fire service installations and equipment provided should be inspected at least once every twelve months by a registered fire services installation (FSI) contractor who shall issue a Certificate of Fire Service Installation and Equipment (FS251) after completion of the works.

2. It is also the PPEL renewal requirement that all draperies and curtains, and combustible materials used for false ceilings, partitions or wall furnishings should either conform to stipulated fire resistant standards, or be brought up to the stipulated standards by treating with a fire retardant paint or solution acceptable to the Director of Fire Services to be carried out by a registered FSI contractor who would then issue a FS251 as documentary proof of compliance.

Trade's Concern

3. At a Business Liaison Group (BLG) meeting for cinemas, the trade remarked that the FSI contractors hired for annual inspection of fire services installation and equipment would as a common practice re-treat the curtains and wall furnishings of cinemas annually with a fire retardant paint/solution. The trade also opined that since cinemas in Hong Kong had become statutory no smoking areas and the majority of them were adopting digital projectors, the fire risk of cinemas was low and hence the Administration should consider relaxing the annual fire retardant treatment requirement for curtains and wall furnishings of cinemas.

Administration's Response

4. In response, FSD clarified at the BLG meeting that once the draperies, curtains and wall furnishings, etc., used at a cinema had already fulfilled the fire safety requirements as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, there was no need for the cinema to re-treat its existing curtains and wall furnishing with fire retardant paint/solution annually.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and offer comments, if any.

Fire Services Department
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