CODES OF PRACTICE

FOR

MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

AND EQUIPMENT

AND

INSPECTION, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF

INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

April **2012**

5.1 Audio/visual advisory system

SPECIFICATION

Fire alarm bells, klaxons, sirens, etc. which are integral parts of an automatic or a manual fire alarm system are not included in this paragraph.

The audio/visual advice shall be provided throughout the required floors and/or areas leading to staircase only.

AUDIO

A system of records/signals either verbal or musical or direct transmission over a public address system to advise staff and other occupants of emergency conditions and the action to be followed.

In special occupancy premises e.g. hospitals, sanatoria, cinemas, an agreed sound signal may be broadcast to give early warning to staff of emergency conditions which may or may not necessitate action by them at that time.

The power supply to the sound system should be from essential circuits.

VISUAL

A system of flashing lights with directional signs, which may be incorporated to the exit signs and directional signs as required under paragraph 5.10 and supplemented by low level directional signs to indicate:

(*a*) the floors and/or areas to be evacuated by operating the flashing lights with directional signs at the corresponding floors and/or areas,

(*b*) the evacuation routes by following the low level directional signs.

High level flashing lights with directional signs shall be positioned between 2 m and 2.5 m above finished floor level measured to the base of the flashing lights. Low level directional signs shall be installed with the lower edges not higher than 200 mm from the finished floor level.

Low level directional signs shall be of self luminous types and conform to British Standard 5499: Part 10 or, alternatively, shall be of photoluminous types and conform to DIN 67510 Part 4 or equivalent.

5.2 Automatic actuating devices

SPECIFICATION

Components under this paragraph will include fire stop doors, fire dampers, fire curtains and other means of providing compartmentation/fire separation automatically in the event of fire. Automatic fire detection and fire suppression systems are not included in this paragraph.

They shall be constructed and installed in accordance with the standards acceptable to the Director of Fire Services and/or the Director of Buildings as appropriate.

Pursuant to the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings issued by the Building Authority, fire shutter shall be constructed, installed and assembled to the satisfaction of the Building Authority. The operation of fire shutters shall be designed, installed, tested and maintained to the satisfaction of the Director of Fire Services.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Director of Fire Services, all fire shutters shall be provided with smoke detectors and manual control devices on both sides of wall openings for automatic and manual operation respectively. The detectors shall be installed as far as practicable to the provisions of British Standard 5839: Part 1 – Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems for Buildings.

The descending time of a vertical shutter shall be within 15 to 60 seconds for openings in excess of 2.5 m in height. For openings of height within 2.5 m, the descending time shall not be faster than 8 seconds and that the bottom rail of the shutter shall reach the mid-height in not less than half the total descending time of the shutter.

For opening which is protected by horizontal travelling fire shutter, the shutter shall be able to close off the opening within 60 seconds and under no circumstances its travelling speed shall be greater than 0.2 m/s or the safety limit specified by the equipment manufacturer. If the opening is of such a size that the travelling time of the horizontal fire shutter is longer than 60 seconds, approval shall be obtained from the Director of Fire Services. Under such circumstances, other means for automatic actuation of the horizontal fire shutter at early stage of fire may be required.