



屋宇署
BUILDINGS
DEPARTMENT

Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011

(June 2023 Edition)



Foreword

Fire safety in buildings is determined by a number of factors: the provisions of means of escape in case of fire, the ability for a building to resist the effects of fire and to minimize the spread of fire and smoke and the provision of means of access to enable firefighters to effect rescue and fight fire.


Following a review of the Code of Practice for the Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire 1996, the Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Construction 1996 and the Code of Practice for Means of Access for Firefighting and Rescue 2004, this Code of Practice is issued to replace the said three Codes of Practice and to provide guidance on compliance with the requirements laid down in section 35 of the Building (Construction) Regulation and the Building (Planning) Regulations 41, 41A, 41B, 41C and 41D, which include the requirements for fire resisting construction, means of escape and means of access for firefighting and rescue to buildings. In addition, it also provides guidelines on the testing standards for the fire properties of building elements and components, fire safety management of buildings and the alternative approach in fire safety design, i.e. fire engineering approach.

This Code of Practice may be cited as the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings. It is prepared and issued by the Buildings Department on the basis of the consultancy study on fire engineering approach and fire safety in buildings. The consultancy study was conducted by Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd commissioned by the Buildings Department and was supervised by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of professional institutions and other stakeholders of the building industry as well as other Government Departments. Composition of the Steering Committee is as follows:

Steering Committee:

Chairman	: Assistant Director/Corporate Services	Buildings Department	
Members	: Chief Building Surveyor/Legal Services	Buildings Department	
	: Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories East 2 & Rail	Buildings Department	
	: Chief Building Surveyor/Fire Safety	Buildings Department	
	: Chief Structural Engineer/F	Buildings Department	
	: Senior Building Surveyor/Legislation	Buildings Department	
	: Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Fire Safety)	Fire Services Department	
	: Senior Architect/Independent Checking Unit	Housing Department	
	: Senior Building Services Engineer	Architectural Services Department	
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		Professor of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	
	Representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects		
	Representatives of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers		
	Representative of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors		
	Representative of the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong		
Secretary	: Building Surveyor/Legislation	Buildings Department	

Since its first publication in 2011, the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings 2011 (2023 Edition) incorporates various amendments made in April 2012, January 2013, September 2013, October 2014, October 2015 and June 2023 as summarised below:

Amendment by PNAP APP-153	Reference
April 2012	https://www.bd.gov.hk/doc/en/resources/codes-and-references/code-and-design-manuals/OldVersions/CoP_FSC_ov.zip 
January 2013	
September 2013	
October 2014	
October 2015	
June 2023	

This Code of Practice is available for viewing in the Buildings Department website www.bd.gov.hk under the “Codes, design manuals and guidelines” page of the “Resources” section. It may be downloaded subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in the website.

This Code of Practice will be reviewed regularly. The Buildings Department welcomes suggestions for improving the Code.

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