

**Code of Practice for the Provision of
Means of Escape in Case of Fire 1996**

Requirements for means of escape for buildings are laid down in section 41(1) of the Building (Planning) Regulations. The Code of Practice for the Provision of Means of Escape in Case of Fire (MOE Code) provides guidance on the compliance with these requirements.

2. The MOE Code has been reviewed recently. The revised Code (Code of Practice for the Provision of Means of Escape in case of Fire 1996) has been published and is available for sale at the Government Publication Centre. The purpose of this Practice Note is to explain the revised requirements and the application of the revised Code.

Revised Requirements

3. The revised Code has clarified a number of anomalies and grey areas in the existing Code, upgraded standards on the design of some building components and streamlined duplications in the MOE Code and the Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Construction. A new Part III is also added to deal with means of escape requirements for places of public entertainment.

Application

4. The revised MOE Code shall come into operation on 1.12.96 except for the following :-

- (a) Part III of the new MOE Code has been effective on 28.6.96 (PNAP 194 refers).
- (b) For buildings or building works which are being carried out or for which consent to commence has been given on or before 1.12.96, the earlier edition of the MOE Code may be used as the basis for providing the facilities.

5. The Building Authority acknowledges that there may be difficulties in the adoption of the Fire Engineering Approach and in the application of the new code to existing buildings in certain situations. Further guidelines may be issued.

Suggestions

6. This Code will be reviewed regularly. Any suggestion for improving it is welcome.



(CHOI Yu-leuk)
Building Authority

Ref. BD GP/LEG/6/A(VI)
PNAP 163, 192 & 194

First issued (June 1996) (AD/LM)

Index under: Means of Escape, Code of Practice for