

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
FSM REGULATIONS**

S/N	Proposed Amendments to Regulation	Summary of feedback /comments received	SCDF's Response	
1.	<p>Regulation 3 Part II – Clause (f) <i>Duties of Owner or Occupier of Specific Premises</i> The owner or occupier of specified premises shall – <i>“within <u>7 days</u> of the termination of appointment of his fire safety manager appoint another person to be his fire safety manager; and”</i></p>	<p>There were concerns that the timeframe of 7 days was too short a period of time to engage a replacement FSM. Some highlighted that there were cases where FSM tender resignation on 24-hr notice.</p> <p>There were requests for more time for owners to employ a replacement FSM due to industry’s practice involving a rigorous process of selecting and employing one. There were suggestions to allow for at least 14 days to employ a replacement FSM.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>The existing 44 days for building owners to appoint a replacement FSM is undesirable as this would result in a long lapse of duty of the FSM in a building to assist the owner with fire safety functions. FSM’s assistance is crucial to manage, operate and maintain fire safety activities on a daily basis.</p> <p>Owners will be given 14 days upon termination of appointment of his fire safety manager to appoint another person to be his fire safety manager. The third party companies will have a ready pool of qualified FSMs to cater for this.</p>

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2.	<p>Regulation 8 Part III – Clause (2) (Fire Safety Report)</p> <p><i>To add the following new clauses:</i></p> <p>-“the number of Table-Top Exercises conducted within the specified premises over the pass 12 months and the effectiveness of such exercises”</p> <p>- “the implementation of the Arson Prevention Plan (APP)”</p>	<p>There were issues raised on the responsibility of the building owner or occupier in the preparation of the emergency plans and conduct of the exercises. The FSM should not be fully responsible for the annual safety report, conduct of table-top exercise and preparation of APP.</p>	Noted	<p>It is the duty of the owner or occupier of any specified premises to be responsible for all fire safety matters pertaining to the building including the fire safety report, fire drills and APP, etc.</p> <p>The building owner is to work closely with the FSM on the measures to be taken to comply with the fire safety requirements and ensure that all irregularities by the FSM are attended to expeditiously.</p> <p>However, FSMs must note that it is their mandatory duty to assist the owner or occupier of any specified premises to carry out the fire safety activities for the premises concerned.</p>

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3.	<p>Regulation 9 Part IV (Qualifications of Fire Safety Managers) <i>To add the following new clause:</i> “No person shall be appointed as Fire Safety Manager if he has not been appointed as one for a continuous period of the <u>past 3 years</u> unless he has attended such courses of instructions and/or passed such examinations or tests which have been prescribed by the Commissioner.”</p>	<p>Many viewed that a test would create stress and might not be practical. Instead there were suggestions for SCDF to institute continual professional development programme to upgrade the knowledge and skills of non-practising FSMs in order to keep pace with the new developments.</p>	Noted and agreed	<p>It is observed that there are qualified FSMs who are not competent in carrying out their duties effectively, especially those who are not appointed as FSMs. There is need to ensure and maintain their competency. It has been decided that these FSMs will not be required to sit for a test prior to appointment as a fire safety manager. In order to ensure job competency, non-practicing FSMs will be required to attend a continual professional development programme which may take the form of dialogues, seminars and workshops that SCDF organizes and conducts for FSMs on an annual basis.</p> <p>The details of this continual professional development programme for non-practising FSMs will be made known once ready.</p>

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4.	<p>Regulation 9 Part IV (Qualifications of Fire Safety Managers)</p> <p><i>To add the following new clause:</i></p> <p>“No person shall be appointed as Fire Safety Manager if he has not been appointed as one for a continuous period of the <u>past 3 years</u> unless he has attended such courses of instructions and/or passed such examinations or tests which have been prescribed by the Commissioner.”</p>	<p>There was a request for SCDF to make it compulsory for all qualified FSMs to be registered as members of the Fire Safety Manager Association Of Singapore (FSMAS), so that the FSM can obtain updates on fire safety matters through this Association.</p>	Noted	<p>The FSMAS is a separate entity on its own. As a government body, it is not appropriate for SCDF to require FSMs to join any private organisation, including the FSMAS.</p>

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5.	<p>Regulation 9 Part IV (Qualifications of Fire Safety Managers) “The owner or occupier of a specified premises shall not appoint a person as a fire safety manager in his premises unless he is satisfied that such person has produced evidence that he has —” (To delete the age criteria of 30 years)</p>	<p>It was highlighted that 30 years old or above is still a more respectable age as a FSM to deal with tenants and members of the public.</p> <p>At the same time there was a comment that there has been increasing numbers of young qualified FSMs with the relevant qualifications and competencies to be employed as FSM.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>SCDF has allowed FSMs below 30 years of age to be appointed as FSMs, on a case by case basis. These FSMs have proven themselves capable of discharging the duties of a FSM just as well as their older counterparts. It is therefore decided to lift the age restriction.</p>