

Agency

Singapore Civil Defence Force

Introduction for SCDF, regulatory stakeholders and who drives regulatory functions

SCDF's core values guide us in everything we do. We take Pride in protecting and saving lives and property; and feel the same when enabling enterprise. We Care for our people and those we serve, and that includes businesses.

SCDF's regulatory stakeholders are from the building submission and maintenance eco-system including Qualified Persons, Fire Safety Managers, professional bodies, and supply chain users in Petroleum & Flammable Materials. Our stakeholder involvements have contributed to successful implementation of simpler policies and regulatory requirements, without compromising fire safety.



How does the agency keep abreast of critical industry trends/innovations and facilitated new business ideas for the sector's transformation and growth? Please share the best practice with examples/case studies.

SCDF adopts a Collaborate and open-minded stance on keeping abreast of industry trends to facilitate businesses' growth

- a. Gather emergent requirements and expectations of industry professionals and academia stakeholders on fire safety policies, such as through the use Interactive e-Fire Code platform – an interactive version of the Fire Code 2018 for industry and practitioners' ease of use. The digital Fire Code provides building industry professionals in-depth illustration of fire code provisions at unprecedented convenience. Intuitive search and cross-referencing features on the web-based digital Fire Code reduce errors and time spent poring through clauses.
- b. **Deepen Collaboration and partnering with academia and stakeholders to translate research into application.** SCDF regularly engages the leaders at the forefront of industry trends and innovation and actively co-operate on steering the direction and trajectory of research and development to transform the industry and enhance public safety outcomes for all stakeholders.

SCDF works closely with Institutes of Higher Learning (NUS, NTU,) and collaborate to assess and validate emerging research, technology, and innovation on fire safety engineering, building design and construction into innovative yet translatable industry practices). As part of SCDF's continuous efforts to facilitate a pro-enterprise environment, SCDF allows the adoption of Tensile Membrane Action (TMA) where only key elements of structure such as columns to have fire resistance and fire protection and excludes structural steel elements and secondary steel beams to be fire protected. This is achieved through fire engineering solution where the strategies and fire safety works satisfy the performance requirements as stated in the Fire Code.

SCDF also benefits from partnerships with the Home Team Science & Technology Agency (HTX) and GovTech to learn about new Home Team and Whole-of-Government wide technological capabilities to leverage and enhance fire safety regulation in Singapore through proposing cases for trial and experimentation. For example, trial of 5G and Lamppost-as-a-Platform.

- c. **Readily Adopting global best practices.** SCDF actively participates in the **Inter-jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC)** which promotes effective international collaboration concerning building regulatory system relating to fire safety developments of member countries. It also serves as a quick and convenient avenue for member countries to solicit views and obtain information on building and fire safety related matters



How does the agency, encourage new business ideas and innovations as well as taking the effort to understand stakeholders' needs and challenges to fine-tune implementation processes in support of them? Please share the best practice with examples/case studies.

Pro-enterprise Approach in Regulating Fire Safety

- a. **Provide flexibility in design of fire safety measure.** Continual adaptation and fine-tuning of SCDF's performance-based approach towards fire safety regulation, to enable transformation and innovation in architecture, building design and construction (e.g., Integrated Resorts at Sentosa, Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, the Sports Hub and the Jewel @ Changi Airport).
- b. **Actively review rules/guidelines in view of new trends and industry demands.** SCDF works closely with stakeholders to identify new trends and industry demands in civil protection and fire safety to understand and address the implications to fire and building safety from the upstream regulatory design.

Review of Fire Safety Requirements for Low-rise Farm Buildings - SCDF has reviewed and calibrated the fire safety requirements for such farm buildings in accordance with their lower associated fire safety risk, thus lowering their construction cost. The revised requirements were issued to the building industry via a circular in December 2020.

Auto Temporary Permit (TP) Approval - SCDF had carried out a review of the TP processing/approval time arising from feedback via pro-enterprise survey. With the revised auto TP approval process, the applicant will now receive an automatically generated approval letter within 3 days.

New Technical reference for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) - SCDF had partnered with academia and industry in the development of the Technical Reference which was published on March 2020.

- c. **Reduction of business costs** - whilst ensuring that fire and design safety is not compromised.

Review of Building Plan Fee for Simple Buildings. A review was carried out to move away from a single flat fee to a differentiated fee, one that reflects the complexity of the building profile and hence the corresponding regulatory effort to process such building plans. The review had resulted in a new tier in plan fee of \$100 per 100m² for simple buildings.

Enhancements to SCDF's Lodgement Scheme for Minor Alterations and Additions (MAA). SCDF has extended the scheme in Sep 2020 to other types of building premises (e.g., warehouses, restaurants, hotels, schools) and expanded the scope of MAA works (e.g., replacement/addition of fire-hose reels).

PEP-SBF Awards 2021

Pro-Enterprise Survey Recognition Award



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