



INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FIRE PROFESSIONALS

Issue No. 38 | JAN – JUN 2026

Management Council 2024 – 2026

President	Er Yee Poh Kin
Vice President	Er Victor Ho
Hon Secretary	Mr Koh Soon Chuang
Hon Treasurer	Er Shyam Dayanandan

Council Members:

Ar. Chan Kok Way
 Mr David Goh
 Mr Michael Mok
 Mr Tong Hong Haey
 Ms Chelsia Ruth Wong
 Er Yeo Swee Khiank
 Mr Jasper Ho

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

With the conclusion of the recent Annual General Meeting, we mark an important milestone for the Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore (IFES). The AGM provided an opportunity to reflect on the activities of the past year, review the work of the past Management Council, and engage with members on matters important to the continued advancement of the profession.

We take this opportunity to welcome the newly elected Management Council members for the coming term. Their willingness to serve reflects a strong commitment to supporting IFES and contributing to the professional development of the fire safety community. IFES also expresses its appreciation to the outgoing Council members for their dedication, time, and contributions over the past term.

Looking ahead, IFES remains focused on fostering knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and continuing professional development. With the support of our members, partners, and the new Council, we look forward to another term of meaningful engagement within the fire safety engineering community.

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EVENTS & NEWS

FIRE SAFETY AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP

2nd and 3rd February 2026

The Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore (IFES) organized the two-day “Fire Safety and Digital Solutions Workshop” on 2–3 February 2026 at NUSS Guild House, Suntec. The workshop was conducted by Professor Ruggiero Lovreglio, Full Professor in the Digital Built Environment at Massey University, New Zealand. The program explored the application of digital technologies and open-source tools in fire safety engineering, with an emphasis on supporting practitioners in navigating the rapid evolution of AI-enabled solutions.

The sessions covered fire and evacuation modelling, BIM integration for fire protection engineering, and hands-on demonstrations of AI tool customization for engineering applications. Participants were introduced to open solutions for evacuation and fire simulation, including Blender-based Fire Dynamics Simulation (BFDS), JuPedSim, and Bonsai. The workshop also highlighted recent advancements in 3D scanning and the use of virtual and augmented reality through Model Context Protocols (MCP). Through practical exercises and discussions, the programme provided participants with insights into emerging digital approaches that support the future readiness and quality of fire protection engineering practice.



Photograph: Professor Ruggiero Lovreglio, our President and VP and the other participants

EVENTS & NEWS

VISIT TO IFE MALAYSIA

13th to 14th March 2026

A delegation from the Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore (IFES) visited the Institution of Fire Engineers Malaysia (IFEM) in Kuala Lumpur from 13th to 14th March 2026 as part of an exchange aimed at strengthening regional collaboration between branches.

The visit commenced with a technical visit to SIRIM Rasa, where IFES delegates attended a briefing and observed a live BS 8414 facade fire test, followed by a laboratory tour. The session provided valuable insight into testing methodologies and research facilities supporting fire safety engineering and product assessment in the region. This was followed by an informal lunch dialogue, which allowed delegates from both institutions to continue discussions in a relaxed setting.



Photograph: Delegation to technical visit to SIRIM Rasa

The second day of the visit focused on professional exchange and fraternity. The programme included a morning networking activity and concluded with a dialogue session between IFEM and IFES representatives over dinner. The evening featured sharing sessions and the presentation of tokens as a gesture of mutual appreciation. The visit provided an opportunity for both institutions to exchange perspectives, strengthen professional ties, and reaffirm a shared commitment to advancing fire engineering practice within the region.

IFES conveys its sincere appreciation to IFEM Management Council and Secretariat for their warm hospitality and thoughtful organization of the visit. Their generosity contributed significantly to the value of the engagement and reinforced the strong ties between the two institutions.



Photograph: Recreational hike on last day of exchange to IFEM

EVENTS & NEWS

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th March 2026

The Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore (IFES) held its 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, 27 March 2026, at Furama RiverFront, Singapore. Members gathered for the annual meeting to review the Institution's activities and governance matters for the year.

The AGM commenced with the President K Ramanathan's address, followed by the confirmation of the minutes of the 51st AGM. Members considered and approved the Management Council's Annual Report for the year ending, as well as the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year. The meeting also included the appointment of scrutineers and election of the next Management Council and internal auditors for the 2026–2028 term.

The Institution also welcomed **Er Shyam Dayanandan** and **Mr Jasper Ho** as newly elected members of the Management Council for the 2026–2028 term. IFES looks forward to their contributions in supporting the Institution's activities.

The evening concluded with a membership presentation ceremony and a networking dinner, with members enjoying the programme and the opportunity to reconnect with one another.



Photograph: IFES Members in attendance during AGM



Photograph: Handing over from Past President Mr K Ramanathan to new President Er Yee Poh Kin



Photograph: Dinner with lucky draw and band playing



Photograph: New IFES Council for 2026 to 2028

EVENTS & NEWS

DEMONSTRATING PERFORMANCE IN FIRE ENGINEERING

(Hybrid Mode)

13th April 2026

The Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore (IFES) organised the seminar “Demonstrating Performance in Fire Engineering (Hybrid)” on 13th April 2026. The session examined the increasing expectations on fire engineers to demonstrate competence and exercise sound professional judgement in performance-based design.

Delivered by Dr. Simón Santamaria, the seminar focused on the development of fire scenarios and how performance can be justified where prescriptive guidance is limited. Key discussion points covered the use of defensible assumptions, clear communication of uncertainty, and simplified calculations to support engineering advice.





Photograph: Dr. Simón Santamaria with the participants at the event

EVENTS & NEWS

ULSE FIRE SIDE CHAT BY BATTERY FIRE SPECIALIST

28th April 2026

IFES members were invited to attend a fire side chat organised by UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE) on 28th April 2026, focusing on emerging challenges in battery fire safety. The session provided an opportunity to engage with UL international experts on current developments in electric vehicle (EV) fires and energy storage systems.

The fire side chat featured Adam Barowy, Principal Research Engineer at the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), UL Research Institutes, and Sonya Bird, Vice President of International Standards at UL Standards & Engagement. The discussion covered an evidence-based framework for EV fire incident response, as well as updates to the 6th Amendment of UL 9540A.

Moderated by Er. Victor Ho, the session included a Q&A segment addressing questions received by fire engineers and industry stakeholders in managing battery and EV fire risks.





Photograph: ULSE international experts and the participants at the fire side chat

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Visit to Punggol Fire Station

19th August 2026

IFES Fire Code Update Seminar

23rd September 2026

IFES Industry Visit NMFIRE UL/FM Fire Pump Factory in Changsha, China

20th to 24th October 2026

Partnership Invitation by SCDF - Fire Safety Asia Conference (FiSAC) 2026

Workshop on 30th October 2026

Published quarterly by the IFES, we are always looking for members contributions. To provide any articles or feedback, please contact – admin@ife.org.sg



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SCDF
The Life Saving Force
... for a safer Singapore

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE



Your Ref :

Our Ref: CD/04/05/01/01

Date : 2 Mar 2026

Registrar, Board of Architects
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board
President, Singapore Institute of Architects
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore

Dear Sir/ Mdm,

AMENDMENTS TO FIRE CODE 2023 – 5th BATCH OF AMENDMENTS

SCDF would like to issue the 5th batch of amendments to the Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Buildings 2023 (Fire Code 2023). The amendments, which were deliberated and accepted by the Fire Code Review Committee, are attached as Annex A of this circular.

2. Amendments stipulated in Annex A shall take effect from the date specified therein (i.e., 6 months from date of circular). Qualified Persons who wish to comply with the requirements in this Circular for any proposed plans of fire safety works for new buildings or existing buildings to be submitted during the 6-month grace period (i.e., 2 Mar 2026 to 2 Sep 2026) can do so and are not required to apply for waivers.

3. This circular applies to all projects except those that submitted their Planning Permission application to URA before 2 Sep 2026 and subsequently received Provisional Permission (PP) or Design Gateway (DG) clearance. For projects that do not require URA's Planning Permission, this circular applies if plans of fire safety works are submitted to SCDF for approval on or after 2 Mar 2026.



SCDF – A member of the Home Team

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TEL: 68481457 FAX: EMAIL: TAN_Chung_Yee@scdf.gov.sg

4. Qualified Persons shall provide URA's PP or DG clearance letter in their applications submitted to SCDF for approval. Where such documentation is not provided, the submission date of the first approved submission to SCDF will be used for reference instead.
5. Please convey the contents of this circular to members of your Board/ Institution/ Association. This circular is also available in CORENET's e-Info: <http://www.corenet.gov.sg/einfo>.
6. For general queries, you may contact Mr Randy Tan at DID: 68481461 or Mr Tan Yi Yang at DID: 68481734. However, for specific queries relating to edits for:
 - a. Serviced Apartments II (SA2) amendments, please contact MAJ Muhammad Izwan Bin Ibrahim at 68481413, or email: Muhd_Izwan_IBRAHIM@scdf.gov.sg.
 - b. Exit width exception amendments, please contact CPT Lim Hoong Ta at 68481403, or email: LIM_Hoong_Ta@scdf.gov.sg.
 - c. ESS setback amendments, please contact CPT Amin/ CPT Adam at 68483236/ 68481425, or email: Mohammad_Amin_Isa@scdf.gov.sg/ Adam_IDRIS@scdf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully

(transmitted via email)

LTC Tan Chung Yee
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force

Distribution list

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SCDF Fire Safety Standing Committee
Fire Code Review Committee

S/N	Amendme nt Date	Effective Date	Clause Status	Clause Before Amendment	Clause After Amendment								
1	2 Mar 2026	2 Sep 2026	Relaxation/ Revised	Cl.2.2.8b. For the purpose of determining the exit capacity of a staircase that is wider than 2m that forms part of the required means of escape from any storey of the building, that part of its width in excess of 2m shall not be taken into account.	Cl.2.2.8b. For the purpose of determining the exit capacity of a staircase that is wider than 2m that forms part of the required means of escape from any storey of the building, that part of its width in excess of 2m shall not be taken into account. (1) Exception (a) For the purpose of determining the exit capacity of a staircase that is wider than 2m, that part of its width in excess of 2m and not exceeding 4m can be taken into account, provided all the following conditions are complied with: (i) For enclosed spaces used as a cinema, concert hall, auditorium or performance theatre that comply with Cl.9.7.3b.(2). (ii) The minimum number of exit staircases required shall comply with <u>Table 2.2.8b.(1)(a)</u>. <table><tr><th colspan="2">TABLE 2.2.8b.(1)(a): MINIMUM NO. OF EXIT STAIRCASES</th></tr><tr><th>No. of occupants within the enclosed space</th><th>Min no. of exit staircases</th></tr><tr><td>501 - 1000</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Exceeding 1000</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	TABLE 2.2.8b.(1)(a): MINIMUM NO. OF EXIT STAIRCASES		No. of occupants within the enclosed space	Min no. of exit staircases	501 - 1000	3	Exceeding 1000	4
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No. of occupants within the enclosed space	Min no. of exit staircases												
501 - 1000	3												
Exceeding 1000	4												

					(iii) The exit staircases serving the enclosed space shall be designed with evenly distributed exit capacities, such that the difference between the minimum and maximum staircase widths taken into account in determining the exit capacities does not exceed 1m. (iv) <i>Cl.2.3.4</i> on the requirements of scissor exit staircase shall be complied with. (v) <i>Cl.2.3.12</i> on the requirements of remoteness of exits shall be complied with. (vi) The enclosed space shall be provided with engineered smoke control system. (vii) The building shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system. (viii) The building shall be provided with one-way and two-way emergency voice communication systems.
2	2 Mar 2026	2 Sep 2026	Relaxation/ Revised	<i>Cl.8.2.1</i> One-way emergency voice communication system	<i>Cl.8.2.1</i> One-way emergency voice communication system

				One-way emergency voice communication system and an FCC shall be provided as follows: - For all large buildings under PG III (not applicable to primary school, secondary school, and junior colleges), IV, V, VI, VII and VIII with AFA greater than 5000m² or having a total occupant load exceeding 1000 persons. The calculation of AFA and occupant load shall exclude the aboveground or underground car park, or - For all buildings belonging to PG III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of more than 24m in habitable height, or - For building of mixed commercial-cum-residential usage: - where the commercial component of the building occupies only the lower portion of the building and is separated from the residential occupancies, the habitable height of the commercial component of the building exceeds 24m, or - where a commercial component of the building is located above any residential occupancies, the	One-way emergency voice communication system and an FCC shall be provided as follows: - For all large buildings under PG III (not applicable to primary school, secondary school, and junior colleges), IV, V, VI, VII and VIII with AFA greater than 5000m² or having a total occupant load exceeding 1000 persons. The calculation of AFA and occupant load shall exclude the aboveground or underground car park, or - For all buildings belonging to PG III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of more than 24m in habitable height, or For building of mixed commercial-cum-residential usage: For mixed-use buildings where the habitable height of the non-residential usage is more than 24m. where the commercial component of the building occupies only the lower portion of the building and is separated from the residential occupancies, the habitable height of the commercial component of the building exceeds 24m, or where a commercial component of the building is located above any
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				habitable height of the building exceeds 24m. d. Exception For hotel or healthcare buildings of less than 24m in habitable height, AFA not greater than 5000m² and total occupant load not exceeding 1000 persons, an ordinary public address system shall be provided. However, FCC is not required. Loudspeakers for the ordinary public address system shall be provided in every lift lobby, staircase enclosure and other strategic positions within audible distance of all parts of all storeys throughout the building.	residential occupancies, the habitable height of the building exceeds 24m. d. Exception (1) For hotel or healthcare buildings of less than 24m in habitable height, AFA not greater than 5000m² and total occupant load not exceeding 1000 persons, an ordinary public address system shall be provided. However, FCC is not required. Loudspeakers for the ordinary public address system shall be provided in every lift lobby, staircase enclosure and other strategic positions within audible distance of all parts of all storeys throughout the building. (2) For PG II mixed-use buildings where the habitable height of the non-residential usage is more than 24m, one-way emergency voice communication system and an FCC is not required for the residential component and its ancillary usage, if it is compartmented from the non-residential component. The ancillary usage of the residential component refers to its car parks, clubhouse, gym, etc., within the residential component.
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3	2 Mar 2026	2 Sep 2026	New	Nil	<i>Cl.9.7.2</i> Hotels, boarding houses, serviced apartments, hostels, backpacker hotels & capsule hotels & staff quarters a. Access through an internal corridor b. c. d. e. f. Additional requirements for capsule hotels g. Serviced Apartments II (SA2) This set of fire safety requirements shall be applicable to SA2 buildings. They shall comply with the requirements stated under <i>Cl.9.7.2a. to e.</i>, unless otherwise stipulated in the following: (1) Requirements for PWDs Requirements for PWDs as stipulated under <i>Cl.2.4</i> are not applicable provided the exit staircases and the corridors/ lobbies are naturally ventilated. The corridors/ lobbies shall comply with <i>Cl.2.3.10</i> or <i>Cl.2.2.13b.(7)</i>. (2) Travel distance The travel distances can be based on residential occupancy in accordance
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					with <u>Table 2.2A</u>, provided the exit staircases and the corridors/ lobbies are naturally ventilated in accordance with <u>Cl.9.7.2g.(1)</u>. The measurement of travel distance within the unit shall comply with <u>Cl.9.2.1a.(5)</u>. (3) Exit staircase One exit staircase is permitted to serve an aboveground SA2 floor provided: (a) the habitable height of the floor shall not exceed 15m; (b) the floor shall not be located above 3rd storey; (c) the AFA of the floor shall not exceed 200m²; (d) the occupant load of the floor shall not exceed 8 persons; (e) the exit staircase/ floor in the building shall not be of timber construction; (f) the one-way travel distance measured from the most remote point in any room or space to the exit staircase door shall not exceed 13m; and (g) automatic fire alarm system using smoke detectors are provided.
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					(4) Fire lift At least one fire lift shall be provided if the habitable height exceeds 24m. The number of fire lifts required shall be such that any part of a storey of the building is within 60m coverage from the fire lift door. (5) Fire Command Centre (FCC) Where an FCC is required, it shall be in accordance with <i>Cl.8.2.4</i>. It can be located within the security guard room provided it is within the vicinity of the fire engine accessway or fire engine access road.
4	2 Mar 2026	2 Sep 2026	Relaxation/ Revised	<i>Cl.10.3.2d</i> . Setback distance of 3m measured between the ESS installation and the fencing shall be provided. No combustible items shall be located within this 3m separation space.	<i>Cl.10.3.2d</i> . Setback distance of 3m measured between the ESS installation and the fencing shall be provided. No combustible items shall be located within this 3m separation space. Where the setback distance is reduced to at least 1m, the ESS unit shall be subjected to the fire and explosion testing specified under <i>UL 9540A</i> and together with the <i>NFPA 855</i> Hazard Mitigation Analysis report to be submitted to SCDF for approval;

5	2 Mar 2026	2 Sep 2026	New	Nil	<i>Cl.9.6.9 Valve Hall in High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Converter Station</i> The installation shall comply with all of the following: (a) Cables used shall be either fire retardant or fire resistant. In addition, cables used shall be of the low-smoke and halogen-free type. (b) Fire resistant cables shall comply with <i>SS 299</i> and fire-resistant fibre optic cable shall comply with <i>IEC 60331-25</i>. (c) Fire retardant cables shall comply with <i>IEC 60332 Parts 1 & 3</i> on tests on single and bunched cables under fire conditions. (d) Low-smoke and halogen-free cables shall comply with the following requirements: (i) <i>IEC 61034</i>. (ii) When a sample of cable is subjected to the combustion test for the determination of the amount of halogen acid gases (other than hydrofluoric acid) as set out in <i>IEC 60754 - Part 1</i>, and the amount of halogen acid evolved is less than
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					0.5%, the cable shall be regarded as halogen free. (e) Equipment shall be in accordance with <i>IEC 62757</i> and voltage rating not exceeding 525kV. (f) Coupling shall be of dry type. (g) In lieu of sprinkler, both automatic fire alarm system with aspirating smoke detectors to allow early detection in accordance with <i>SS 645</i>, and VIFDS in accordance with <i>Cl.6.3.11</i>, shall be provided. (h) Compartmentation and door rating of minimum 2-hrs and not less than the fire resistance of the elements of structure of the building where the room is located. (i) Smoke purging rate of at least 6 air changes per hour.
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