TOWARDS A USER-FRIENDLY FIRE CODE IN SINGAPORE

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ABSTRACT
The implementation of self-regulation under the current Fire Safety Act puts the fire safety design responsibility on the Qualified Persons (QPs) i.e. the architects and professional engineers who sign and submit their plan to the FSB for approval. Such changes demand greater participation and responsibility from the QP in fire safety design. However, the current fire code does not reflect such changes. It remains as a prescriptive document, which only prescribes the requirement without explaining the overall rationale. The fire code is therefore not able to guide the QP in handling the fire code at the conceptual level. Although there are publications that explain the rationale of the fire codes, submission procedures and an alternative information framework, the fire code itself needs to be re-evaluated to remain relevant in response to the implementation of self-regulation in fire safety.

This dissertation attempts to respond to the needs of self-regulation for the QP, especially the architecture profession. It provides a conceptual framework to repackage the fire code so that the code can be more user-friendly, thereby encouraging fire safety consideration in the preliminary design stage as well as providing an easy checklist for the fire safety design.

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