

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
Number 2009-011

TO : **ALL CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **CREATION OF THE FIRE CODE IMPLEMENTATION ACTION GROUP (FCIAG)**

DATE : **01 October 2009**

I. BACKGROUND

On December 19, 2008 Republic Act 9514 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008 was signed. It is an act establishing a Comprehensive Fire Code of the Philippines, repealing Presidential Decree No. 1185 and for other purposes.

The new code that shall serve as the bible of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) was pushed through with an objective not only to come up with a statute that is apposite with the change of time but also to improve the customary practices in fire safety.

An approved Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) was crafted to serve as guide in its enforcement, with which, nevertheless, has gone through same zealous process in order to ensure that all its aspects is just, humane and for the promotion of safety.

With its approval pending publication requirement, the BFP has been exerting efforts for its execution. A Mobile Training Team (MTT) that has tripped nationwide vigorously provided our men in the field with an overview of the New Fire Code. Although only sketchy interpretation was presented, stern and extensive enforcement is expected.

Along the lingering journey towards its exhaustive effecting, obstacles are so foreseen. Resistance of local government officials or other stakeholders to adhere to fire safety rules and regulations is the predominant anticipated setback to this. Thus necessitates the creation of a Fire Code Implementation Action Group (FCIAG).

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To create a group that will assist and provide legal remedies in resolving hurdles arising from the implementation of the Fire Code of the Philippines.
2. To monitor activities of BFP personnel in field units regarding fire code implementation.

III. COMPOSITION

The FCIAG will cater to issues and concerns of related to Fire Code Implementation. There shall be created FCIAG in the National Headquarters and in the Regional Offices. The compositions are as follows:

a. National Headquarters FCIAG

- Chairman - Director For Fire Safety and Prevention
- Members - Chief, Legal Affairs Services
Chief, Fire Safety Enforcement Division
Chief, Investigation and Intelligence Division
Chief, Human Resource Management Division

b. Regional FCIAG

- Chairman -Assistant Regional Director for Administration (ARDA) or
Assistant Regional Director for Operation (ARDO)
- Members - Regional Legal Officer
Chief, Regional Admin Division
Chief, Regional Fire Safety Enforcement Section
Chief, Regional Investigation and Intelligence Section

The Director for Fire Safety and Prevention was chosen as Chairman since the ratification of this new law significantly provides stern and unyielding provisions relative to prevention aspect. The members are considered accordingly; C, LAS as Vice-Chairman since implementation of the Fire Code is more of a legal matter; C, FSED on technical expertise; C, IID for the actual investigation of cases; C, HRMD for the pressures that may be brought up by some government officials to BFP personnel. And so was patterned the composition of group at the regional level.

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The FCIAG shall:

1. Act as advisory group to concerned BFP personnel in his affairs relative to Fire Code Implementation;
2. In circumstances where litigation is necessary, represent the BFP as its legal counsel by providing legal actions against resistive local chief executives; and
3. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the fire marshals and his designated fire safety enforcement officers relative to the implementation of the Fire Code and recommend appropriate action.

V. REPEALING CLAUSE

All directives, issuances, memoranda inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

VI. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

S/Rolando M Bandilla, Jr.
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CSUPT (DSC) BFP
Acting Chief