Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board ***Community Safety Directorate*** **GUIDELINE** **Hydrostatic Testing and Maintenance of Fire Hydrant Systems**			*Guideline No:* ***GL-35***
			Prepared By: MFESB Community Safety Advisory Group
			Authorised By: Director Community Safey
First Issued: *17 July 2007*	*Version No: 1* *17 July 2007*	*Reviewed:* *14 December 2010*	*Page 1 of 2*

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIRECTORATE GUIDELINE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to provide industry with the Chief Officer's opinion relating to the issue of hydrostatic testing of fire hydrant systems that do NOT incorporate fire brigade booster connections within the Metropolitan Fire District, therefore ensuring a consistent approach is adopted throughout industry when maintaining fire hydrant systems that are NOT provided with fire brigade boosters.

2. Scope

To ensure that a consistent approach is adopted throughout industry when testing and maintaining fire hydrant systems. The MFB has identified issues regarding the hydrostatic testing of new and the maintaining of existing fire mains that do not incorporate a fire brigade booster. AS 2419.1 together with AS 1851.4 require the commissioning of new and maintaining of existing fire mains however, there is no hydraulic differential between a fire main that does or does not incorporate booster connections. This guideline has been developed to advise industry of the position of the Chief Officer regarding this issue.

3. Other Considerations

Sections 1.4.17 and 10.2.2 of AS 2419.1 – 2005, confirmed that the hydrostatic test requirement does not apply to fire hydrant systems that do not incorporate fire brigade booster connections or on-site pump sets.

This is largely due to the determination that section 10.2.2 of the hydrant code references the term *"working pressure",* which is defined within the hydrant design code as being;

"Working pressure – the maximum pressure achieved within the system by the fire authority, the system pumping equipment, or both, when the most hydraulically disadvantaged hydrant/hydrants are operated."

Based on this definition and the non-provision of fire brigade booster connections and pump sets at a building, the pressure within public (reticulated) water mains can not be construed as working pressure, as the pressure available within the public water main is not achieved through the use of on-site fire brigade booster connections and pump sets.

4. Recommendations

In the current legislative environment, the Chief Officer of the MFB does not require building owners and developers to demonstrate that they have carried out hydrostatic tests of fire hydrant systems that do not contain fire brigade booster connections or on-site pump sets when assessing report and consent applications or when conducting essential safety measures audits.

5. References

Building Code of Australia 2010
Australian Standard AS 2419.1 – 2005
Australian Standard 1851.4 - 2005

***Note**: This is a controlled document and may only be modified by authorised personnel after review by the MFESB Community Safety Advisory Group*