

**Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the Gas Safety Advisory Committee (GSAC)  
Held on 16 November 2010 in the Conference Room 7102,  
7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Hong Kong**

Present

Ir. CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen, JP	Chairman
Ir. YUEN Se-kit, Patrick, BBS, MH	
Dr. CHUNG Wah-fuk, David	
Ir. CHUNG Chi-leong, Colin	
Ir. WONG Lam-sang, Peter	
Mr. KOT Man-tai	
Ms. WONG Shuk-kiu, Kathy	
Ms. YU Ching-man, Anne	
Mrs. POON YAM Wai-chun, Winnie, MH	
Mr. WU Chi-wai, MH	
Ir. CHU Wan-fung, Ryan	Secretary

In Attendance

Ir. CHAN Cheong-ping	EMSD
Ir. HO Hon-ying, Lewis	EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Dr. LAM Po-hing, Michael

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01/10 The Chairman welcomed Members to the 31st meeting.

02/10 Confirmation of Minutes of the 30th Meeting held on 18 May 2010

The minutes of the 30th Meeting held on 18 May 2010 were confirmed without amendment.

03/10 Matters Arising

(a) Safety Publicity

(Minute reference 16/09 (a) refers.)

- (i) Members were updated on the progress of gas safety publicity work as follows:

Target group: General public

- Distribution of E&M safety leaflets to the property management companies and incorporated owners of buildings to promote "Regular Inspections and Maintenance of Service Risers and Installation Pipes".
- Gas safety promotion and distribution of E&M safety leaflets in respect of LPG installations were carried out during scheduled visits to squatter areas / villages.
- Broadcast of TV API on "Safe Use of Cylinder LPG and 18 monthly Regular Safety Inspections".
- "Safety Tips to Gas Users" in the form of "Do's" and "Don'ts" for promoting proper and safe use of cassette type LPG cookers was updated in EMSD website.
- EMSD participated in a seminar organized by Wan Chai District Council on 19 July 2010 to promote gas safety through proper maintenance of gas risers and pipes in domestic buildings.
- EMSD participated in a seminar organised by Wong Tai Sin District Council on 26 August 2010 to promote safe use of gas appliances.
- TV API on "Safe Use of Approved Domestic Gas Water Heaters" was launched on 8 November 2010.
- "E&M Safety Carnival 2010" had been successfully held on 13 & 14 November 2010 in Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.
- EMSD would participate in a seminar organized by Sai Kung District Council on 1 December 2010 to promote general household gas safety.
- EMSD would participate in the "Fire prevention Carnival" organized by Tsuen Wan District Council on 11 December 2010 to promote gas safety.

Target group: Commercial gas catering installation owners

- The "Guidance Note GU16 - Safe Use of Medium Pressure Appliances" had been uploaded to EMSD website in June 2010.
- EMSD participated in seminars organised by the Food and

Environmental Hygiene Department on 7 June 2010, 23 August 2010 and 6 October 2010 to promote gas safety in commercial gas catering installations.

Target group: Other government departments and private sectors

- On 25 May 2010 and 22 July 2010, 2 seminars on LPG vehicle maintenance were organized for government and private engineering organizations.
- From January to November 2010, 22 seminars on “Avoiding Danger from Underground Gas Pipes” were organized for public utilities and private roadwork contractors.

- (ii) Ir. Patrick YUEN commended EMSD’s efforts in organising a successful E&M Safety Carnival this year, as public education and publicity on gas safety were always key to enhance the gas safety awareness of the public.
- (iii) Mr. C.W. WU asked whether there was any gas safety publicity material for foreign domestic helpers. EMSD replied that some of the leaflets such as “General Household Gas Safety” were published in Philippine and Indonesian languages.
- (iv) Dr. David CHUNG suggested to promote gas safety for foreign domestic helpers through respective employment service companies in Hong Kong.
- (v) In response to Mr. C.W. WU and Dr. David CHUNG’s suggestions, EMSD would put more effort to promote gas safety awareness among foreign domestic helpers.

**(b) LPG Vehicle Fuel Tank 5-Year Revalidation**

(Minute reference 16/09(b) refers.)

- (i) Members were informed that about 700 LPG vehicle fuel tanks in the last 2 months of 2010, 9,000 tanks in 2011 and 2,800 tanks in 2012 would require revalidation.
- (ii) EMSD advised that the following measures were taken to remind LPG vehicle owners to arrange for fuel tank revalidation:

- Issuing reminder letters to the LPG vehicle owners 3 months before the expiry date.
  - Promulgating the “Guideline on LPG vehicle fuel tank revalidation”.
  - Monitoring the progress of LPG vehicle fuel tank revalidation on a weekly basis.
  - Uploading a register on EMSD website showing the service providers for fuel tank revalidation.
- (iii) In response to Ms. Anne YU's enquiry, EMSD mentioned that the site for fuel tank revalidation would normally be under a Short Term Tenancy for about 2 years.

**(c) Code of Practice for LPG Distributors**

(Minute reference 16/09(d) refers.)

- (i) EMSD informed that two working group meetings with the LPG supply trade were held on 23 July 2010 and 20 October 2010 respectively to discuss the proposed revision of Code of Practice (COP) for cylinder LPG Distributors, including (1) implementing a new requirement of providing regular safety inspections of cylinder LPG installations by approved distributors; and (2) implementing a new “Safety Service Recognition Scheme” as a recognition to the distributors for their good practice.
- (ii) At the working group meeting held on 20 October 2010, EMSD and the cylinder LPG supply companies agreed to revise the Code of Practice (COP) for Cylinder LPG Distributors with the following 3 guiding principles:
- All new applicants for approved distributors should possess the qualification of a Registered Gas Contractor (RGC).
  - For those existing approved distributors who were incapable to become RGCs, they might appoint a RGC for providing regular safety inspections of cylinder LPG installations for their customers subject to prior agreement with EMSD and Registered Gas Supply Companies (RGSCs).
  - For those existing cylinder LPG distributors with RGC qualification

but could not employ a Registered Gas Installer (RGI) to carry out gas installation work for the interim, they might appoint another RGC to provide regular safety inspections of cylinder LPG installations for their customers until a RGI could be employed. However, it should be noted that both the distributor and the RGC so appointed should take up the responsibility of inspecting and ensuring the regular safety inspection for their customers.

(iii) EMSD and the RGSCs would further discuss the implementation details of "Safety Service Recognition Scheme". It was anticipated to put the finalized scheme into trial implementation in 2011.

(iv) A representative from LPG distributor trade expressed concern about the requirement that new applicants for cylinder LPG distributors should be RGCs. He considered that it was not necessary to add this new requirement because the existing practice was sufficient to ensure gas safety. After thorough discussion, it was concluded that the proposed requirement for new applicants to become RGCs was supported for the purpose of enhancing gas safety in Hong Kong.

**(d) Incident, Prosecution and Routine Inspection Statistics for 2008, 2009 and 2010 (January to October)**

(Minute reference 16/09(f) refers.)

(i) EMSD briefed Members the following :

- There were 5,289 inspections in 2008, 5,089 inspections in 2009 and 4,674 inspections from January to October 2010.
- There were 369 incidents in 2008, 259 incidents in 2009 and 169 incidents from January to October 2010, indicating a downward trend in various types of gas incidents.
- There were 89 prosecution cases in 2008, 63 cases in 2009 and 31 cases (of which 7 cases were pending for hearing) from January to October 2010.

(ii) Mrs. Winnie POON enquired whether there might be a downward trend

in the number of inspections conducted per year. EMSD replied that the yearly total number of inspections in 2010 would remain about the same as those in the previous years. EMSD added that apart from conducting routine inspections, resources were allocated for promoting gas safety.

**(e) Report on LPG vehicle Stalling Incident**

(Minute reference 17/09 refers.)

- (i) On 16 March 2010 and 1 September 2010, EMSD released the investigation report regarding the LPG vehicle stalling incident and the LPG vehicle testing scheme respectively.
- (ii) EMSD briefed Members on the implementation of the recommendations given in the investigation report of LPG vehicle stalling incident.
- (iii) Dr. David CHUNG asked whether the LPG vehicle stalling was due to the design of the LPG vehicles. EMSD replied that there was no evidence to suggest LPG vehicle stalling was related to vehicle design.
- (iv) Mrs. Winnie POON enquired if there was any specific requirement on maintaining the LPG vehicle. EMSD replied that a leaflet highlighting the maintenance schedule and requirements for LPG vehicles had been distributed to the LPG vehicle owners and drivers for easy reference.

**04/10 E&M Safety Carnival**

- (i) EMSD briefed Members that E&M Safety Carnival 2010 was successfully held on 13 & 14 November 2010 at Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T. There was a record number of participants of 18,468. Besides, some photos and video clips showing the carnival and feedback from the participants were presented to Members.
- (ii) The Chairman thanked for the support and participation of Members as well as the 15 participating organizations, without which the Safety Carnival 2010 could not have been made so successfully.

**05/10 Any Other Business**

No other business was raised.

**06/10**      **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be advised later.

RWFC/Secretary, GSAC  
December 2010