

**Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Gas Safety Advisory Committee  
(GSAC)**

**Held on 21 April 2008 in the Conference Room 7102,  
7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. HO Kwong-wai, JP	Chairman
Dr. CHUNG Wah-fuk, David	
Mr. KWAN Yuk-choi, James, JP	
Mr. LUN Chi-leung, Kenneth	
Mrs. POON YAM Wai-chun, Winnie, MH	
Ms. WONG Shuk-kiu, Kathy	
Ms. WU I-ying, Peggy	
Mr. YUEN Se-kit, Patrick, BBS, MH	
Mr. WEI Chiu-fan	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr. CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen	EMSD
Mr. CHEUNG Ping –kuen, Michael	EMSD
Mr. HO Hon-ying, Lewis	EMSD
Mr. WONG Sek-cheung	EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. KOT Man-tai  
Dr. LAM Po-hing, Michael  
Mrs. Eli WOO LI

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01/08 The Chairman welcomed Members to the 26th meeting. He introduced Mr. CHEUNG Ping-kuen, who replaced Mr. F. CHAN as Assistant Director/Gas & General Legislation of the EMSD.

02/08 Apology for Absence

Mr. KOT Man-tai, Dr. LAM Po-hing, Michael and Mrs. Eli WOO LI sent in their apologies for not being able to attend the Meeting.

03/08      Confirmation of Minutes of the 25th Meeting held on 6 November 2007

Without further amendments, the minutes of the 25th Meeting held on 6 November 2007 were confirmed.

04/08      Matters Arising

(a)      **Safety Publicity**

(Minute reference 11/07 (a) refers)

(i)      Apart from routine work such as quarterly trade briefings, publication of the Gas Safety Bulletin, seasonal focused safety publicity and update of safety information and notices on the EMSD web site, Members were updated on the following planned gas safety publicity work in 2008/09:

- Distribution of leaflets and broadcast of the TV API to promote the need for avoiding damage to concealed gas pipes and electric conduits.
- Distribution of leaflets to promote the need for regular safety inspection of gas risers and domestic gas appliances.
- Distribution of leaflets to cross-border travellers as well as residents in the North District to promote the use of approved gas appliances.
- Organization of the "E&M Safety Carnival 2008" in November.

(b)      **Parking Sites for LPG Cylinder Wagons**

(Minute reference 11/07(b) refers)

(i)      Members were briefed on the provision of parking facilities for LPG cylinder wagons in the Kwai Tsing District and the Tuen Mun District; the site at Kwai Chung being a dedicated site for LPG cylinder wagons.

(ii)      Mr. James KWAN asked about the progress of developing a suitable dedicated cylinder wagon parking site in Hong Kong East. EMSD

informed Members that during pre-tendering, no operator was interested in making a submission.

- (iii) EMSD reported that surveillance inspections of cylinder wagon parking were conducted regularly. Within the last 12 months, no gas incidents involving cylinder wagons were recorded. Within the past 9 months, about 20 informed cases on improper cylinder wagon parking were received, and there was one confirmed case of contravention.

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

(Minute reference 11/07(c) refers)

- (i) Members were informed that more than 16,700 LPG vehicle fuel tanks had been revalidated since 2003. Up to now, there remained about 2,600 tanks (for taxis and public light buses) to be revalidated in this 5-year cycle until end 2009. To ensure continued timely revalidation of the tanks, EMSD promoted the safety requirements to the trade through new leaflets and posters, and issued reminder letters to vehicle owners 3 months before the due date.
- (ii) The Chairman noted that the smooth implementation of the scheme had been attributed to the collaborative efforts of the industry and government.

**(d) Domestic Refrigerators Using LPG as Refrigerant**

(Minute reference 12/07(c) refers)

- (i) Members were briefed on the progress of drafting a set of guidance notes on safe use of LPG fridge. A working group had been formed with representatives from EMSD, refrigerator importers and the Vocational Training Council to draft the guidance notes. The target was to complete the drafting work within 2008. The guidance notes would cover the aspects of appliance safety requirements (including labelling and identification, and users' instructions), maintenance workshop safety requirements, training of maintenance personnel and safety measures related to appliance disposal.

(e) Code of Practice for LPG Distributors

(Minute reference 11/07(d) refers)

- (i) Members were invited to comment on the GSAC Paper no. 01/2008 regarding the LPG Cylinder Distributor Service Level Recognition Scheme.
- (ii) Ms. Peggy WU wished to maintain the scheme as simple as possible, and opined that the service levels should be based on benefits to consumers. She also advocated that there should be a direct correlation between service level (such as the percentage access of regular safety inspections (RSI)) and safety level, and that distributors being recognized as of the highest class should provide a safe service at a truly high service level. EMSD agreed to further work with the industry and the trade in the light of Ms. Wu's comments.
- (iii) Mr. James KWAN advised that the Hong Kong and China Gas Co. Ltd. during each RSI cycle aimed at approaching 100% of residential customers but could only gain access to a lower percentage as many households were not available. He suggested that another indicator of a gas distributor's service level would be the number of customers' appreciation and complaints. EMSD would further work with the industry and the trade in the light of Mr. Kwan's comments.
- (iv) Mr. Kenneth LUN asked if a similar recognition scheme would be devised for operators of piped LPG. He also asked if speeding of cylinder wagons would be included in the offences leading to downgrading or exclusion in the recognition scheme. EMSD replied that there was no plan to introduce similar scheme for piped LPG operators. Since most distributors did not own the cylinder wagons, EMSD replied that it would not be practicable to incorporate speeding as a kind of degrading or exclusion means in the scheme.
- (v) Mr. Patrick YUEN asked if appeal cases under the recognition scheme would be handled by an appeal board formed under the Gas Safety Ordinance. EMSD advised that appeal cases, if any, would be considered at the quarterly liaison meeting among EMSD, LPG supply companies and trade associations.

- (vi) Ms. Peggy WU considered that independent audits of all distributors by EMSD within a number of years, separate from the audits carried out by the LPG supply companies, would be important. EMSD replied that quality assurance audits would be conducted by GasSO every year covering not less than 10% of distributors (randomly selected) and at least 2 distributors for each LPG supply company.
- (vii) Dr. David CHUNG asked about the procedure for EMSD to initiate adjustment of the recognition level of a distributor. EMSD advised that such cases would be discussed and finalised at the quarterly liaison meeting with the industry and the trade.
- (viii) After some discussions, Members endorsed the outline of the recognition scheme.

05/08

New Item

(a) Addition of Caution Marking on Flexible Gas Tubing

- (i) EMSD briefed Members that, from time to time, cases of people using rubber hose exceeding 2 meters in length were found. In the light of gas safety, EMSD proposed and importers agreed to imprint a caution marking in Chinese "Not to exceed 2m" on the hose similar to the approval marking as a reminder to the users and installers. The caution marking would appear on tubing of future new batches to be imported into Hong Kong.
- (ii) Mr. Patrick YUEN asked if the restriction of flexible gas tubing length to 2 meters applied to applications at construction sites, and if survey of usage in the field has been conducted. EMSD advised that the practical field situation had been taken into account and the restriction was necessary from a gas safety point of view.
- (iii) Ms. Kathy WONG suggested incorporating the caution wording as part of the approval marking. EMSD would consult the industry accordingly.

06/08      Any Other Business

(a)      Feasibility Study on Introducing Natural Gas/Liquefied Petroleum Gas Buses and Heavy Duty Vehicles in Hong Kong

EMSD advised Members that a consultant had been engaged to conduct a feasibility study on introducing natural gas/LPG vehicles in Hong Kong. The vehicles under study included buses, medium goods vehicles (5.5 to 24 tonnes) and heavy goods vehicles (above 24 tonnes). The study covered the supply of fuels, the availability of suitable vehicle models, the infrastructural requirements and the associated risks, and the environmental benefits of using these vehicles. The study would be completed in mid 2008. A presentation of the findings would be given in the next meeting.

07/08      Date of Next Meeting

Members would be informed regarding the date of the next meeting in due course.

EMSD  
June 2008