

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0737)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2018-19, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will continue to implement the voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, and conduct studies on the expansion of the scope to cover more appliances. Would the Government advise on the effectiveness of the scheme, the proposed expansion of the scope and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 12)

Reply:

To raise consumers' awareness of energy-efficient products, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has implemented the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (VEELS) since 1995. VEELS aims to promote energy saving by informing consumers of the energy efficiency performance of relevant products, and encourage suppliers to offer consumers more energy-efficient products. It currently has a broad coverage, including 22 types of commonly used household appliances, gas appliances and office equipment.

In 2018-19, we will continue to implement VEELS, explore how the scheme may be expanded, and review its coverage (e.g. considering inclusion of new technology products) taking into account such factors as overseas practices, latest test standards, testing laboratories and energy consumption of products. We aim to attract more suppliers to participate in the scheme and include more energy-efficient products. In addition, the implementation of VEELS can help us identify products with high energy saving potential from our practical experience for consideration for inclusion in the Mandatory Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS). The workload will be absorbed by existing manpower of the EMSD.

We will continue to review VEELS and step up publicity and public education activities to encourage more suppliers to participate in the scheme and enhance consumers' awareness of the scheme.