

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1439)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. To prevent electrical incidents and ensure public safety, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been promoting the importance of periodic testing of electrical installations. Generally, fixed electrical installations with an approved loading exceeding 100A in general residential or commercial premises shall be inspected, tested and certified at least once every five years. Considering that there are numerous commercial buildings in Hong Kong, it is expected that the number of tests conducted and certificates processed would increase in time. However, the number of periodic testing certificates processed by the EMSD has been decreasing in the past few years and is expected to further decrease to 10 000 in 2021-22. What are the reasons? Has the EMSD compiled any statistics on the general residential or commercial premises for which five-yearly inspection has not been conducted, and their percentage to all premises of such types?
2. The actual number of prosecutions / disciplinary actions conducted in 2020-21 is 427. Among them, how many cases were instituted due to failure to carry out five-yearly inspection on electrical installations? Does the EMSD consider that it is necessary to strengthen enforcement and prosecution? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. Pursuant to the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (Cap. 406E), owners of electrical installations shall arrange periodic inspection, testing and certification for their electrical installations. Fixed electrical installations with approved loading exceeding 100A in general residential or commercial premises shall be inspected, tested and certified at least once every five years. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) anticipates that about 10 000 endorsement applications for periodic testing certificates of electrical installations will be processed in 2021-22. The figure is at a

level comparable to the actual average number of cases processed in the past five years. At present, about 90% of the fixed electrical installations that are required to undergo periodic inspection and testing have been issued with valid periodic testing certificates, while about 10% of the fixed electrical installations are still undergoing inspection and testing or requiring such arrangement on expiry of their inspection cycles. The EMSD will review every case in which periodic inspection and testing for fixed electrical installations are not completed as the inspection cycle requires, carry out corresponding follow-up action and consider instituting prosecution against the concerned electrical installation owners.

2. In 2020-21, there was a total of 252 prosecution cases involving the failure to complete periodic inspection and testing for fixed electrical installations, which was similar to the number of prosecution cases of the same category in 2019-20. The EMSD will continue with the enforcement and prosecution work, closely monitor the contravention cases and take appropriate enforcement actions. Various channels such as TV announcement of public interest are also employed to reinforce the importance of five-yearly inspection among the public to ensure electrical safety.

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