

**Minutes of the 55th Meeting of
the Gas Safety Advisory Committee (GSAC)**

Date: 29 June 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room 7102, 7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Hong Kong

Present

Ir PANG Yiu-hung, JP	Chairman
Ir CHAN Hing-lung, Charles	
Mr CHOY Chi-tung	
Ir LEE Ho-leung	
Ms LEE Man-ying, Joyce	
Ms LEE Sui-chi	
Mr LI Tsz-shu, James	
Mr WAN Chee-keung	
Ir TSUI Yu-kwok, Samuel	Secretary

In Attendance

Ir POON Kwok-ying, Raymond, JP	EMSD
Ir CHOW Hau-keung, Vincent, JP	EMSD
Ir LEUNG Yiu-hong	EMSD
Ir WONG Lui, Eric	EMSD
Ir YU Siu-pui, Raymond	EMSD
Ir LI Siu-ying	EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Prof CHAO Yu-hang, Christopher
Ms HUE Yi-yan, Renee
Ms KWAN Yuen-tung, Yvonne

09/23 The Chairman welcomed members to the 55th GSAC Meeting. The Secretary briefed members on the reporting mechanism for declaration of interest and reminded members to declare interest in anticipation of potential conflict.

10/23 **Confirmation of Minutes of the 54th Meeting**

The minutes of the 54th Meeting held on 10 January 2023 were confirmed without amendment.

11/23 **Publicity Work on Gas Safety**

(Minutes reference 03/23 referred.)

- (i) EMSD reported the publicity activities on gas safety conducted during the period from January to June 2023.
- (ii) EMSD continued to promote gas safety through social media. Apart from reaching more audiences, the content could also be updated promptly to keep up with the latest issues and concerns of the public.
- (iii) EMSD also stepped up face-to-face publicity work for different communities and stakeholders. For different communities, EMSD staff had visited more than 150 kindergartens and taught children about gas safety in a lively manner through puppet theatres and the EMSD mascot “Witty Bear”. The activities were well received by the schools. In addition, EMSD collaborated with organisations providing services for foreign domestic helpers and ethnic minorities to hold gas safety talks and outreach. Regarding stakeholders, EMSD conducted visits and safety talks to construction sites, village houses, property management companies, LPG cylinder distributors, licensed food premises and registered gas supply companies.
- (iv) The Gas Standards Office of EMSD was invited to the TV programme “Hong Kong United” of Radio Television Hong Kong on 7 April 2023. In the programme, EMSD promoted the importance of regular safety inspections (RSIs) on gas installations to the public and introduced the use of an innovative technology “laser methane gun” for checking outdoor gas pipes during inspections under the theme of 氣體裝置需「驗身」• 確保安全要 check 真.
- (v) EMSD had conducted presentations to disseminate the gas safety statutory requirements for catering premises in three seminars together with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Buildings Department, the Fire Services Department, the Labour Department and

the Environmental Protection Department.

- (vi) EMSD had conducted a territory-wide gas safety publicity programme cum survey on gas utilisation in licensed food premises. Based on the findings of the survey, 653 food premises had been accorded priority for conducting "Quick Checks". The "Quick Checks" and all improvement measures had been completed by the respective gas supply companies.
- (vii) EMSD published a guidance note on "LPG Supply Installations for New Village Houses" in April 2023 to provide reference for persons and contractors preparing to build new village houses. At the same time, EMSD stepped up publicity for new village houses to promote the centralised LPG supply system to relevant persons and existing village house residents through outreach visits.
- (viii) EMSD conducted a comprehensive review of the "Code of Practice for Hong Kong LPG Industry, Module 1 – LPG Compounds and Cylinder Stores" with the trade in 2022 for further enhancing gas safety. After fully considering the experience and opinions provided by various stakeholders during the consultation period, the new version of the Code had been completed and came into effect in May 2023.
- (ix) EMSD produced a set of "Basic Training Material for Distributor of Cylinder LPG" for distributors to use as teaching content for induction and continuing training of their employees. The standardised basic training would help enhance their employees' awareness of gas safety and understanding of gas safety regulations.

12/23

Routine Inspection, Incident and Prosecution Statistics

(Minutes reference 04/23 referred.)

- (i) EMSD briefed members on the inspection, incident and prosecution statistics during the period from January to May 2023.
- (ii) The routine inspections during the period from January to May 2023 were adjusted in accordance with the overall operational arrangements and therefore the number of inspections had decreased compared with the same period last year. According to the arrangements, inspection

work in the second half of the year would be strengthened to ensure that the number of inspections could reach the annual target, and be comparable to that of last year.

- (iii) The number of gas incidents during the period from January to May 2023 had decreased significantly as compared with the proportional number of incidents for the last year. Since the epidemic eased, registered gas supply companies had fully resumed RSIs. The Hong Kong and China Gas Co., Ltd. also completed their RSIs, which were suspended last year due to the epidemic, in the first quarter of 2023 as planned to identify and rectify the gas pipe leakage issues at an early stage. It was believed that minor gas leakage incidents had thus been effectively prevented.
- (iv) EMSD reported that the number of prosecution cases during the period from January to May 2023 was lower than that of the same period last year because some cases were still being scheduled to be processed by the courts. A member inquired about the definition of the number of prosecution cases in the statistics. EMSD responded that the figures referred to the number of cases in which prosecution was successfully concluded during the period, but not the cases being processed.

13/23 Progress of New Initiatives for Registered Gas Installers (RGIs)

- (i) EMSD reported the progress of replacement of RGI cards. Since June 2022, EMSD had issued more than 1 700 new registration cards. An overwhelming response on the application was received. During the period from January to June 2023, EMSD continued to liaise with the gas trade (including registered gas supply companies, major registered gas contractors, trade associations, etc.) and dispatched staff to teach RGIs how to use EMSD's mobile application "E&M Trade App" when conducting joint activities or audit work. Once the RGIs inputted their identity information to the app, their Digital E&M Licences could be shown on their mobile devices.
- (ii) The voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for RGIs (CPD Scheme) was officially launched in January 2023. EMSD and the gas trade had organised more than 16 sessions of training courses

under Module 1 and Module 2, which covered the statutory requirements, case sharing and technical knowledge.

- (iii) In order to encourage more RGIs to participate in the CPD Scheme, EMSD was organizing the first "Registered Gas Installers Awards Scheme" (RGI Awards Scheme) from July to August 2023, which would be organised together with the Pro-Act of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong & China Gas Co. Ltd Chinese Employees Association, and the Hong Kong Gas and Fuel Practitioners Association. The prize presentation would be held in the "Gas Trade cum I&T Forum" in September 2023. Members expressed their support for holding the first RGI Awards Scheme and believed that it could recognize outstanding RGIs, set examples for the trade, and also enhance the safety awareness and technical standards of RGIs. The Chairman invited members from the gas trade to encourage RGIs to participate in the RGI Awards Scheme.

14/23 Promoting the Innovation and Technology (I&T) Development in the Gas Trade

- (i) EMSD had been encouraging colleagues to apply I&T in improving work efficiency on daily work. EMSD briefed members on 3 I&T applications adopted by the Gas Standards Office of EMSD, including the two projects: Gas Pipe Health AI Prediction Model and LPG Tank Inspection & Data Analysis with Intelligent Tanker Robot. These two projects won the Bronze Award and Silver Award cum South Korea Fire Services Association Special Award respectively in the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva held in April 2023. In addition, EMSD introduced to members on how to use the laser methane gun to remotely carry out leakage detection for external town gas risers.
- (ii) EMSD also promoted I&T development in the gas trade and presented some applications including the use of artificial intelligence in monitoring underground gas pipes, emergency control system for gas leakage at LPG compound, riser health analytics system and application of smart gas meters.
- (iii) In order to strengthen the collaboration with the trade on I&T development, EMSD introduced to members the "Gas Trade cum I&T

Forum” to be held on 27 September 2023. The forum was one of the major events of the 75th Anniversary of EMSD. The forum was supported by the gas trade, including registered gas supply companies, registered gas contractors, the Vocational Training Council and relevant trade associations. Ir Edmund LEUNG, past chairman of Energy Advisory Committee and Ir Duncan WONG, past president of the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers were invited to be officiating guests. Various stakeholders in the gas trade would exchange and share their experience and achievement on the I&T applications in the forum.

15/23 Hong Kong Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal

- (i) EMSD briefed members on background, objectives, progress and scope of the offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal project in Hong Kong, as well as the role of EMSD in this project. EMSD pointed out that upon operation of the terminal, Hong Kong could diversify the supply of LNG from the international LNG market with competitive price.

- (ii) EMSD further introduced to members on the LNG unloading sequence and the major facilities including jetty with mooring facilities for the Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) vessel and LNG carriers, marine loading arms and other jetty facilities. EMSD pointed out that there were numerous offshore LNG terminals worldwide installed with mature technology. The design of Hong Kong’s offshore LNG terminal could also meet the relevant international safety standards.

16/23 Date of Next Meeting

The current two-year term of the Committee would expire on 31 August 2023. EMSD thanked all members for their contributions in the past. The date of the next GSAC meeting would be notified to members of the new term once available.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Secretary, GSAC
August 2023