



Regular Gas Safety Checks for Central LPG Installations



Tips on Safe Use of Amusement Rides

Safe Use of Electric Water Heaters

Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme Phase Two

on **Washing Machines** and **Dehumidifiers** Fully Implemented

Editor's Notes

Dear readers,

This issue of the E&M Safety Newsletter features the topics of "Regular Gas Safety Checks for Central Liquefied Petroleum Gas Installations", "Safe Use of Electric Water Heaters and Power Suspension Arrangement for Electrical Work", as well as the "Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Electrical Workers" which will be launched on 1 January 2012. Furthermore, we also focus on the safe use of amusement rides and escalators, and give an update on the second phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme covering washing machines and dehumidifiers. The Christmas season is here again. We'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a joyous and safe holiday.



Regular Gas Safety Checks for Central LPG Installations



Why conduct regular gas safety checks?

The main purpose of regular gas safety checks ("regular checks") is to ensure that domestic gas installations do not pose safety hazards to households and their neighbours. Regular checks ensure that the gas installations of households are operating safely. Regardless of whether the gas installations use town gas or LPG, the scope of the regular checks will cover the gas piping, flexible gas tubing, cooking appliances, water heaters, etc. Registered LPG supply companies should conduct regular checks once every 18 months for domestic users to whom central liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is supplied.

How are regular checks arranged?

Before carrying out a regular check, the LPG supply company or its registered gas contractor should inform the households in writing about the time of their visit to carry out the regular check, and display a prior notice about their visit prominently in the building lobby. If a householder has views or queries about the time of the regular check, he or she should take the initiative to contact the LPG supply company or registered gas contractor to arrange a more convenient time for the regular check.

All gas installers conducting the regular check should





produce identification documents issued by the LPG supply company or the registered gas contractor. If a householder has queries about the identity of the gas installer, he or she should consult the property management company or LPG supply company.

What does the regular check cover?

The purpose of regular checks is to ensure that domestic LPG installations do not pose safety hazards to households and their neighbours. To this end, the regular check will mainly cover:

- 1) Check whether there is leakage from the LPG piping on the domestic premises;
- 2) Check whether the pressure of the domestic piping is normal

- and the LPG pressure regulator is working properly;
- 3) Check whether the low pressure flexible gas tubing connecting the LPG piping and the gas appliances bears the approval mark, and check also the service life of the flexible gas tubing;
- 4) Check whether the gas appliances, e.g. cooking stove or water heater, installed on the domestic premises are operating properly and are affixed with the logo approved by EMSD's Gas Authority, (i.e. the "GU" mark); whether the exhaust (e.g. carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide) produced by the gas appliances during combustion can be ventilated outdoors properly to ensure that the user is not exposed to the risk of asphyxia due to lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide intoxication;
- 5) Check whether the LPG installations on the domestic premises are equipped with valves or flexible gas tubings with excess flow protection for the prevention of explosion or other dangerous incidents resulting from excessive release of LPG, in case the flexible gas tubing is cut off by accident;
- 6) Check the condition of the outdoor LPG piping, etc.

After carrying out the regular check, the registered gas contractor will provide the user with the relevant work record, including details of the regular check and the name and registration number of the gas installer, for future reference. The user should keep the relevant work record for arranging the next regular check and for protecting his or her rights.

What households should note

The purpose of regular check is to ensure the safety of domestic gas installations. To this end, every safety check programme will involve tens of thousands of LPG users, and the entire programme will take some time to complete. As such, we hope that all households will give their full cooperation by arranging for a safety check within the scheduled time as soon as possible, so that the entire programme may be completed smoothly.

In order to ensure that all gas installations of the households in Hong Kong operate safely, EMSD has requested the relevant gas supply companies to provide data of their regular checks. If a household is found to have repeatedly refused to carry out regular checks or has not carried out regular checks for a prolonged period, EMSD will ask the gas supply company to refer the case to EMSD for follow-up. EMSD will then contact and explain to the household in question the importance of having regular checks, and request that household to proactively contact the gas supply company or its registered gas contractor to arrange for a regular check as soon as possible.



Tips on Safe Use of **Amusement Rides**

We have shared with you important safety knowledge about amusement rides in the last five issues of this newsletter. Here are the main points again to help you recall and remember:

When choosing an amusement ride, you should:

- 🚫 Clearly understand the safety instructions
- 🚫 Observe the height and age restrictions
- 🚫 Do not force yourself to take a ride which your physical conditions cannot handle
- 🚫 Do not force others to take the ride with you

Before getting on an amusement ride, you should:

- 🚫 Pay attention to your clothing and personal belongings
- 🚫 Be careful when boarding and alighting from the ride

When taking the amusement ride, you should:

- 🚫 Obey instructions from the ride operator
- 🚫 Hold the handrail tightly
- 🚫 Do not stand up, reach your hands out or climb out of the amusement ride
- 🚫 Do not overload the amusement ride
- 🚫 Children must be accompanied by adults when taking amusement rides
- 🚫 Do not shake the ride or enter the fenced area while waiting for the ride to start

Bear in mind these safety tips, and have a fun ride!

How to Use Escalators Safely

Points to note:



Lift your feet when stepping on and off the escalator. Stand steadily after stepping on the escalator to avoid losing your balance and falling over.



Hold the handrail tightly when riding on an escalator. Stand steadily within the yellow lines. Do not play or walk on the escalator to avoid accidents.



Keep your feet away from the sides and do not touch the brush bristles of the skirt guard to avoid getting your feet caught in the gap between the steps or the gap between the skirt guard and the step.



Do not go in the opposite direction of the escalator, or climb on the handrail of the escalator.



Take care of children and the elderly by holding their hand tightly to avoid accidents.

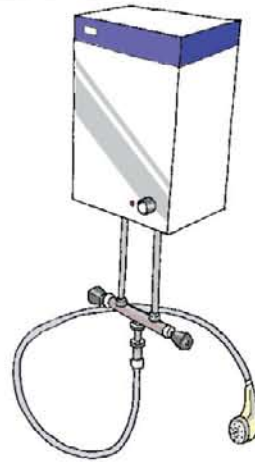


Passengers with mobility disabilities or carrying bulky items should use the lift.

Safe Use of Electric Water Heaters



- ☉ The three types of commonly used household electric water heaters are instantaneous electric water heaters, shower type (also known as low-pressure storage type or open type) electric water heaters and unvented thermal storage type (also known as high-pressure storage type) electric water heaters.
- ☉ Carefully read and understand the instructions in the user's manual, and keep the manual for future reference.
- ☉ The installation and alteration of electric water heaters must be carried out by registered electrical contractors and licensed plumbers. Do not carry out the installation or alteration yourself.
- ☉ The water outlet of a shower type electric water heater must remain unblocked. Under normal operation, a small amount of steam/hot water may come out from the showerhead. Do not install an on/off control valve at the water outlet or connect the outlet to a basin or bath tub to avoid blocking the water outlet which may result in the building up of excessive high pressure inside the tank and cause an accident.
- ☉ The water storage tank of an unvented thermal storage type electric water heater may withstand a certain degree of high pressure. An electric water heater of this type must be fitted with a temperature and pressure relief valve in addition to a thermostat and a thermal cutout.
- ☉ If any abnormality is observed, switch off the electric water heater immediately and arrange for an experienced technician to inspect it.
- ☉ Switch off the electric water heater after use.
- ☉ Arrange for qualified persons to inspect and maintain the electric water heater regularly.



shower type
electric water heater



unvented thermal
storage type electric
water heater

Power Suspension Arrangement for 5-yearly Inspections of **Electrical Installations in Buildings**

In engaging registered electrical contractors to carry out 5-yearly inspection for the main switchboard in a building, building owners, incorporated owners or property management companies should require the contractors to apply for temporary disconnection of electricity supply with the power company before carrying out the inspection. This is to ensure the safety of the electrical workers concerned and avoid disruption of power supply to the building in case of an electrical accident. Since the temporary disconnection of electricity supply may cause inconvenience to tenants, building owners, incorporated owners or property management companies should, when arranging the 5-yearly inspection, work closely with the contractor to come up with a power suspension arrangement and provisional measures that suit the operational needs of the building, so as to minimise the impact of inspection and testing on building users.

Furthermore, in submitting the periodic test certificate (WR2) of the main switchboard for endorsement on or after 1 December 2011, the power company's receipt for temporary disconnection of electricity supply should also be submitted for EMSD's vetting. For enquiries please contact EMSD at 1823.

CPD Scheme for REWs Begins on 1 January 2012

To enhance the standard of Registered Electrical Workers (REWs), the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme for REWs will be included as a requirement for the renewal of registration starting 1 January 2012. Under the CPD Scheme, all REWs are required to have completed two modules of training, including Module 1 in legislative and safety requirements and Module 2 in technical knowledge, before submitting their renewal application.

For details of the CPD Scheme, please visit the EMSD website at www.emsd.gov.hk

(Protecting Public Safety → Electricity → CPW Scheme for REW)

Mandatory

Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme

Phase Two



on Washing Machines and Dehumidifiers Fully Implemented

To further facilitate the public in choosing energy efficient products and to raise public awareness of energy conservation, the Government has launched the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) under the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598). The initial phase of MEELS, which is already in full implementation, covers air conditioners, refrigerating appliances and compact fluorescent lamps. The second phase of MEELS extends the coverage to washing machines and dehumidifiers and has been fully implemented since 19 September 2011. According to the Ordinance, the five types of prescribed products supplied in Hong Kong must now bear an energy label to inform consumers of their energy performance.

When buying these five types of electrical products, the public may refer to the energy performance grading on the energy label in selecting the energy efficient products. Energy efficient products not only consume less energy, they also help protect the environment and save consumers money in the long run. The energy label classifies the energy performance of a product type into five grades, so as to enable the consumers to choose energy efficient products wisely. Grade 1 appliances, relative to Grade 3 and 5 appliances, enable users to achieve the following savings on energy consumption:

Energy Label of Washing Machines



每年耗電量。你可利用這數字比較不同型號可節省多少電費。
Compare the annual energy consumption of different models and see how much you can save.

能源效益級別。1級能源效益最高(綠色)，5級則最低(紅色)。
Grade 1 products are most efficient (green) and Grade 5 products are least efficient (red).

洗衣量及耗水量。
Washing capacity and water consumption.

Energy Label of Dehumidifiers



每年耗電量。你可利用這數字比較不同型號可節省多少電費。
Compare the annual energy consumption of different models and see how much you can save.

能源效益級別。1級能源效益最高(綠色)，5級則最低(紅色)。
Grade 1 products are most efficient (green) and Grade 5 products are least efficient (red).

抽濕量及能源效率。
Dehumidifying capacity and energy factor.

Prescribed Products	Room Air Conditioners	Refrigerating Appliances	Compact Fluorescent Lamps	Washing Machines	Dehumidifiers
Grade 1 vs Grade 3	15%	35%	14%	25%	24%
Grade 1 vs Grade 5	29%	49%	18%	40%	42%

For details of MEELS, please visit the EMSD website at <http://www.emsd.gov.hk>. Enquiries can also be made to the Energy Efficiency Office of EMSD at 2808 3465.

E & M Safety Quiz

Please fill in the reply slip below with **the most appropriate answers** and send it by post or by fax to the Editor, E & M Safety Newsletter (contact information is shown at the bottom of this page). The first 500 of the quiz participants[1] answering all questions correctly will receive a souvenir.

- What is the purpose of regular gas safety checks for central liquefied petroleum gas installations?**
 - The purpose of regular checks is to ensure that the domestic gas installations will not pose safety hazards to the households and their neighbours.
 - The main purpose of regular checks is to ensure the safe operation of water heaters.
 - The main purpose of regular checks is to ensure that there is no LPG leakage in the flat.
- How do I know when the regular gas safety check for central liquefied petroleum gas installations will be carried out in the building I live?**
 - By paying attention to notices posted in the building lobby, or checking your mail box for any notice about the safety check.
 - By calling the Fire Services Department for enquiry.
 - By searching for relevant information in newspapers or electronic media.
- What should passengers carrying bulky items do?**
 - Play or walk on the escalator
 - Go in the opposite direction of the escalator
 - Use the lift
 - Climb on the handrail of the escalator
- You and your wife and your 6-year-old son, a total of 3 persons, are going to take an amusement ride. However, the safety instructions specify that the maximum capacity for each compartment of the ride is two persons. What should you do?**
 - Ignore the safety instructions
 - Pick your son up, rush into the compartment with your wife at once
 - Your wife and your son get into one compartment, while you get onto another compartment
 - Insist that all three of you should get into the same compartment despite being advised not to do so by the ride operator
- The power company's receipt for temporary disconnection of electricity supply must be submitted when WR2 is submitted for endorsement on or after _____.**
 - 30 November 2011
 - 1 December 2011
 - 31 December 2011
 - 1 January 2012
- Which of the following electrical products is not included in the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme?**
 - Washing machines
 - Electric water heaters
 - Dehumidifiers
 - Compact fluorescent lamps

REPLY SLIP ^[2]					
Name:			Tel.:		
Hong Kong Address:					
Answers:					
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
Where did you get this <i>E&M Safety Newsletter</i> ?					
Residential estate	School	District Office	New immigrant centre		
Others (please specify):					

[1] Only the first 500 of the quiz participants sending in the Reply Slip with all answers correct will be notified.

[2] The personal data provided in the Reply Slip will only be used for the E & M Safety Quiz purpose. It will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party. You have the right to request in writing to check whether EMSD is keeping your personal data, to access or correct it, and to enquire about our policy and procedures in the use of such data as well as the types of personal data we are keeping. The above terms do not affect your rights as set out in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance.

Answers to last issue's quiz: 1.D 2.C 3.C 4.D 5.A 6.B

Feedback

Your comments and suggestions, whether on editorial style or contents, are most welcome. Tell us how we can improve and make the E & M Safety Newsletter a truly informative and interesting publication for you. Both the English and Chinese versions of the E&M Safety Newsletter are available on our website at <http://www.emsd.gov.hk>. Please contact us should you need a printed copy.

The Editor, E&M Safety Newsletter
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon Bay

Tel. 電話: 1823 (電話中心 Call Centre)
Fax 傳真: 2504 5970
Email 電郵: info@emsd.gov.hk

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