

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0207)

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 (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)'s work includes inspecting electrical installations and electrical products, and promoting electrical safety. Will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the number of non-compliant electrical products seized in each of the past 3 years, including the number of non-compliant imported products purchased from cross-border e-commerce platforms or personally brought into Hong Kong through customs (listed by product type);
2. whether the EMSD has considered taking targeted or corresponding action to protect public safety as it is reported that there are more and more non-compliant imported products purchased from cross-border e-commerce platforms or personally brought into Hong Kong through customs; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons for that;
3. whether imported electrical products have been inspected to ensure that they comply with safety standards from the perspective of ensuring occupational safety; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons for that; and
4. of the measures for and breakdown of expenditures on promoting electrical safety among the public in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. According to the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation (the Regulation), suppliers of electrical products are required to ensure that household electrical products comply with the applicable safety requirements and have been issued with "certificates of safety compliance" before they are supplied. If anyone purchases household electrical products

from cross-border e-commerce platforms or personally brings them into Hong Kong for personal use, the household electrical product concerned will fall out of the purview of the Regulation given the product is not supplied in Hong Kong. The number of cases involving violation of the Regulation in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Cases involving violation of the Regulation (no.)
2022	53
2023	60
2024	109

The products involved in violation of the Regulation included adaptors, extension units and USB chargers. All the cases involved supplying electrical products to which no certificate of safety compliance has been issued as required by the Regulation, or supplying electrical products that do not comply with applicable safety requirements.

2. In response to the upward trend of cross-border purchases of household electrical products in recent years and to enhance public safety awareness in purchasing household electrical products, the EMSD has strengthened public education since 2023, such as collaborating with the Home Affairs Department and non-governmental organisations to organise seminars and talks, as well as posting messages and videos on social media platforms to remind the public for paying attention to the safety requirements of household electrical products before purchasing these products. In addition, the EMSD has displayed posters at border control points to remind the public of the points to note when purchasing household electrical products across the border.

Meanwhile, the Cross-border E-commerce Working Group (the Working Group) has been established under the Cooperation Arrangement on Electrical and Mechanical Products Safety and Energy Efficiency between the EMSD and the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China. The Working Group mainly focuses on controlling the risks arising from cross-border e-commerce platforms, which include the reporting of unsafe electrical products supplied from e-commerce platforms. Upon the EMSD’s notifications, the relevant Mainland authorities will conduct follow-up actions having regard to the merits of the case, such as proactively intercepting orders. Meanwhile, the EMSD co-organises policy and regulation briefings, together with the relevant Mainland authorities every year, to explain to the personnel of cross-border e-commerce platforms, electrical product manufacturers and testing institutions the relevant regulations and rules for supplying electrical products in Hong Kong, in order to enhance the understanding of the regulations relating to the export of household electrical products to Hong Kong among the trade in the Mainland.

3. The EMSD conducts yearly sample checks on household electrical products supplied in Hong Kong and engages third party testing laboratories to conduct testing on the safety standards for selected products. The EMSD will conduct investigations if relevant products are suspected to be in violation of the Regulation. The EMSD also conducts inspections at retail stores, local e-commerce platforms supplying household electrical products and their suppliers. Prosecutions will be initiated for non-compliant household electrical products identified during the inspections.

On safeguarding occupational safety, the Labour Department is responsible for enforcing the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap. 59) and their subsidiary regulations. The aim is to protect the safety and health of all employees at work. Under the general duty provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, proprietors and employers are required to provide and maintain plant (including electrical products) that is safe and without risks to health. They are also required to provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as necessary to ensure the safety and health of their employees when using the plant at work.

4. In the past 3 years, the EMSD has promoted electrical safety among the public through various channels, such as social media platforms, media advertisements, visits to schools and elderly centres, distribution of pamphlets to the public, display of posters, and organisation of seminars, talks and game booths, which promote the safety messages regarding electrical installations and electrical products.

As promoting electrical safety is part of the overall work of the EMSD, we do not maintain the breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

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