

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)044

(Question Serial No. 1338)

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 (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the administration of the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598) by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the number of electrical products seized for violating the requirements of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme in each of the past 5 years, with a breakdown by product type;
2. the specific reasons for the decrease in the number of product records submissions processed, from 2 497 in 2025 to the estimated 1 400 in 2026;
3. the current mechanism for handling reports from the public regarding prescribed electrical products not bearing the required energy labels, and the time required for completing an investigation in general;
4. the specific response measures put in place by the Government in view of the reports that many prescribed electrical products not bearing the energy labels as required by local regulations are being supplied to Hong Kong amid the increasing prevalence of cross-border online shopping; and
5. the current establishment of the staff responsible for site inspections, and whether there are any plans to step up inspection efforts?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The types and numbers of models of the prescribed products seized for contravening the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (the Ordinance) in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Total number of models of the prescribed products seized for contravening the Ordinance	Type and number of models of the prescribed products seized for contravening the Ordinance
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2021	6	television (1), induction cooker (4), dehumidifier (1)
2022	5	room air conditioner (1), refrigerating appliance (1), compact fluorescent lamp (1), television (1), induction cooker (1)
2023	15	room air conditioner (1), refrigerating appliance (1), washing machine (1), dehumidifier (1), television (9), induction cooker (2)
2024	2	television (2)
2025	45	refrigerating appliance (1), television (1), induction cooker (2), light emitting diode (LED) lamp (41)

2. Under the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) implemented new energy efficiency grading standards for refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters on 30 June 2024, with a 15-month transitional period. In 2025, the EMSD received and processed product submissions relating to the new energy efficiency grading standards on an ongoing basis, resulting in an increase in the number of product submissions processed to 2 497 that year. With the full implementation of the new energy efficiency grading standards on 30 September 2025, the number of product submissions in 2026 is expected to return to around 1 400.
3. Upon receipt of a report from the public, the EMSD will initiate an investigation promptly. Prosecution will be instituted in case of detection of the supply of non-compliant prescribed products. The EMSD will provide a preliminary response to the informant within 10 working days in accordance with the established mechanism, while the duration of the investigation is subject to the actual circumstances of the case.
4. Currently, if anyone purchases a prescribed product as set out in the Ordinance through a cross-border e-commerce platform for personal use, it will not be considered as being supplied in Hong Kong and therefore falls outside the purview of the Ordinance. Given the complexity of issues arising from the purchase of prescribed products via cross-border e-commerce platforms, which involve different jurisdictions, the Government will keep in view the availability of feasible solutions in other regions that suit Hong Kong's context, and explore room for enhancing the existing legislation, with a view to striking a balance between enforcement feasibility, public convenience and protection of consumer interests. Meanwhile, the Government will continue to enforce the laws within the existing legal framework, and actively follow up on issues relating to cross-border online purchases of electrical appliances through a multi-pronged approach of interception at source, strengthened inspections, and publicity and education. For example, the EMSD will continue to collaborate with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to explore the feasibility and the relevant mechanism of intercepting non-compliant prescribed products at source; and enhance promotion and publicity to the public by displaying promotional materials on electronic screens at border control points, placing advertisements in the media, and posting on social media platforms.

5. As the inspection work under the Ordinance is part of the overall duties of the EMSD, we do not have a separate breakdown on the manpower involved in site inspections. The EMSD will continue to adopt a risk-based approach, carrying out inspections by making effective use of existing human resources, and strengthening inspections where necessary.

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