



From the Editor

Thanks to your continued support, E&M Safety Newsletter has come to its 30th issue with a rich variety of contents to offer, including substation or switchroom management, lift safety, monitoring of LPG specifications and quality, third phase of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, and safety tips for using electric fans. With the summer vacation just around the corner, we wish you a joyous holiday.

Switchroom Management

**DANGER -
ELECTRICITY**



Monitoring of LPG Specifications and Quality



Safety Tips for Electric Fans



Shared Responsibility in Caring for Lift Safety



Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme



Full Implementation of the Third Phase of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme on



2019
December

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Sunday

Switchroom Management



Chuen Chuen's uncle is an engineer with the Electricity Legislation Division of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. One day, he visited Chuen Chuen at his home and was asked about electricity safety. "Uncle, I often see caretakers entering the switchroom. Aren't registered electrical workers (REWs) the only persons who are allowed to enter the switchroom?" Chuen Chuen asked.

Uncle replied: "According to the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations, the owner and person in control of a substation or switchroom shall ensure that unauthorised entry into his substation or switchroom is prevented. Therefore, anyone who has obtained permission from the owner or person in control of a switchroom may enter the switchroom. Nevertheless, only REWs or persons under the supervision of REWs are allowed to carry out electrical work."

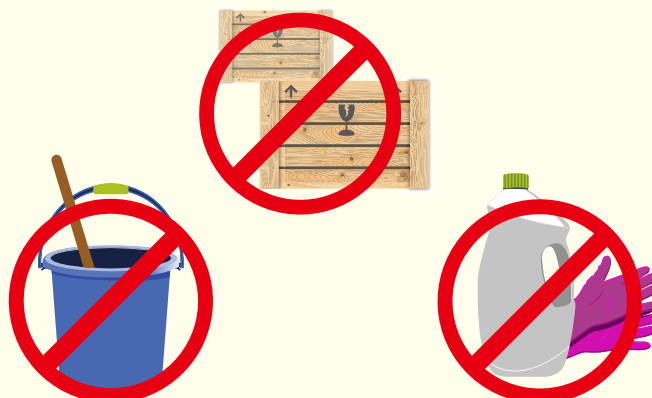
Chuen Chuen asked further: "Is a person allowed to enter the switchroom to carry out 'switching operations' if he is not an REW?"

"As 'switching operations' are not electrical work, they do not necessarily have to be carried out by REWs. However, if failure occurs in an electrical installation, the owner shall engage a registered electrical contractor (REC) to deal with it, and the REC should arrange an

REW of appropriate grade to check and properly repair the installation," uncle responded.

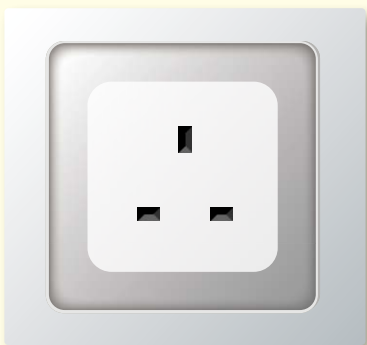
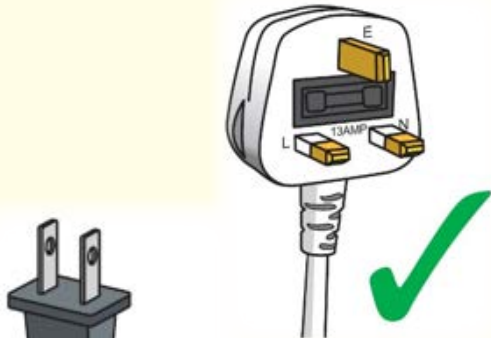
Chuen Chuen questioned: "Can articles that are not related to the operation and maintenance of electrical installations be placed inside the switchroom?"

Uncle replied: "According to the requirements under the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations, switchrooms/substations, other than the tools used for the operation and maintenance of the switchgear inside it, must not be used for storage purposes."





Safety Tips for Electric Fans



According to the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation, household electrical products sold in Hong Kong, including electric fans, shall be issued with "certificates of safety compliance" as proof that the products comply with relevant international safety standards or other equivalent safety standards. When purchasing and using electric fans, members of the public should take note of the following important points:

- (1) Only purchase and use an electric fan fitted with a three-pin plug.
- (2) Allow sufficient space so that the electric fan can rotate smoothly during operation.
- (3) Prevent paper and clothes, etc. from being sucked into the electric fan.
- (4) Use, maintain and clean the electric fan with its guard regularly according to the user manual to prevent accumulation of dust.
- (5) Avoid leaving an operating fan unattended. Switch off power before going out.
- (6) Avoid children from getting close to an operating fan to prevent danger.
- (7) If any abnormalities (e.g. abnormal sounds, excessive vibration or abnormal smell) are detected, stop using the fan and arrange for inspection and repair by an experienced technician.



For enquiries on the safety of electrical products, please call the 1823 Government Hotline or e-mail to info@emsd.gov.hk.

Monitoring of LPG Specifications and Quality



LPG is a fossil fuel extracted from petroleum and consists mainly of propane, propylene, butane or butylene. As there are no natural petroleum resources and oil refineries in Hong Kong, all LPG has to be imported from other places by sea transport and stored in the LPG terminals in Tsing Yi. Hong Kong's LPG is mainly used in vehicles, cooking appliances and industrial and commercial equipment. The specifications of LPG are regulated by the laws of Hong Kong.

According to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), LPG must meet the requirements of the Gas Safety (Gas Quality) Regulations, i.e., the proportion of sulphur should not exceed 0.02% by mass and the gas shall possess a distinctive smell for identification. In addition to the above Regulations, the composition of LPG which is used as a fuel for vehicles must comply with Hong Kong's auto-LPG specifications in order to meet the operational requirements and emission caps of LPG vehicles.

Monitoring of LPG Quality

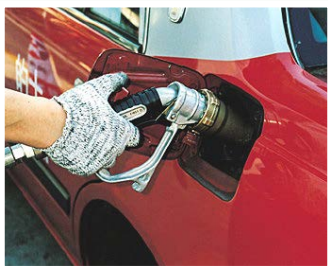
The EMSD monitors LPG quality in various aspects, which include vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies and carrying out sampling checks on LPG quality, so as to ensure that LPG quality meets the requirements.

Vetting Independent Third-Party Test Reports

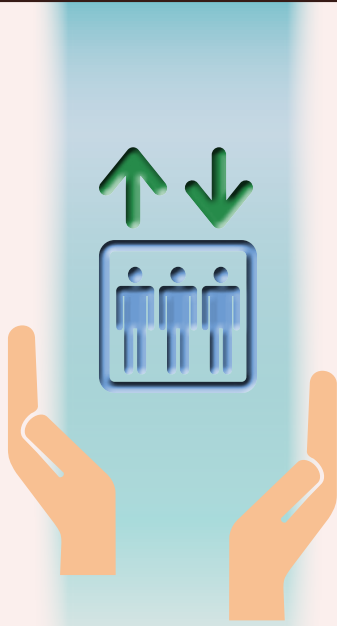
To ensure that the quality of LPG complies with the statutory requirements, the EMSD has put in place a stringent monitoring mechanism. LPG supply companies are required to engage independent laboratories to collect LPG samples for testing from LPG terminals and oil refineries outside Hong Kong or LPG carriers entering Hong Kong, and submit a certificate of quality issued by the third party to the EMSD after receiving the consignment. The composition of the LPG and the testing standards adopted should be listed in the certificate for review

LPG Sampling Scheme

To further enhance the monitoring of LPG quality, the EMSD launched in early 2010 the LPG sampling scheme by taking random LPG samples at one to two LPG filling stations every week and two LPG terminals every month for testing. The test results are published on the EMSD website and updated on a weekly basis.



Shared Responsibility in Caring for Lift Safety



The high density of buildings in Hong Kong makes lift play a very important role in our daily life. Have you ever thought about how lift management and maintenance work could be carried out properly when using lifts?

Just like vehicles that run on the road, lifts go up and down every day. Periodic maintenance works including inspection, cleaning, adjusting and oiling of lifts must be conducted by professionals so that they can operate normally. It is stipulated under the law that responsible persons (RPs) for lifts (building owners / owners' corporations / property management companies and staff) shall employ registered lift contractors to carry out maintenance and repair work for lifts as well as arrange for registered lift engineers to conduct regular inspection of lifts so as to ensure their safe operation, thus enabling us to travel safely in lifts in our daily life.

In addition to the lift maintenance and inspection requirements as stipulated in the law, RPs for lifts should always pay attention to the situation of lifts and undertake relevant management and monitoring work effectively to fulfill their responsibilities. On the one hand, RPs should maintain good communication with the lift maintenance contractor and actively co-operate with the contractor to allow sufficient time for conducting lift maintenance work. On the other hand, RPs should monitor the implementation of the maintenance work, keep in view of the job contents as stated in the lift log books and conduct regular inspection of lifts, lift machine rooms and lift pits to identify whether there are any matters for follow-up and abnormalities with the

lifts, as well as whether the contractor has completed the maintenance work in accordance with the contract requirements. Monitoring the work of the contractor also helps RPs assess the performance of the contractor. Of course, RPs should stop the operation of the lift immediately if there is any abnormality with it, and notify the contractor to follow up for safety purpose.

As lift passengers, we too have a shared responsibility. We should take good care of lifts, for instance, we should exercise extra care if we are carrying bulky luggage when using lifts in order to avoid damage to lift doors and components. Besides, we should ensure that the lift car has stopped before entering or leaving it, and should not enter or leave the lift car by force under any circumstances. If we identify any abnormalities (such as noise during lift operation, excessive shaking or unintended lift movement) when using lifts, we should take the initiative to inform the management office so that it can arrange for the contractor to take follow-up actions as soon as possible.

The safety of lifts hinges on the "care" of everyone. If every stakeholder can take one step further, put ourselves in others' shoes and try our best to maintain good care of lifts, we will be safer, more comfortable and secure when using lifts.



Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme

The Government has partnered with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to implement a \$2.5 billion Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) to expedite the lift modernisation works, with a view to enhancing the safety of aged lifts and further protecting public safety. The LIMSS aims to provide subsidy to owners of private residential or composite buildings in need for modernising their aged lifts, with additional subsidy for elderly owner-occupiers.

There is a ceiling on the average ratable values of domestic units in a participating building, which is \$162,000 per annum in urban areas (including Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan districts) and \$124,000 per annum in the New Territories (all New Territories districts excluding Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan districts).

The subsidy applies to the following lift modernisation works, which include:

- retrofitting with the following “essential safety devices” (each of which must be included in the applications if such devices have not been installed in the lifts): double brake system, unintended car movement protection device, ascending car overspeed protection device, and car door mechanical lock and door safety edge;
- retrofitting with the following “optional safety devices”: intercom and CCTV system, obstruction switch to protect suspension ropes and/or automatic rescue device;



- lift drive replacement and associated works where it is technically necessary or more cost-effective to do so in order to retrofit the “essential safety devices” listed in (a) above; or complete replacement of lifts which have not been equipped with any or all of the “essential safety devices” listed in (a) above; and
- provision of follow-up services (but exclusive of routine maintenance) for lifts during defect liability period after completion of the works.

The maximum amount of subsidy is 60% of the cost of the modernisation works, subject to a cap of \$500,000 per lift. Consultants from the URA will provide such services as consultation, cost estimation (for budgeting purpose), tender document preparation, works supervision and contract management, etc. for free. If building owners opt to engage their own consultants to co-ordinate the lift modernisation works, the cost of such consultancy services can also be subsidised at a cap of \$20,000 per lift (the subsidy concerned will be counted towards the total amount of subsidy). In addition, eligible elderly owner-occupiers aged 60 or above may be subsidised the full cost of the modernisation works that they have to shoulder, subject to a cap of \$50,000 per domestic unit.

The first-round applications of LIMSS start from 29 March 2019 and close on 31 July 2019 while second-round applications would be invited in the second half of 2019. Eligible building owners should contact their lift maintenance contractors as soon as possible to find out the current conditions of their lifts in order to apply for subsidy under the LIMSS. For details, please visit the Building Rehabilitation Platform website of the URA (www.brplatform.org.hk) or call 3188 1188 for enquiry.



Full Implementation of the Third Phase of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme on 1 December 2019



The third phase of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) covers three types of new electrical products, namely televisions, storage type electric water heaters and induction cookers, and expands the coverage of two types of existing products under MEELS to include heating and cooling functions of room air conditioners and washing machines with a washing capacity exceeding 7 kg but not exceeding 10 kg. It is estimated that the potential annual electricity saving under the third phase of MEELS will be around 150 million kWh, which is equivalent to an annual reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of 105 000 tonnes. This not only further encourages members of the public to save energy by adopting highly energy-efficient products, but also helps protect the environment and save money for users in the long run.

Since the third phase of MEELS came into effect on 1 June 2018, many local manufacturers and importers have successfully applied for reference numbers for their prescribed products and attached energy labels on the products. Upon expiry of the 18-month grace period for the third phase of MEELS on 30 November 2019, local manufacturers or importers are required to attach energy labels in the specified format on the prescribed products,

while retailers and wholesalers shall ensure that products being supplied and displayed in Hong Kong bear energy labels, otherwise they may commit an offence and are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000.

Therefore, local manufacturers or importers should expedite the energy label applications for prescribed products which have not been assigned reference numbers (including products on sale). All prescribed products can only be supplied in the local market after obtaining reference numbers and having energy labels attached.

For more information regarding the application for energy labels, please visit the EMSD's "Energy Label Net" at <https://www.emsd.gov.hk/energylabel>. Local manufacturers or importers can also refer to the Code of Practice on Energy Labelling of Products 2018 to ensure that their electrical products meet the testing standards and requirements under MEELS.

<https://www.emsd.gov.hk/energylabel>



EMSD Gallery

Join Us as E&M Young Ambassadors!

The E&M Young Ambassador Programme encourages youngsters to promote E&M safety, energy efficiency and development of the E&M trade in the community. Youngsters aged 6-21 are welcome to join. Participants who register as an ambassador online will receive a souvenir.

Exciting activities are awaiting you

Opening Hours
 Mondays to Fridays: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays
 Address: G/F, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Come and visit now

Please scan QR code for more information

E & M Safety Quiz

Please fill in the reply slip below with **the most appropriate answer** for each question 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^[1] of the quiz participants answering all questions correctly will receive a souvenir (on a first-come-first-served basis).

1. Who can carry out electrical work in a switchroom?

- A. Any person in control of a switchroom
- B. REWs only
- C. Anyone who is authorised to enter a switchroom
- D. REWs or persons under the supervision of REWs

2. Which of the following important points should members of the public take note of when using electric fans?

- A. Allow sufficient space so that the electric fan can rotate smoothly during operation.
- B. Prevent paper and clothes, etc. from being sucked into the electric fan.
- C. Avoid leaving an operating fan unattended. Switch off power before going out.
- D. All of the above.

3. At how many LPG terminals does the EMSD take random LPG samples every month for testing to ensure that the quality of LPG complies with the requirements?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

4. Which of the following organisations has the Government partnered with to implement the LIMSS?

- A. Urban Renewal Authority
- B. Hospital Authority
- C. Airport Authority Hong Kong
- D. Hong Kong Tourism Board

5. Which of the following electrical products is not a new inclusion in the third phase of MEELS?

- A. Television
- B. Storage Type Electric Water Heater
- C. Electric Rice Cooker
- D. Induction Cooker

6. The third phase of MEELS was/will be fully implemented on

- A. 1 March 2019
- B. 1 June 2019
- C. 1 September 2019
- D. 1 December 2019



REPLY SLIP ^[2]					
Name:			Tel:		
Hong Kong Address:					
Answers:					
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6

[1] Only the first 500 of the quiz participants sending in the Reply Slip with all answers correct will be notified. Applicants can use mailing or fax only to participate in the game.

[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 the 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. D 3. D 4. D 5. D 6. B

Feedback

Both the English and Chinese versions of this *E&M Safety Newsletter* are available on our web page at www.emsd.gov.hk. Your enquiries and comments are most welcome. Please write to:

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Fax 傳真: 2895 4929

Email 電郵: info@emsd.gov.hk

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