# E&M Safety Newsletter

## 機電與我

**32nd Issue September 2020** 











## **EMSD Mobile Apps**



The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (the EMSD) launched two free mobile applications (apps) in late 2019, which enable users to obtain latest information about the E&M trade and enjoy the convenience of electronic services anytime, anywhere with their smart phones, making life easier for them. Now, let's take a look at the functions of these two mobile apps.

#### 1. E&M Connect

The interactive interface of this app is composed of clear icons. After opening the app, users can browse promotional messages, event information and service arrangements of the EMSD via the homepage banner. Users can also tap on "E&M Corner" to obtain the information about the E&M trade released by the EMSD. Of course, what must be mentioned is the two major functions offered by the app as follows:

#### **Energy Saver**

By capturing the image of the energy labels on the household electrical products with the camera



on users' mobile phones, coupled with the optical character recognition feature, the app can instantly show and compare the energy performance and estimated annual electricity charges of different household electrical product models, facilitating the selection of more energy-saving products by users. In addition to saving money on electricity bills, Energy Saver also helps reduce carbon emissions, enabling users to play a part in environmental protection.

#### **E&M Finder**

With current location or specified location function on smart phones, users can instantly search on



Google Maps for registered electrical contractors and LPG cylinder distributors (shown with icons of gold, silver and

bronze ratings under the LPG Cylinder Distributor Safety Performance Recognition Scheme) nearby. The app helps users obtain the contact information of distributors with good safety performance at their fingertips, facilitating them in arranging the required services.

#### 2. E&M Trade App

The E&M Trade App is specially designed for registered E&M practitioners. By tapping on the app icon, users can



browse such information as training course materials, safety tips, codes of practice and other related documents issued by the EMSD. Users can also go through a simple process to sign up as registered users so as to enrol for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses directly via the app, record the number of CPD hours and receive reminders on registration expiry.

Act now and join us to enjoy our brand-new services!

#### **E&M Connect**





Android

iOS

#### E&M Trade App





Android

iOS

## Little Things Matter, Be Careful When Riding Escalators





Escalator is an indispensable means of transport. To ensure escalator safety, appropriate maintenance and periodic inspection are essential, but proper use of escalators by passengers is equally important. Last year, the EMSD received reports of a total of 1 771 escalator incidents, of which 96% were related to passenger behaviours, including losing balance and falling while walking on escalators. This shows that proper use of escalators is indeed worthy of attention. So what exactly is the correct way to use escalators? In particular, should passengers walk on escalators? Is "standing still" safe enough?

Members of the public have been holding different views on this issue. Some people think that, given the rapid pace of life in Hong Kong, the practice of "walking on the left and standing on the right" can make room for people who are in a hurry to keep moving on escalators. On the other hand, some support putting safety first. For their own safety and the safety of other passengers, they always "stand still", stand firm and hold the handrail tightly when travelling on escalators. They never walk on escalators as this may cause accidents.

As the rise of escalator steps is generally higher than that of staircase steps and it changes during escalator

operation, passengers are more prone to slip and trip when walking on escalators, thus causing accidents. On the other hand, passengers walking on escalators tend not to hold the handrail tightly because they are walking. If the escalators stop suddenly in case of emergency, they will be prone not only to fall by loss of balance but also to bump into other passengers, thus causing more serious incidents. Therefore, the EMSD recommends that when using escalators, passengers should hold the handrail tightly, stand on either side of escalator steps, exercise due vigilance, and refrain from giving undivided attention to mobile phones.

To further promote safe use of escalators, the EMSD also launched a new series of Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on TV and radio and posters in March 2020, encouraging passengers to "stand on either side and hold

the handrail" and reminding them of the points to note when travelling on escalators. The TV APIs can be viewed on the EMSD YouTube channel.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9cNPi2aO24











New promotional posters launched by the EMSD in 2020





## GU Mark – a Symbol of Safe and Reliable Gas Appliances



In accordance with regulation 3B of the Gas Safety (Miscellaneous) Regulations (Cap. 51F), starting from 1 January 2003, all types of domestic gas appliances which are imported, sold or supplied for use in Hong Kong shall be approved in writing by the Gas Authority (i.e. Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services), and the approved gas appliances shall bear a GU mark for easy identification by the trade and customers.

In Hong Kong, the scope of the GU mark covers all domestic gas appliances (i.e. gas appliances which are designed, or intended, to be used primarily in domestic premises, irrespective of whether they are so used), such as cookers, water heaters and gas clothes dryers, etc. Gas appliances bearing a GU mark are designed and manufactured in accordance with recognised international/national safety standards and are subject to local quality assurance checks in Hong Kong laboratories to ensure compliance with safety and quality standards.

The legislation relating to the GU mark has been implemented for more than 17 years. Gas appliances installed before the legislation came into force are ageing and have already exceeded their average life expectancy.

Besides, appliance suppliers may no longer have spare parts for replacement. For the sake of safety, members of the public should consider replacing such gas appliances with ones bearing a GU mark.

In addition to purchasing and using gas appliances bearing the GU mark, users should also arrange a registered gas installer employed by a registered gas contractor to conduct a regular safety inspection on the domestic gas installations every 18 months to ensure their proper operation. If you smell gas or suspect a gas leak, you should immediately extinguish all fires and open all doors and windows to disperse the gas. If circumstances permit, you should turn off the main gas supply valve and then leave the scene as soon as possible. You should also call 999 to notify the Fire Services Department and contact the gas supply company to come to the scene to handle the incident. Members of the public are reminded not to bring in gas appliances or import non-approved gas appliances for use in Hong Kong. Any person who fails to comply with the relevant requirements commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine at level 6 (\$100,000) and imprisonment for one year.

## **Electrical Products Safety Corner**

#### **Safety Tips for Household Electrical Products**



Electric Fan



**Electric Heater** 



Air-Conditioner



**Electric Water Heater** 



Dehumidifier



**Induction Cooker** 



**Washing Machine** 



**Electric Blanket** 



The EMSD has recently launched a thematic web page entitled "Electrical Products Safety Corner" on its website, providing the latest safety information for reference by members of the public and the trade. The web page features:

- Safety tips on various types of common household electrical products (such as dehumidifiers, washing machines and induction cookers);
- (2) Publicity posters and pamphlets for assisting the public to choose, properly use and maintain electrical products;
- (3) Guidance notes and technical guidelines related to the safety of electrical products, e.g. the latest version of the Guidance Notes for the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation (2019 Edition);
- (4) The forms used for electrical product safety to which the trade will frequently make reference;

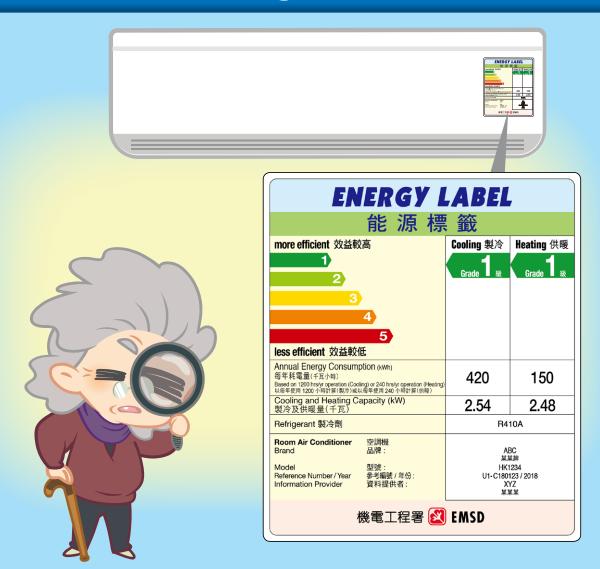
- (5) To facilitate the suppliers contacting with the recognized certification bodies (RCB) for obtaining the certificates of safety compliance, a list of RCB for electrical products is provided; and
- (6) Publication such as Electricity News which disseminates the latest information to the trade.

To view the web page, please scan the QR code below.

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/electricity\_safety/electrical\_products\_safety\_corner/index.html



## Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme



The Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) not only facilitates the public in choosing energy efficient electrical products, but also encourages manufacturers to enhance the energy efficiency performance of electrical products, so as to reduce carbon emissions in Hong Kong. The energy labels under MEELS are classified into five grades, with Grade 1 (green) as the most energy efficient and Grade 5 (red) the least. By making reference to the information on the energy labels, members of the public can compare the energy efficiency and performance characteristics of similar electrical products, and then choose the most suitable one.

To find out which one of the electrical products of the same energy efficiency grade is more energy saving, you may compare the annual energy consumption figures on the energy labels. The smaller the figure, the lower the energy consumption. Such information is provided on the energy labels of room air conditioners, refrigerating appliances (refrigerators), washing machines, dehumidifiers and televisions for reference.

Take two models of reverse cycle type room air conditioners with Grade 1 energy label as an example, one with annual energy consumption (cooling) of 420 kWh and annual energy consumption (heating) of 150 kWh (as shown in the figure above) while the other with annual energy consumption (cooling) of 500 kWh and annual energy consumption (heating) of 180 kWh. If you choose the former, you can save about 110 kWh (around 16%) of energy consumption per year, which is equivalent to an annual saving of \$132 assuming the electricity tariff is \$1.2 per kWh.

For more information about MEELS, please visit the Energy Label Net at www.emsd.gov.hk/energylabel/.



#### **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<sup>[1]</sup> of the quiz participants answering all questions correctly will receive a souvenir (on a first-come-first-served basis).

### 1. Which of the following functions is provided by the EMSD mobile apps?

- A. Compare the energy performance of different household electrical product models
- B. Search for registered electrical contractors and LPG cylinder distributors nearby
- C. Enrol for training courses offered by the EMSD
- D. All of the above

## 2. Which of the following is a safe behaviour when using escalators?

- A. Stand firm and hold the handrail tightly
- B. Travel on the escalator with bulky items
- C. Keep one's eyes only on the mobile phone
- D. Walk on escalators

## 3. For how many years has the legislation relating to the GU mark been implemented?

- A. 15 years
- B. 17 years
- C. 19 years
- D. 20 years

## 4. Which of the following safety information is available in the Electrical Products Safety Corner?

- A. Safety tips on common household electrical products
- B. Technical guidelines related to the safety of electrical products
- C. Publicity posters and pamphlets on proper use and maintenance of electrical products
- D. All of the above

#### 5. Which of the following types of electrical products is not covered under the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme?

- A. Room air conditioner
- B. Washing machine
- C. Television
- D. Microwave oven

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

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

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

#### **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. Please contact us if you have any comments or enquiries, or need a printed copy. Both the English and Chinese versions of the E&M Safety Newsletter are available on our website at http://www.emsd.gov.hk.

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Fax 傳真:2504 5970 Email 電郵:info@emsd.gov.hk 歡迎讀者就版面或內容提出寶貴意見及建議,使我們能作出改善,務求為大家提供更多有用和有趣的資料。如欲提出意見、查詢或索取《機電與我》,請與我們聯絡。《機電與我》中文及英文版均可於我們的網頁(http://www.emsd.gov.hk)內瀏覽。

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<sup>[2]</sup> 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.



#### Disclaimer

According to the latest "Code of Practice on Energy Labelling of Products", annual energy consumption of each product model is calculated based on average hours/days/times/standby loss hours per year operation of each product type.