

**Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Gas Safety Advisory Committee (GSAC)  
Held on 10 November 2009 in the Conference Room 7102,  
7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Hong Kong**

Present

Mr. CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen, JP	Chairman
Dr. CHUNG Wah-fuk, David	
Mr. CHUNG Chi-leong, Colin	
Mr. KOT Man-tai	
Dr. LAM Po-hing, Michael	
Mrs. POON YAM Wai-chun, Winnie, MH	
Mr. WONG Lam-sang, Peter	
Ms. WONG Shuk-kiu, Kathy	
Mr. WU Chi-wai, MH	
Ms. YU Ching-man, Anne	
Mr. CHU Wan-fung, Ryan	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr. CHAN Fan, JP	EMSD
Mr. CHEUNG Ping-kuen, Michael	EMSD
Mr. LING Kam-hoi, George	EMSD
Mr. HO Hon-ying, Lewis	EMSD
Mr. CHAN Cheong-ping	EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. YUEN Se-kit, Patrick, BBS, MH

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07/09

The Chairman welcomed Members to the 29th meeting, being the first meeting of the Committee of the current term starting from September 2009. He welcomed in particular the new Members including Mr. WONG Lam-sang, Peter, Mr. CHUNG Chi-leong, Colin, Mr. WU Chi-wai, MH and Ms. YU Ching-man, Anne. He thanked the retiring Members including Mr. KWAN Yuk-choi, James, JP, Mrs. Eli Woo LI, Mr. LUN Chi-leung, Kenneth and Ms. WU I-ying, Peggy for their contributions. He added that the new GSAC Secretary was Mr. CHU Wan-fung, Ryan.

**08/09**      **Confirmation of Minutes of the 28th Meeting held on 7 April 2009**

The minutes of the 28th Meeting held on 7 April 2009 were confirmed without amendment.

**09/09**      **Introduction of GSAC, EMSD and Gas Standards Office**

As this was a new term of the committee, the Chairman gave a brief account of the establishment and terms of reference of GSAC. He also briefed Members on the organisation of EMSD including both regulatory services and trading services. Mr. C.P. Chan then introduced the legislation enforcement and publicity work in relation to gas safety so as to facilitate Members to better understand the scope of work of the Gas Standards Office.

**10/09**      **Matters Arising**

**(a) Safety Publicity**

(Minute reference 03/09 (a) refers.)

- (i) Members were updated on the progress of gas safety publicity work as follows:
- Seminar on promoting gas, lift and electricity safety, and energy efficiency was held in March 2009 for the property management office.
  - Distribution of E&M safety leaflets to the property management offices for promoting “Avoid Damage to Concealed Pipes and Conduits” was completed.
  - Distribution of E&M safety leaflets to the incorporated owners of buildings for promoting the need to “Arrange to Conduct Regular Inspections and Maintenance of Service Risers and Installation Pipes” was completed.
  - A webpage called “Safety Tips to Gas Users” for promoting “Proper and Safe use of Gas” to Members of the public was uploaded in EMSD website..
  - Distribution of E&M safety leaflets to the residents in the New Territories including immigrants for promoting “General Household Gas Safety” was completed.
  - Radio API on “Replacement of Expired Flexible Gas Tubing” was

launched in July 2009.

- Distribution of safety leaflets to the gas users for promoting "Use of Approved Low Pressure Flexible Gas Tubing" was completed.
- "E&M Safety Carnival 2009" was held on 17 & 18 October 2009.
- Production of TV API on "Safe use of LPG cylinder and 18-months interval regular safety inspection" was in progress.
- The consultation of the "Safe Use of Medium Pressure Appliance Guidance Notes" was completed in October 2009 and the related publicity leaflet would be produced accordingly.
- Joint activity with Registered Gas Supply Companies (RGSCs) to promote gas safety in commercial premises commenced in August 2009 and was still underway.
- EMSD participated in seminars organised by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to promote gas safety in commercial gas catering installations on a regular basis.
- EMSD joined the seminars organised by Registered Gas Supply Companies (RGSCs) to promote "Replacement of expired flexible gas tubing" to Registered Gas Constructors (RGCs) and Registered Gas Installers (RGIs). The recent one was held in July 2009.
- The new guidance note "Household refrigerators containing LPG as refrigerant" was completed and uploaded in EMSD website in September 2009.
- EMSD participated in district council meetings to promote gas safety including "safe use and regular safety inspection for domestic gas appliance".
- EMSD participated in Fire Prevention Committee meetings in various districts to promote gas safety in collaboration with Fire Services Department, Buildings Department and Home Affairs Department.
- EMSD would liaise with Vocational Training Council (VTC) to review the RGI training course contents so as to include new technologies and techniques in gas engineering. Besides, the development of an audio and visual education kit with Vocational Training Council (VTC) on gas training was under consideration.

(ii) Dr. David CHUNG asked whether there was any gas safety publicity material for foreign domestic helpers. EMSD replied that some of the leaflets such as "General Household Gas Safety" was published in

Filipino and Indonesian languages. In response to Dr. David CHUNG's suggestion, EMSD would put more effort to promote gas safety awareness among the foreign domestic helpers.

*[Post-meeting note: EMSD posted the Filipino and Indonesian versions of the leaflet "General Household Gas Safety" in EMSD website in November 2009.]*

- (iii) Ms. Kathy WONG agreed that more education and publicity for foreign domestic helpers on safe use and proper maintenance of domestic gas appliance could possibly minimize the number of gas incidents related to improper use or poor maintenance of gas appliance.
- (iv) Mr. Peter WONG supplemented that HKCG had issued some gas safety tips in different languages including Filipino and Indonesian to their gas users. He added that some of HKCG's operators of their 24-hour customer hotlines could speak either Filipino or Indonesian language to answer questions from foreign domestic helpers on gas safety issues.

**(b) LPG Vehicle Fuel Tank 5-Year Revalidation**

(Minute reference 03/09(b) refers)

- (i) Members were informed that more than 18,700 LPG vehicle fuel tanks had been revalidated since January 2003. It was estimated that there would be about 6,500 tanks in 2010 and 9,000 tanks in 2011 requiring revalidation.
- (ii) Mr. Colin CHUNG asked about the number of contractors who could carry out the fuel tank revalidation testing, as he wondered if there would be enough contractors to provide revalidation services to the LPG vehicle owners in view of the increasing demand.
- (iii) EMSD replied that currently there were 5 contractors who could provide the fuel tank revalidation services. EMSD considered that the services provided by these 5 contractors could meet the future demand on fuel tank revalidation. Details of these 5 contractors were available in EMSD website.

**(c) Domestic Refrigerators Using LPG as Refrigerant**

(Minute reference 03/09(c) refers)

- (i) With the support from the refrigerator importers, EMSD completed a new guidance note "Household refrigerators containing LPG as refrigerant", which was uploaded in EMSD website. Members were advised that training course on maintenance work of refrigerators with LPG as refrigerant would be organized by VTC. The first course would be ready by January 2010.

**(d) Code of Practice for LPG Distributors**

(Minute reference 03/09(d) refers)

- (i) EMSD briefed the background of the LPG Cylinder Distributor Service Level Recognition Scheme to the Members. The Code of Practice (COP) for LPG Distributors was under review. The review aimed to revise the COP to focus on essential gas safety issues and eliminate subsidiary administrative matters, such as change of distributor business ownership and new application for an authorized distributor, etc. The revision was expected to be completed in early 2010.
- (ii) Ms. Anne YU appreciated EMSD's effort to work with the LPG gas trade to review and revise the Code of Practice (COP) for LPG Distributors. However, she pointed out that the details of implementing the LPG Cylinder Distributor Service Level Recognition Scheme (the Scheme) had to be carefully planned in order to ensure the Scheme could be successfully implemented. Besides, she recommended that EMSD should conduct more publicity to the public on the Scheme, so as to gain wider recognition. EMSD agreed to enhance the promotion of the Scheme in due course.

**(e) Addition of Caution Marking on Flexible Gas Tubing**

(Minute reference 03/09(e) refers)

- (i) EMSD advised Members that the requirement for a caution marking "Not to Exceed 2 Metres" in Chinese was included in the COP for flexible gas tubing. The revised COP would be uploaded in EMSD website in November 2009. After a smooth period of trial run by the gas trade, the COP would be gazetted accordingly.

**(f) Incident, Prosecution and Routine Inspection Statistics for 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Jan to September)**

(Minute reference 03/09(g) refers)

- (i) EMSD briefed Members the past 3 years incident statistics i.e. 396 incidents in 2007, 369 incidents in 2008 and 170 incidents from January to September 2009. From the statistics, it was noticed that there was a downward trend in various types of gas incidents from 2007 to 2009. The improvement revealed the success of joint effort made by EMSD and the gas industry/trade in promoting gas safety awareness, and preventing the occurrence of incidents, thus enhancing gas safety.
- (ii) EMSD reported that there were 101 prosecution cases in 2007, 92 cases in 2008 and 50 cases from January to September 2009 in the light of decreasing number of incidents, etc.
- (iii) EMSD briefed Members the routine inspections conducted by EMSD, i.e. 6,193 inspections in 2007, 5,289 inspections in 2008 and 3,965 inspections from January to September 2009. The projected number of inspections in 2009 was about 5,140 which would be comparable to that of 2008. It was apparent that more efforts were devoted to publicity and education campaigns.
- (iv) EMSD advised that apart from routine inspections, EMSD had implemented the following strategies in enhancing gas safety:
- Focusing on gas safety publicity and education.
  - Adopting a risk-based approach in implementing gas safety inspection and incident prevention measures.
  - Promoting and educating the gas users on their duties and responsibilities in proper operation and maintenance of their gas installations.
  - Enhancing the co-operation and working relationship with gas trade on gas safety related issues such as COP revision, regular working group meetings, trade seminars, etc.
- (v) Dr. Michael LAM appreciated EMSD's good effort to promote and enhance gas safety in Hong Kong.

- (vi) Dr. David CHUNG suggested that apart from incident statistical figures, analysis of root causes of gas incidents be presented to Members in future. In response, EMSD welcomed the suggestion and would include a review of incidents cases at the forthcoming meeting.

**11/09      New Item**

No new item was proposed by Members.

**12/09      Any Other Business**

No other business were raised.

**13/09      Date of Next Meeting**

Members will be informed in due course regarding the date of the next meeting.

RWFC/Secretary, GSAC  
November 2009