

**Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Gas Safety Advisory Committee (GSAC)**

**Date:** 15 Jan 2025

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Room 7102, 7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Hong Kong

**Present**

Ir POON Kwok-ying, Raymond, JP	Chairman
Prof CHAO Yu-hang, Christopher	
Ir CHAK Chi-kin, Peter	
Mr CHOY Chi-tung	
Ms HA Wing-ka	
Ir LEE Ho-leung	
Ms LEE Man-ying	
Miss LEE Sui-chi	
Mr LI Tsz-shu	
Mr WAN Chee-keung	
Ms YUNG Ching-yi, Jenny	
Ir TSUI Yu-kwok, Samuel	Secretary

**In Attendance**

Ir WONG Lui, Eric	EMSD
Ir HUI Wing-koon, Joe	EMSD
Ir NG Kar-wai, Gordon	EMSD

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**01/25**      The Chairman welcomed members to the 58<sup>th</sup> GSAC Meeting. The Secretary briefed members on the mechanism for declaration of interests and reminded members to declare interests in anticipation of potential conflict.

**02/25**      **Confirmation of Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
The minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 12 July 2024 were confirmed.

**03/25**      **Publicity Work on Gas Safety**  
(Minutes reference 13/24 referred.)

- (i) The Electrical and Mechanical Department (EMSD) reported the publicity activities on gas safety conducted during the period from July to December 2024.
- (ii) The EMSD continued to promote gas safety through social media. Apart from reaching more audiences, the content could also be updated promptly to keep up with the latest issues and concerns of the public.
- (iii) The EMSD promoted gas safety on domestic gas appliances (DGAs) in a TV programme aired on 13 January 2025. Ir FAN Kai-to, Jason, Chairman of the Gas and Energy Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, was invited to share in the programme professional advice and gas safety tips, including the purchase of DGAs bearing a “GU” mark, as well as the proper use and regular safety inspections of gas installations. Also, the EMSD arranged the display of new posters and banners at public housing estates to promote the proper use of gas water heaters and gas cookers to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- (iv) The EMSD distributed promotional leaflets through gas supply companies and LPG cylinder distributors, launched TV and radio promotional programmes, published feature articles in the CHOICE magazine and conducted promotional activities targeting ethnic minorities to educate the public on how to properly select and use DGAs to avoid CO poisoning.
- (v) In August 2024, the EMSD delivered a gas safety talk to owners of “three-nil buildings” in collaboration with the Sham Shui Po District Office. Regarding the trade stakeholders, the EMSD conducted gas safety talks for works contractors, registered gas contractors and the Housing Department to raise their awareness of the related statutory requirements.
- (vi) The EMSD had completed Phase 2 of the territory-wide gas safety publicity programme for the licensed food premises. “Quick Checks” of 726 licensed food premises had also been completed.

- (vii) To set out the latest standards and requirements for the gas trade to follow, the EMSD had revised the Code of Practice GU13 – Commercial Gas Dryer which was released in July 2024. In collaboration with the Hong Kong Gas and Fuel Practitioners Association, the EMSD held a briefing session for the trade in August 2024 to introduce the revised code of practice.

**04/25      Routine Inspection, Incident and Prosecution Statistics**

(Minutes reference 14/24 referred.)

- (i) The EMSD briefed members on the inspection, incident and prosecution statistics during the period from January to December 2024.
- (ii) The annual target of 5 000 routine inspections was achieved in 2024. The total number of inspections in 2024 was slightly higher than that in 2023, mainly due to the fact that the EMSD stepped up inspections of restaurants and homeware shops to combat the use of non-compliant portable LPG cassette cookers and disposable LPG cylinders.
- (iii) The number of gas incidents in 2024 had shown a decreasing trend compared with the numbers of incidents in the past two years.
- (iv) The EMSD reported that the number of prosecution cases in 2024 was higher than that in 2023, partly due to the increase in cases related to the use of LPG containers that had not been approved by the Gas Authority. In response, the EMSD had stepped up promotion and inspection to prevent recurrence of contravention.

**05/25      Enhanced Measures on Portable LPG Cassette Cookers**

- (i) The EMSD briefed members on the statutory requirements under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51) related to importation, supply and sale of DGAs, particularly those applicable to portable LPG cassette cookers.
- (ii) The EMSD highlighted that all models of DGAs shall have the written approval of the Gas Authority and that approved DGAs shall bear a “GU”

mark for identification. The EMSD also introduced the various enhanced measures taken recently to minimise the risk of gas incidents arising from the use of non-approved cassette cookers.

- (iii) To combat the use of non-approved cassette cookers in food premises, the EMSD had launched a territory-wide campaign in 2024 and carried out inspections of more than 1 300 selected restaurants with a high likelihood of using cassette cookers. During the inspections, all the non-approved cassette cookers found were seized and further criminal investigations were conducted for suspected illegal importation and sale of the cookers in question. Besides, a relevant press release was issued on 15 November 2024 to raise awareness among the public and restaurant owners of the proper purchase and use of cassette cookers.
- (iv) The restaurant inspections revealed that some non-approved cassette cookers had been procured from e-commerce platforms. As such, the EMSD had strengthened the surveillance and enforcement work against e-commerce platforms in addition to inspections of physical stores. If any local website was found selling non-compliant DGAs, the responsible persons would be warned and instructed to remove the sale posts immediately. They would also be invited to assist in the investigation of the suspected contravention. A press release urging the public not to purchase non-approved models online was also issued on 27 August 2024. Furthermore, a test purchase operation (commonly known as “decoy operation”) against a local e-commerce platform was also conducted successfully in August 2024, resulting in the conviction of the website owners by the court. For cross-border e-commerce platforms in the Mainland, collaboration with the General Administration of Customs of China had been reinforced to prevent the importation of non-approved DGAs to Hong Kong. The EMSD would continue to enhance the online surveillance work to tackle the problem at source.
- (v) For publicity and education, the EMSD had been disseminating the relevant gas safety messages via various channels. Collaboration with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department to display promotional banners at boundary control points was underway. Gas safety leaflets were being distributed to applicants for restaurant licences under the

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's regulatory regime. The EMSD had also recently engaged the Eating Establishment Employees General Union to offer tips to restaurant operators on the proper purchase and use of cassette cookers.

**06/25    Latest Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong**

(Minutes reference 16/24 referred.)

- (i) Further to the last meeting, the EMSD updated members on the latest hydrogen development. The EMSD reported that the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel had given agreement-in-principle to 18 trial projects which covered hydrogen production, hydrogen transportation and storage, hydrogen fuelled vehicles, and power generation using hydrogen.
- (ii) The EMSD reported that more tasks were in progress, such as launching more trial projects on hydrogen energy, developing a green hydrogen certification system, and amending the Gas Safety Ordinance to regulate hydrogen fuel safety. The process of developing the certification system consists of two phases: Phase One involves conducting a comprehensive review of current hydrogen certification practices adopted internationally and in the Mainland, while Phase Two focuses on developing a comprehensive approach of green hydrogen standard certification suitable to the development of Hong Kong.
- (iii) The EMSD reported on three main work directions: (a) introducing a bill into the Legislative Council within 2025 for regulating hydrogen used or intended to be used as fuel, (b) formulating the approach of green hydrogen standard certification suitable to the development of Hong Kong by 2027, and (c) establishing hydrogen filling infrastructure on the Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories respectively by 2027.
- (iv) The EMSD signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) on 18 December 2024. In the MoC, both parties agreed to promote exchange and cooperation in the areas of gas and hydrogen fuel-related equipment, comprehensively covering important areas in the value chain such as manufacture, storage,

transport and use. The EMSD and SAMR would work closely to develop safety specifications and the certification approach for hydrogen.

- (v) The EMSD reported that the funding scheme for the trial of hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicles was opened for application on 19 December 2024.
- (vi) The EMSD reported that all publicity activities, including the Hydrogen Fuelled Street Washing Vehicle Naming and Drawing Contest conducted from September to November 2024, the Hydrogen Zero Carbon STEAM Carnival scheduled for 22 and 23 February 2025, the International Hydrogen Development Symposium 2025 to be held on 13 and 14 March 2025, and the HydroRace Challenge to be conducted on 15 March 2025, were aimed at raising public awareness of hydrogen energy development in Hong Kong.

**07/25    Date of Next Meeting**

The next GSAC meeting would be held tentatively in July 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary, GSAC  
January 2025