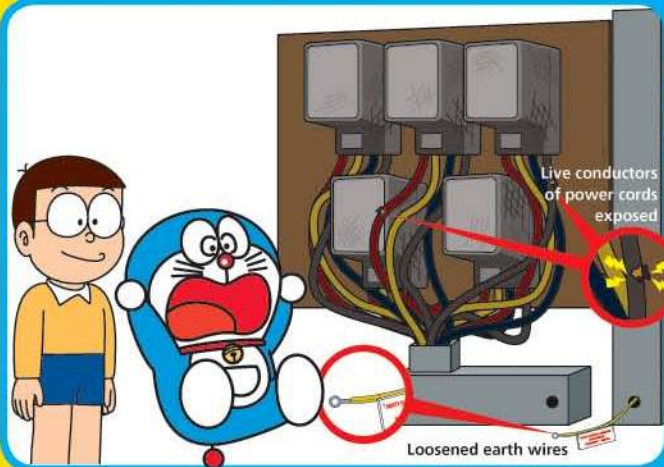


Responsibilities of Owners of Electrical Installations

Doraemon and Nobita were taking a walk when they passed by a building. They found that the communal electrical installations of the building were ageing badly, with loosening earth wires and exposed live conductors of power cords.



The communal electrical installations of this building are ageing really badly. Would they pose hazards to the residents of the building?

Yes, of course. Ageing electrical installations would not only affect the stability of power supply but also pose fire and electrocution hazards to the residents and other occupiers of the building. According to legislation, owners of fixed electrical installations (including property owners, tenants, occupiers, incorporated owners and property management agents) should arrange for rectification immediately of any defects which could cause electrical accidents at their installations. Failure to do so constitutes an offence. As such, the owners of the electrical installations of this building should arrange for inspection and repair of their installations by registered electrical contractors as soon as possible.

Do owners of electrical installations have other responsibilities?

Yes, of course. It is stipulated in law that owners of communal electrical installations in ordinary buildings an approved loading exceeding 100 amperes shall have their installations inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years. To ensure the quality of works, it is also stipulated in law that for all electrical works (including new installation, alteration, repair, inspection or testing) carried out in Hong Kong, the owner of an electrical installation must employ a registered electrical contractor to carry out work on the installation. It is an offence if we fail to do so.

Where can I find the information on registered electrical contractors?

The information is available at the Public Enquiry Service Centres of all District Offices or the Customer Services Office of the EMSD at 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon Bay. The information can also be downloaded from the EMSD web page (www.emsd.gov.hk) → Protecting Public Safety → Electricity → Registers).