

**Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date: 1st April 2011

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 7102, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Present

Mr. LEUNG Chi-ming, Joseph (Chairman)

Mr. CHAN Hung-cheung, Stephen

Ms. WAN Siu-ling, Emily

Mr. CHAI Ngai-chiu, Sunny

Mr. KWU Hon-keung

Mr. MAK Chi-leung

Mr. CHAN Loong, Geoffrey

Professor CHAU Kwok-tong

Dr. LO Wai-chau, Edward

Dr. WONG Toi-ling, Louisa

Professor HUI Shu-yuen, Ron

Mr. CHUNG Fuk-wai, Simon

Mr. CHAN Sing-kit, Simon

Mr. LOK Tat-hong, Howard

Mr. NG Kai-hung

Mr. WAT Hon-keung

Mr. HO Wah, Kenneth

Mr. CHAN Shui-ching, Perry (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr. CHAN Fan Deputy Director, EMSD

Mr. LI Kwok-keung Assistant Director, EMSD

Mr. LAI Hon-chung, Harry Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer, EMSD

Mr. CHAN Kar-keung, Steve Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, EMSD

Mr. WONG Kai-por, Chris Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, EMSD

Mr. LEE Chi-leung, Eric Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. CHIU Kwing-shing

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 22nd meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee.
2. The Chairman reminded members that they should follow the guidelines on declaration of interests for members of public councils, boards and committees. If a member became aware that a conflict of interests might arise from his/her participating in the discussion of an agenda item, he/she must disclose full details of the interests involved. The interests declared would be recorded in the minutes of meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of minutes of the 21st meeting held on 27 September 2010

3. Members had no suggested amendment to the minutes of the 21st meeting. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 21st meeting confirmed.

Agenda Item 3: Overview of Electrical Safety in 2010 (ESAC Paper 1/2011)

4. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an overview of electrical safety in Hong Kong in 2010 and the relevant enforcement and publicity activities.
5. A member enquired whether EMSD could provide the figures of electrical incidents according to different classifications.
6. EMSD stated in response that there were 33 electrical incidents involving electrical installations, the main causes of the incidents included the lack of maintenance for the installations, poor workmanship and problems with the work procedures of the electrical workers. With regard to the other 55 incidents involving electrical products, the general causes were improper use or lack of maintenance for the products.
7. A member enquired how many of these electrical product incidents involved electrical products purchased by the public from outside of Hong Kong. The member further added that the number of such electrical products might be increasing, and suggested that EMSD should pay more attention to the safety problems that might arise.
8. EMSD replied that all the electrical products involved in the electrical product incidents were purchased locally, and that accidents caused by non-compliant electrical products purchased by the public from outside of Hong Kong were not common at present. The Chairman suggested that EMSD should continue to keep the matter in view and take timely measures to protect public safety.

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9. Members had no further comment on ESAC Paper 1/2011.

Agenda Item 4: An Update on the Enforcement of the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation (ESAC Paper 2/2011)

10. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which provided the latest update on the enforcement of the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation including enforcement and publicity efforts, latest achievements and the way forward.
11. A member enquired about the definition of the “third party” in “third party damage to electricity supply lines” mentioned in the paper.
12. EMSD replied that the third party generally referred to people working in the vicinity of electricity supply lines. In general, they were works contractors.
13. A member enquired how EMSD coordinated with the electricity suppliers to monitor the contractors carrying out works in the vicinity of electricity supply lines.
14. EMSD replied that a working group had been set up by EMSD and the electricity suppliers. Regular meetings were held to discuss and analyse the electricity supply lines damage incidents, and appropriate actions taken to minimise the recurrence of such incidents.
15. A member thanked EMSD for their work in enforcing the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation, e.g. organising safety talks for contractors, which effectively and greatly reduced the number of electricity supply lines damage incidents. A member said that to assist EMSD with law enforcement, the electricity suppliers had arranged line inspectors to conduct regular inspection at major worksites, and issued warnings when a dangerous situation was discovered so as to reduce the risk of damage to electricity supply lines.
16. A member enquired if there was any mechanism for members of the public to file complaints against electricity suppliers and electrical contractors, and how EMSD was monitoring the quality of electrical work.
17. EMSD replied that members of the public could contact EMSD if there was any problem concerning electrical work. EMSD would arrange inspection and take enforcement actions. EMSD emphasised that all electrical work on fixed electrical installations must be carried out by registered electrical workers to ensure the quality of work. Should there be any problem with the quality of work, the responsible registered electrical workers would be disciplined or prosecuted.

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18. Members had no further comment on ESAC Paper 2/2011.

Agenda Item 5: Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Electrical Workers (ESAC Paper 3/2011)

19. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an account of the background, training arrangement, implementation programme and the way forward for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for Registered Electrical Workers.

20. A member expressed strong approval for EMSD to implement the above scheme, and suggested that EMSD should consider seeking assistance from trade organisations to promote the scheme among their members, and holding seminars in collaboration with the related organisations to explain the relevant requirements to the electrical workers.

21. EMSD responded that it would actively cooperate with the trade to promote the scheme. EMSD

22. A member suggested that EMSD should promote the scheme among the public so as to raise the professional status of the registered electrical workers.

23. EMSD responded that it would actively consider the suggestion. EMSD

24. The Chairman enquired whether modification could be made to the content of the training modules in the future.

25. EMSD responded that the current training modules were developed in consultation with the electrical trade. Modification could be made to the content of the module in the future.

26. Members endorsed the CPD scheme proposed by EMSD with no further comment on ESAC Paper 3/2011.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

27. All members supported the suggestion by EMSD to upload the minutes of meeting of the current-term ESAC onto the web page of EMSD for information of the public. EMSD would provide a sample format of the minutes of meeting for reference by members at a later time.

28. There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting by thanking members for their attendance.

Agenda Item 7: Date of Next Meeting

29. Members would be informed of the date, time and venue of the next meeting in due course.

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