

**Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date: 28 September 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. 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 (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr. SIT Wing-hang, Alfred

DD/RS, EMSD

Mr. LI Kwok-keung

AD/EE, EMSD

Mr. CHAN Ka-chung

Ag. CEME/EL, EMSD

Mr. LEE Chi-leung, Eric

EME, EMSD

Mr. YIU Tak-tai, Boris

EME, EMSD

Mr. LEE Yue-wah, Ellis

EME, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. CHIU Kwing-shing

Mr. KWU Hon-keung

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 23rd meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC).
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 22nd meeting held on 1 April 2011

3. Members had no suggested amendment to the minutes of the 22nd meeting. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 22nd meeting confirmed.
4. Members unanimously agreed that from the 22nd meeting onwards, anonymous minutes of ESAC meetings would be uploaded to EMSD website for public viewing.

Agenda Item 3: Progress Update on the Implementation of Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Electrical Workers (ESAC Paper 4/2011)

5. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave a progress update on the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme for Registered Electrical Workers (REWs).
6. Due to the large number of REWs and limited venues for the holding of courses by trade associations, a member suggested that EMSD may assist in providing venues, so that sufficient courses could be held by trade associations for REWs.
7. EMSD responded that they have contacted various trade associations and academic institutes for the provision of more courses. In addition, EMSD will arrange, as far as practicable, venues with a larger capacity for the holding of courses to satisfy demand.

EMSD

8. Members had no further comment on ESAC Paper 4/2011.

Agenda Item 4: Enhancing Standard of Periodic Inspection, Testing and Certification Work for Fixed Electrical Installation (ESAC Paper 5/2011)

9. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an account of the new initiatives taken by EMSD to raise the quality and safety standards of Periodic Inspection, Testing and Certification (PITC) work for fixed electrical installations in buildings.

10. A member noted that registered electrical contractors had to strictly follow the requirement by EMSD that electricity supply from the power company must be cut off before conducting PITC work on the main switchboard. However, if the power source to be isolated was connected to another building or facility, the PITC work might not be carried out due to objections from other affected users. It was suggested that EMSD should provide assistance in this respect and have a timely review of the matter.

11. EMSD replied that the department had all along attached great importance to the personal safety of electrical workers when conducting electrical work. It was not uncommon for accidents to occur when electrical work was conducted on the main switchboard without cutting off the electricity supply from the power company. Electrical accidents would not only lead to casualty, but also cause power outage and hence inconvenience to the public. The implementation of this arrangement was therefore considered necessary. Moreover, with the continuous improvement made by power companies to the system over the recent years, individual isolation points had already been provided at most buildings. Hence, it was believed that the situation mentioned by the member was not a frequent occurrence. In case such a situation should occur, special arrangement could be made (e.g. provision of temporary power source for the affected users by the power company). Nonetheless, EMSD would review the relevant arrangements from time to time.

EMSD

12. Members had no further comment on ESAC Paper 5/2011.

Agenda Item 5: Overview on the Cooperation Arrangement with Mainland Authorities (AQSIQ) on Electrical and Mechanical Products Safety (ESAC Paper 6/2011)

13. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an account of the work on safety of electrical products and achievements made under the above cooperation arrangement.

14. A member expressed strong support for maintaining the reporting system with AQSIQ as it could eliminate at source the importation of dangerous electrical products into Hong Kong.

15. EMSD thanked the member for his support and noted that it would continue to maintain the reporting system.

16. A member enquired whether EMSD would assist the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in strengthening its communication with AQSIQ, and step up cooperation on the recovery of harmful substances in electrical products.

17. EMSD replied that the cooperation between the department and AQSIQ was currently limited to electrical safety and did not apply to harmful substances in electrical products and their recovery. EMSD had been in communication with EPD on the issues concerned, and would be ready to provide assistance when the need to cooperate with relevant Mainland authorities arose.

EMSD

18. Members had no further comment on ESAC Paper 6/2011.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

19. There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.

Agenda Item 7: Date of Next Meeting

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