

**Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 11 March 2016
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 7102, 7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Present

Mr CHUNG Fuk-wai, Simon (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Fan
Ms CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia
Mr LOK Tat-hong, Howard
Mr YU Chen-on, Emil
Mr WAT Hon-keung
Mr CHEUNG Hung-kwan
Mr LOK Kwei-sang, Tandy
Mr CHOI Wai-man
Mr LIN Jian-hui
Mr TO Wang-kam, Albert
Professor HUNG Yeung-sam
Dr LIU Hong-fai, Dandy
Mr YIU Tak-tai, Boris (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr LAI Hon-chung, Harry Assistant Director/Electricity and Energy
Efficiency, EMSD
Mr CHAN Ka-chung Chief Electrical and Mechanical
Engineer/Electricity Legislation, EMSD
Mr YAN Man-kit, Andrew Senior Electrical and Mechanical
Engineer/Consumer Installations, EMSD
Mr LAM Ping-wai Senior Electrical and Mechanical
Engineer/Electrical Products, EMSD
Mr CHENG Koon-man Senior Electrical and Mechanical
Engineer/Nuclear and Utility Safety, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Dr CHAN Ka-wing
Mr CHAN Chor-man, Chapman
Mr YIP Ping-nam
Ms NG So-kuen

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 32nd meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC). He introduced to members those who were in attendance at the meeting.
2. The Chairman reminded members that they must observe 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 participation in the discussion of an agenda item, he/she must disclose full details of the interests involved accordingly. The interests declared would be recorded in the minutes of meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the 31st Meeting Held on 18 September 2015

3. Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 31st meeting or matters for follow-up. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 31st meeting confirmed. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) would arrange to upload the minutes of meeting on its website for public reference.

Agenda Item 3: Overview of Enforcement Work on Ensuring Electrical Safety of Fixed Electrical Installations in 2015 (ESAC Paper 01/2016)

4. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which provided members with an overview of the enforcement work undertaken in 2015 to ensure electrical safety of fixed electrical installations.
5. A member pointed out that the maintenance work of a building was affected because its building contractor had recently had its licence revoked by the Buildings Department. The member therefore proposed to discuss the follow-up arrangement to be made if a registered electrical contractor had its licence revoked in the middle of the work so as to get prepared in advance.

6. EMSD stated in response that, given the good track record of the electrical trade in general, so far there had been no registered electrical contractor whose registration was cancelled. EMSD added that, to take the lift incident that occurred in North Point a few years ago as an example, the registered lift contractor in question had its licence revoked due to serious misconduct. To ensure that the lifts the contractor was responsible for maintaining would not be affected, EMSD had at the time closely co-ordinated with the trade and provided timely assistance for the owners of the buildings concerned so that the maintenance work of the lifts could be handed over to other registered contractors. Eventually, no lift service was affected by the incident. EMSD thanked the member for his suggestion and would take the relevant arrangements as reference and collaborate with the trade to address the issue properly should similar circumstances arise.
7. A member stated that in the incident investigation analysis mentioned in the paper, the causes for 14% of the incidents, which accounted for quite a high proportion, were unknown. The member enquired whether EMSD had reviewed the effectiveness of the investigation work in this regard.
8. EMSD stated in response that it would conduct in-depth investigation into every electrical incident. However, for some incidents that involved fire, as the scene and the relevant articles were either badly burnt or disposed of, investigators were not able to determine the causes of incidents by collecting concrete evidence. To continue to enhance the effectiveness of investigations into electrical incidents involving fire, EMSD would regularly arrange for such officers to receive training in fire investigation.
9. A member raised that on the Construction Workers Registration Card there was a trade division called "Electrical Fitter", which was easily confused with the registered electrical workers' ones. The member proposed that EMSD could consider stepping up publicity efforts in this regard to help the public understand the difference between the two registration cards.
10. EMSD thanked the member for his suggestion and stated it would strengthen the relevant publicity and educational work, making it easier for members of the public to differentiate between these two kinds of registration cards.

**Agenda Item 4: Overview of Household Electrical Product Safety in 2015
(ESAC Paper 02/2016)**

11. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave members an overview of the enforcement work undertaken in 2015 in relation to household electrical product safety.
12. A member pointed out that if electrical products were sold online outside Hong Kong, not only would it be impossible to examine the actual electrical products and the relevant certificates of compliance, it was often difficult to trace the supplier as well. The member asked how EMSD would, under such circumstances, carry out enforcement work in relation to the safety of electrical products sold online.
13. EMSD stated in response that there was indeed a certain degree of complexity and challenge in the implementation of enforcement work on online sale. EMSD had since last year attempted to conduct special inspections on household electrical products sold on local retail websites, but unlike inspections to retail outlets, on-scene examination of the actual electrical products was not possible and contact had to be made with the supplier to request the checking of certificates of compliance. As online shopping had become all the more common nowadays, in addition to improving shopping convenience and enhancing living quality, it was also necessary to ensure the safety of household electrical products. EMSD took the view that strengthening publicity and education efforts was also very important and it was exploring how to effectively disseminate to the general public the safety messages in relation to online purchase of household electrical products, and to remind the online suppliers of the safety requirements for household electrical products.
14. The Chairman opined that online shopping had become all the more common nowadays and members would like to be informed of the progress of the relevant monitoring and enforcement work, and expected EMSD to brief members on its latest work in due course.
15. EMSD added that today the whole world was facing formidable challenges as far as online and cross-border enforcement work was concerned and there was not an internationally-recognised and effective approach to follow. Since Hong Kong's legislation could only regulate things that

happened in Hong Kong, only electrical products sold in Hong Kong were subject to the regulation of Hong Kong's legislation. In the meantime, EMSD would draw inspiration from other countries or regions' relevant regulatory regimes on online or cross-border transactions in order to optimise the regulatory work. Should there be any new development in this regard, EMSD would report to the Committee.

16. A member remarked that it was indeed rather difficult to carry out enforcement and publicity work in relation to online purchase of household electrical products. The member opined that if such safety messages were to reach the members of the public who purchased online, delivery of the messages through the electricity bills of the two power companies would be more efficacious than via the internet.
17. EMSD stated that it had all along been conveying messages of electrical safety to the general public via the electricity bills of the two power companies, and it would continue to collaborate with them to add messages about online purchase of household electrical products.
18. A member pointed out that with regard to power supply connection of electrical products, while most products could directly obtain power from socket outlets after purchase, some products such as lighting appliances, air heaters and dryers sometimes needed to be connected to power supply through a junction box. The member therefore proposed that guidelines be included into the new version of the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations, requiring products of that category to be connected to electricity via a fused spur or a junction box with built-in protective device to avoid danger.
19. EMSD stated that most household electrical products came with a plug for connection to power supply through socket outlets, and since most of the plugs were fitted with a built-in fuse, the addition of protective devices might not be necessary. If any household electrical product needed to be connected to power supply through a junction box, given that the procedure involved the use of tools to connect with power supply which fell into the ambit of electrical work, the owner of the installation must hire a registered electrical contractor and registered electrical workers of appropriate grade to carry out the relevant work. Registered electrical workers should also ensure the fixed electrical installation complied with the requirements of relevant international standards and had the

recognised certificates. In the meantime, the electrical work should also comply with the requirements stipulated in the legislation.

20. The Chairman suggested that the relevant messages be included into future promotional leaflets on household electrical products to remind consumers to hire registered electrical contractors and registered electrical workers of appropriate grade to carry out the power supply connection work in case the product was not fitted with a plug and needed to be connected to power supply through a junction box.
21. EMSD stated in response that it would continue to promote to the trade the requirements for conducting electrical work, so as to ensure that the electrical work the registered electrical contractors and registered electrical workers performed on the relevant installations complied with the requirements of the code of practice.

Agenda Item 5: Overview of Enforcement Work of Electricity Supply Lines in 2015 and Work Plan for Reviewing the Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines (ESAC Paper 03/2016)

22. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which presented an overview of the enforcement work for electricity supply lines in 2015 and the work plan for reviewing the Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines.
23. The Chairman enquired whether EMSD kept previous incident records of the work agents for follow-up during daily inspections.
24. EMSD stated in response that, for those contractors who had been found under-performing in previous inspections or who had been involved in electricity supply line damage incidents, EMSD would include them in the list of target contractors so as to pay special attention and visits to their sites during daily inspections. Besides, additional safety talks and seminars would be organised for these target contractors to enhance their safety awareness and to prevent the occurrence of electricity supply line damage incidents.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

Action

25. Since this was the last meeting before the expiry of the current term of the Committee, Mr CHAN Fan, Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, thanked all members on behalf of EMSD for their contribution to the enhancement of electrical safety, especially the following outgoing members: Mr LOK Tat-hong, Howard, Mr WAT Hon-keung, Mr LIN Jian-hui and Dr CHAI Ngai-chiu, Sunny.

26. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.