

**Minutes of the 33rd Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 27 September 2016

Time : 3 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

Dr LIU Hong-fai, Dandy

Mr CHEUNG Ching-yeung

Mr YIP Ping-nam

Ms NG So-kuen

Mr CHOI Wai-man

Mr TO Wang-kam, Albert

Ms LAM Lee, Alice

Mr SIN Long-ying

Professor HUNG Yeung-sam

Mr CHEUNG Hung-kwan

Ms Annie LAI Chui-yi

Mr LOK Kwei-sang, Tandy

Mr YIU Tak-tai, Boris (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr SIT Wing-hang, Alfred Deputy Director/Regulatory Services, EMSD

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 YU Chen-on, Emil
Mr WAI Yip-kin
Ms CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia

Action

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 33rd 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 32nd Meeting Held on 11 March 2016

3. Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 32nd meeting or matters for follow-up. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 32nd 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 Prosecution / Disciplinary Actions Carried Out Under Electricity Ordinance in 2015 (ESAC Paper 04/2016)

4. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which provided members with an overview of the prosecution / disciplinary actions carried out under the Electricity Ordinance in 2015.
5. A member stated that regarding the publicity work mentioned in the paper to be carried out to the public and members of the electrical trade, relevant associations of the property management companies could help forward messages of electrical safety to their members or staff.
6. EMSD remarked that it had been regularly updating the registered

electrical workers and contractors with the latest information on electrical safety through publications. EMSD welcomed suggestions from members on how to forward messages of electrical safety.

7. A member stated he was informed that EMSD had carried out publicity work to the trade regarding the disciplinary cases mentioned in the paper. The member suggested that, in order to raise the awareness of electrical safety among all sectors of the society, EMSD should consider further stepping up its publicity work to the general public and the trade through such publicity channels as television and radio.
8. EMSD stated in response that it had been disseminating messages of electrical safety to the trade and the public through a range of publicity channels, such as television, radio, publications, online platforms, and the department's website. EMSD stated that it was currently collaborating with a radio station to produce a radio drama on electrical safety, with the aim of further promoting electrical safety through everyday examples. EMSD would continue to carry out publicity and educational work to various sectors of the society through different channels, depending on the resources available and the need.
9. A member approved of EMSD's practice of posting notification letters in prominent places of the buildings involved to remind owners or owners' corporations to complete periodic inspection, testing and certification (PITC) work for their fixed electrical installations as soon as possible before any prosecution was made. However, the member was concerned that if the owners or owners' corporations were not members of the trade, they might not have a good understanding of the contents of the notification letters.
10. EMSD stated in response that in order for owners or owners' corporations to complete the PITC work in accordance with the statutory requirements as soon as possible, in addition to posting notification letters in prominent places of the buildings involved, EMSD would also take a variety of follow-up actions, such as on-site visits, liaison with the relevant departments for follow-up, and taking part in meetings of residents or owners' corporations to provide suitable assistance before making prosecutions.
11. A member hoped to know about the appeal mechanism in the disciplinary

process.

12. EMSD stated in response that any person who was aggrieved by a decision or action of EMSD or the disciplinary tribunal may lodge a notice of appeal with EMSD within four weeks after the decision was made by EMSD or the disciplinary tribunal, stating the substance of the matter and grounds of appeal. EMSD would refer the relevant appeal application to an appeal board appointed by the Environment Bureau for handling.
13. A member suggested that EMSD consider disseminating electrical safety messages to the trade through trade publications.
14. EMSD welcomed the member's suggestion and added that it had long been working closely with the trade and disseminating information on electrical safety through different channels of the trade such as websites, etc.
15. A member stated that he was willing to help EMSD disseminate information on electrical safety to the public, but worried that reproduction of EMSD's publications or videos might involve copyright issues.

16. EMSD thanked all members and the trade for their support and assistance, and also welcomed the trade to reproduce EMSD's publications of electrical safety publicity information to further raise the awareness of electrical safety among all sectors of the society.
17. A member pointed out that businesses using plug-in type electrical products of higher power for a prolonged period of time may face danger if the current of these products neared the upper limit of the plug's capacity. Given the fact that these products were not permitted to be so converted as to receive power through wires as the installers of the product supplier were not registered electrical workers, and that once wired, such products would be rendered inflexible and inconvenient to be removed for repair, some businesses were not willing to have these products converted to receive power through wires. It was understood that in the early days, electrical workers could register as special Grade R electrical workers who were allowed to conduct such electrical work as connecting/disconnecting electricity supply to/from electrical equipment only. However, with the enhancement of the electrical worker registration grading system and expansion of its scope of coverage, the Grade R classification had been replaced. The member suggested that EMSD reconsider reinstating Grade R as one of the registration grades so that there would be sufficient practitioners with wiring skills to conduct the relevant work and hence minimise potential hazards.
18. EMSD stated that it had been concerned about the safety of electrical products in Hong Kong, and that the plug-in type electrical products available on the market which were compliant with the relevant recognised international standards, if used properly, normally would not lead to any safety issues. Despite that, EMSD would contact members of the trade and sought to understand matters relating to the safety of electrical products about which the members had expressed concern and take follow-up actions if need be. As for matters in relation to Grade R electrical workers, EMSD stated that the currently around 76 000 registered electrical workers in Hong Kong should be enough to handle the work of connecting/disconnecting electricity supply to/from electrical equipment.

Agenda Item 4: Common Shop Inspection Platform Cum Geographical Information System (CSIPGIS) (ESAC Paper 05/2016)

19. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave members an

overview of the Common Shop Inspection Platform Cum Geographical Information System (CSIPGIS).

20. A member asked if the shop data in the database of CSIPGIS mentioned by EMSD covered the shops selling electrical engineering materials, and whether the shops selling both electrical engineering materials and electrical products were included in the database of EMSD.
21. EMSD responded that the database of the above system mainly covered the data of shops selling household electrical products. If the business of a shop involved the sale of household electrical products, its data would be included in the database of EMSD.
22. A member expressed appreciation of the efforts of EMSD in keeping pace with the times and using advanced technologies to facilitate law enforcement. Meanwhile, the member hoped to know where EMSD had obtained the shop data in the existing database and what EMSD would do to ensure that the data would not leak out.
23. EMSD responded that the shop data was initially based on the data of the Companies Registry. Subsequently, through site inspections by EMSD, the data was continuously consolidated and updated to become the existing database. As far as security was concerned, apart from the adoption of a dual-password login mode for the computer systems concerned and the tablet computers used for data transmission, the data sent through the system would also be encrypted to prevent the data from being stolen.
24. A member asked whether the staff members of EMSD would identify themselves when conducting shop inspections.
25. EMSD stated that every staff member who conducted shop inspections for the enforcement of the relevant legislation was issued with a warrant card and would disclose identity and the reasons for conducting the work during the inspections.

Agenda Item 5: The Proposed Revision of the Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines (ESAC Paper 06/2016)

26. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave members an

overview of the proposed revision of the Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines (2005 Edition) (Code of Practice) and the related review exercise.

27. A member expressed his gratitude to EMSD for its years of efforts made in respect of the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation to minimise the occurrence of incidents. The member also stated that power companies and EMSD alike attached great importance to protecting public safety, and that later he would participate in the working group arranged by EMSD to offer views on the revision of the Code of Practice.
28. The Chairman asked EMSD when the meeting of the working group on the revision of the Code of Practice was preliminarily scheduled.
29. EMSD responded that the working group was expected to be set up and hold the first meeting in early 2017.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

30. No other business was raised by members.
31. Members would be informed of the date, time and venue of the next meeting in due course.