

**Minutes of the 38th Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 12 April 2019
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 7102, 7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Present

Ir CHAN Kwok-cheung, Thomas (Chairman)
Mr LAI Hon-chung, Harry
Ms CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia
Miss CHEUNG Hai-man, Flora
Mr TSE Chun-man
Miss YIP Kam-yee, Candy
Dr PUN Kong-pang
Ms SIU Zoe
Mr IP Sung-tai
Dr LAM King-hang
Ir AU Tat-kay, Walter
Dr CHAN Ka-wing
Mr CHEUNG Hung-kwan
Mr CHEUNG Wing-ho
Ms LAI Chui-yi, Annie
Ir WAI Yip-kin
Mr HO Wai-keung, Paul (Secretary)

In attendance

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| Mr VY Ek-chin | Assistant Director/Electricity and Energy Efficiency, EMSD |
| Mr CHAN Ka-chung | Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Electricity Legislation, EMSD |
| Ms SIT Kin-ka | Acting 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

Mr CHAN Chi-ming, Antonio
Mr LEUNG Kwok-kin

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 38th meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC). He introduced to members those who were in attendance at the meeting.
2. When briefing members on the meeting arrangement, the Chairman specially reminded them 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: Minutes of the 37th Meeting Held on 28 September 2018

3. Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 37th meeting or matters for follow-up. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 37th 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 the Promotional Work on Electrical Safety in 2018 (ESAC Paper 01/2019)

4. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which presented an overview of the enforcement and promotional work on electrical safety in 2018 and the way forward for work in 2019.
5. A member expressed the hope that EMSD could provide the number of casualties involved in electrical incidents in the previous year.
6. EMSD responded that there were a total of 13 electrical incidents involving casualties in 2018, including a fatal incident. The incident was due to short circuit of the wiring of an electrical installation, which energised the pipes of an electric heater, resulting in electrocution of

EMSD

the victim. As for data analysis of other electrical safety incidents involving casualties, EMSD would explain to members at the next meeting.

7. A member stated that he agreed with EMSD's approach of using the "Electrical and Mechanical Safety Ambassador Outreach Programme" as a means of promotion and education. Instilling correct electrical safety messages to young school children from a young age would help them develop good habits in electricity consumption. These school children could also bring home correct electrical safety information to share with their relatives and friends in order to achieve better publicity effect.

Besides, the member said that the contents of the series of animated promotional videos on electrical safety produced by EMSD was good and could attract public attention more easily. He suggested that EMSD could continue to enrich the relevant contents and vigorously explore more publicity channels to further extend its reach to members of the public.

8. EMSD thanked the member for his views. In order to disseminate electrical safety information to people from all walks of life, EMSD had produced various promotional videos on relevant topics for TV broadcasting as arranged by the Information Services Department over the years. In response to the new requirements on standards for TV commercials, EMSD would proceed with the production of a new series of TV promotional videos to remind the public to pay attention to electrical safety.

With the progress of the times, social media had become more and more popular. In recent years, EMSD had actively tried out promotion through different social platforms, e.g. Facebook and YouTube. EMSD had planned to produce a number of animations to promote electrical safety this year and disseminate them to the public through social media platforms so as to convey information on electrical safety to the public more effectively.

9. A member said he understood that the broadcast frequency of promotional videos of EMSD was co-ordinated by the Information Services Department. In view of this, the member suggested that EMSD

could provide the hyperlinks of promotional videos to the trade through its publicity publications, e-mails and short messages, etc., so that the trade could forward relevant information to other parties, which was believed to be more cost-effective.

Besides, a member suggested that EMSD could broadcast its promotional videos at fire prevention seminars and carnivals co-organised with other organisations every year to further enhance publicity effect.

10. EMSD thanked members for their views. In the future, EMSD would continue to actively identify different partners so as to further explore more diversified publicity channels.
11. A member suggested that EMSD should send staff to attend regional workshops organised regularly by the Home Affairs Department to explain to owners and owners' corporations points to note regarding testing of fixed electrical installations and provide relevant information.
12. EMSD thanked the member for his views. As the testing of fixed electrical installations was one of the highlights of EMSD's publicity work in the coming year, EMSD hoped to continue to work with different organisations and bodies to promote relevant messages together.
13. A member expressed his full support for disseminating electrical safety messages through animated promotional videos and believed that this would help the public understand relevant messages and would be easily accepted by the public. Besides, regarding the cartoon animation "Easy Steps for Online Shopping of Electrical Appliances 3+2" produced by EMSD, "2" in "3+2" meant that the voltage in Hong Kong was 220V. The member said that the Electricity Ordinance in force provided that the voltage requirement for electrical products was not less than 200V instead of 220V, and asked about the intent behind such provision and whether EMSD would consider amending the relevant legislation.
14. A member added that at present, the single-phase supply voltage was 220V and the three-phase supply voltage was 380V in Hong Kong, allowing a difference of $\pm 6\%$. This was also specified in the Supply

Rules of the two power companies in Hong Kong. As long as the upper and lower limits were not exceeded during actual operation, the requirements of the legislation were considered to be met. Besides, a member pointed out that in the early days of Hong Kong, the three-phase and single-phase supply voltages were 346V and 200V respectively. Subsequently, the voltage in most countries was increased from 200V to 220V, and Hong Kong followed suit by raising the single-phase supply voltage to 220V.

15. EMSD responded that no difficulties arising from voltage problems had been encountered in enforcing the relevant legislation so far. EMSD noted the views of members, to which it would give careful consideration.

Agenda Item 4: Work Plan for Reviewing the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (ESAC Paper 02/2019)

16. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave members an overview of the work plan of EMSD for reviewing and updating the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (CoP).
17. A member said that after the CoP had been reviewed, updated and gazetted, the trade would need to comply with it as it would be equivalent to a piece of legislation. The member asked EMSD to explain the difference between a code and a legislation.
18. EMSD responded that the objective of the CoP was to provide general technical guidance on how to comply with the various legal requirements in the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations. Although the CoP itself was not an ordinance, the trade would be regarded as meeting the legal requirements if they followed the guidelines and requirements of the CoP to carry out relevant work. Despite the fact that the CoP was used for reference only, EMSD would regularly review, amend and supplement its contents after considering different factors such as the latest safety standards and actual effectiveness, so as to keep pace with the times by providing the trade with the latest guidelines.
19. A member asked whether energy label was a requirement under the law or the CoP.

20. EMSD responded that the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) was part of the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598) which categorised the mandatory energy labels into Grade 1 to Grade 5, with the definition and classification of each grade provided according to technical requirements. EMSD could make amendments to such requirements to tie in with the ongoing technological development.
21. A member enquired whether all household electrical products supplied in Hong Kong must bear a safety mark "回".
22. EMSD responded that all household electrical products currently supplied in Hong Kong were mainly Class I and Class II designs for prevention against electric shock. Class I electrical products adopted the traditional method of prevention against electric shock, i.e. all accessible metal parts were earthed to prevent the risk of electric shock. As for Class II electrical products, i.e. electrical products bearing a double-insulated "回" mark, their live parts and accessible parts were made of insulating materials with two layers of insulation. As there were Class I and Class II products, not all household electrical products supplied in Hong Kong had the "回" mark.
23. EMSD mentioned that it would soon form a review working group for the work plan for reviewing the CoP to consult and collect the views of the trade, and would set up a task force to examine specific technical issues as necessary. In this connection, a member suggested that EMSD could follow the practice of other committees to co-opt members so that professional advice on certain specific issues could be provided by the co-opted professionals in the relevant fields to better meet the actual needs of the trade.
24. EMSD thanked the member for his views and stated that in order to gauge the views of different stakeholders in the trade in a more comprehensive manner, EMSD would co-ordinate with relevant task forces to consider the needs and candidates for co-opted members so that in-depth discussion could be conducted on specific technical issues.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

25. A member wished to know about the mechanism used by EMSD to

- determine which electrical products needed to be affixed with energy labels.
26. EMSD responded that the Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) had been launched for more than 20 years. EELS was initially implemented as a voluntary scheme, and became mandatory by way of legislation in 2009. Given the wide variety of electrical products, MEELS was only targeted at electrical products with high power consumption and high energy efficiency at the early stage of implementation, and then expanded its coverage in phases. At present, MEELS had expanded to the third phase and covered eight categories of products, mainly household electrical appliances. Besides, EMSD was actively studying the expansion of MEELS to the fourth phase to cover such equipment as gas appliances.
27. A member said that according to information available, the number of registered electrical contractors and registered electrical workers increased continuously during the period from 2016 to 2018, while the number of competent persons had shown a steady downward trend. He enquired whether this was due to the decrease in the number of construction projects in recent years resulting in underemployment in the trade or EMSD's licensing system that deterred entrants from joining the trade or other factors.
28. EMSD also noted the issue about the number of competent persons mentioned by the member. With regard to this matter, EMSD had in place a pilot indicator for monitoring whether the number of competent persons was at a normal level and its possible impact on the trade. EMSD would also meet with the trade unions of competent persons regularly to check out the recent situation of the trade. As reflected by the number of applications for road excavation by the Highways Department, the decrease in the number of competent persons in recent years might be related to the reduction in the number of road excavation works.
29. No other business was raised by members.
30. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting. Members would be informed of the date, time and venue of the next meeting in due course.