

**Minutes of the 39th Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 19 November 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 SIT Wing-hang, Alfred
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
Dr LAM King-hang
Ir AU Tat-kay, Walter
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

Mr PANG Yiu-hung	Deputy Director/Regulatory Services, EMSD
Mr VY Ek-chin	Assistant Director/Electricity and Energy Efficiency, EMSD
Mr CHAN Ka-chung	Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Electricity Legislation, EMSD
Mr LAU Kai-chung	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
Miss LAU Wing-yan, Rikki

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 39th 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 38th Meeting Held on 12 April 2019

3. Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 38th meeting or matters for follow-up. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 38th 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 the First Eight Months of 2019 (ESAC Paper 03/2019)

4. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which presented an overview of the enforcement and promotional work on electrical safety in the first eight months of 2019.
5. A member stated that the recent social incidents might have damaged some power supply facilities, and would like to know whether EMSD had any targeted measures to ensure a safe and reliable power supply.
6. EMSD responded that regarding the possible damage to power supply facilities caused by the recent social incidents, EMSD had maintained close communication with the two power companies as well as urged

them to review the security status of their power supply facilities and take necessary measures to ensure a safe and reliable power supply in Hong Kong. So far, only a very small number of power supply facilities were affected by the recent social incidents. Nevertheless, if the power supply facilities were damaged, the power companies would notify EMSD according to the mechanism. EMSD would follow up and co-ordinate upon receiving notification of such incidents, and the power companies would be required to complete the emergency repair works and power restoration arrangements as soon as possible to restore the power supply to affected users.

7. A member would like EMSD to further elaborate on the cause of the electrocution case mentioned in the paper.
8. EMSD responded that the case involved a man who was electrocuted in the bathroom of a village house. As revealed from details of the investigation, there was electricity leakage due to a faulty electrical installation in the house, and the pipework of the electric water heater became live as a result. Also, the earth loop impedance value of the fixed electrical installation involved was relatively high, leading to failure of the circuit breaker to cut off the leakage in time, thus causing the accident. To avoid similar accidents, EMSD had stepped up inspections of village houses and collaborated with Heung Yee Kuk to encourage village house owners to install circuit breakers with a view to enhancing electrical safety. In addition, EMSD would, according to the relevant code of practice, remind members of the public to test their circuit breakers every three months. EMSD would also consider proposing the installation of circuit breakers for fixed electrical installations in village houses when revising the code of practice concerned to ensure public safety.
9. A member said he noted that EMSD staff would be sent to conduct inspections at different shops to ensure the electrical products for sale in Hong Kong complied with relevant legal requirements. However, in recent years, online sales platforms were prevalent, and there were even online shops which sold electrical products with two-pin plugs as those with three-pin plugs. He hoped that EMSD would take corresponding measures in the future to enhance supervision.
10. EMSD thanked the member for his views. EMSD had been highly

concerned about the online sale of electrical products. All electrical products for sale in Hong Kong shall use earthed three-pin plugs to prevent the risk of electric shock to users due to electricity leakage of electrical products. In order to facilitate the insertion of plugs into three-pin sockets in Hong Kong, some suppliers would modify double-insulated electrical products by changing two-pin plugs to three-pin plugs, or would use adapters with related functions before putting up the products for sale. This was permitted under the law.

Online shopping had always been a complicated issue. EMSD had all along been conducting online inspections, but there were difficulties in law enforcement as some suppliers were not registered in Hong Kong. Given that most of the electrical products for online sale in Hong Kong were from the Mainland, EMSD had maintained close collaboration with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and signed a memorandum of co-operation on cross-border e-commerce, the purpose of which was to strengthen the control of and collaboration with e-commerce platforms in the Mainland through co-operation with the GACC. When unsafe household electrical products were found to enter Hong Kong via e-commerce in the Mainland, EMSD would notify the cross-border e-commerce working group so that follow-up actions could be taken against e-tailers at source by customs departments in the Mainland, including stopping the supply of such electrical products to Hong Kong, in a bid to further ensure electrical safety in the territory.

Besides, since the voltages and safety standards adopted by foreign countries differed from those in Hong Kong, EMSD would also step up publicity work to remind members of the public to first learn about whether the electrical products met the requirements of local laws and were suitable for use in Hong Kong before purchasing any such products online.

11. A member expressed concern over whether it was in compliance with the requirements of local laws if the merchants had indicated that the travel plugs and adapters were for overseas use only when selling such products in Hong Kong. In addition, he enquired whether there were any corresponding measures to regulate this type of products.
12. EMSD responded that it was not a justification for evasion of liability

for the selling of electrical products that violated the legal requirements in Hong Kong even if an indication was made in advance. Under the current relevant laws in Hong Kong, travel adapters were not products under regulation, but EMSD would investigate into each suspected case of violation according to the relevant laws so as to determine whether the electrical products put up for sale by the merchants were in compliance with the relevant legal requirements. EMSD would take enforcement actions should any contraventions be found.

Agenda Item 4: Review of the Guidance Notes for the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation (ESAC Paper 04/2019)

13. EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave members an overview of the latest updates on the review of the Guidance Notes for the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation.
14. A member said that from time to time there were defective electrical products which had to be recalled from the market. He would like to know the follow-up work of EMSD on this aspect.
15. EMSD responded that when there were defective electrical products to be recalled from the market, EMSD would manage the recall procedures with the suppliers concerned and closely monitor the recall situation to ensure public safety. At the same time, EMSD would review whether the defective electrical products were in contravention of relevant legal requirements, and would take enforcement actions should there be sufficient evidence.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

16. No other business was raised by members.
17. 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.