

**Minutes of the 41st Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 30 September 2020
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Rooms A & B, Interactive Learning Centre, 4/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street,
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Present

Ir Professor CHAN Kwok-cheung, Thomas (Chairman)
Mr PANG Yiu-hung
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
Mr LEUNG Chun-kit
Dr LAM King-hang
Professor OR Siu-wing
Ir AU Tat-kay, Walter
Mr CHAN Chi-ming, Antonio
Mr CHEUNG Wing-ho
Ir WAI Yip-kin
Miss YEE Sau-wah (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr POON Kwok-ying, Raymond	Acting Deputy Director, EMSD
Mr CHU Kei-ming, Barry	Acting Assistant Director / Electricity and Energy Efficiency, EMSD
Ms CHENG Pui-man	Acting Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Electricity Legislation, EMSD
Ms SIT Kin-ka	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Consumer Installations 1, EMSD
Mr LAU Kai-chung	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Consumer Installations 2, EMSD
Mr CHENG Koon-man	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Electrical Products, EMSD
Mr WONG Tsz-chung	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Nuclear and Utility Safety, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Mr NG Lui-kai

Mr LI Kin-shing

Miss LAU Wing-yan, Rikki

Action

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 41st 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 for reporting system in the Declaration of Interests by Members of Advisory Boards and Committees. If a member became aware that a potential 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 the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Record on Circulation of Papers for the 40th ESAC Meeting on 30 March 2020

3. The Secretariat sent a record on circulation of papers for the 40th ESAC meeting (that is, the last meeting of the last term) to the Chairman and all members of the last term for perusal. It was confirmed by the Chairman and all members of the last term. The Secretariat also provided the record to the Chairman and members of the current term for reference. If members did not have any comments or matters for follow-up, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) would arrange to upload the record to its website for public reference.

Agenda Item 3: Introduction of Electricity Legislation Division

4. EMSD presented an introduction of the Electricity Legislation Division and its enforcement and promotional work.

Agenda Item 4: Overview of Electrical Safety for the First 6 Months of 2020 (ESAC Paper 03/2020)

5. EMSD briefed members on the above paper. The paper presented an overview of the enforcement and promotional work on electrical safety in 2020 (up to June).
6. A member noted that as of June 2020, the number of prosecution actions for third party damages to electricity supply lines was 8 and enquired about the reasons for not imposing disciplinary actions against the competent persons concerned.
7. EMSD responded that, according to the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation, if a competent person had violated the relevant requirements of the Regulation, EMSD would take disciplinary action against the person concerned. However, in the said cases, no competent person was found to have violated the Regulation. Therefore, EMSD had not taken disciplinary action against the competent persons concerned.
8. A member suggested that EMSD should strengthen publicity and education, reminding the public that a registered electrical contractor (REC) and registered electrical workers (REWs) must be employed to carry out electrical work, as well as the project contractors that a competent person must be appointed to conduct underground cable detection before commencement of works in the vicinity of underground electricity cables in order to comply with relevant statutory requirements.
9. EMSD thanked the member for his view. EMSD's regulatory work was making education a priority, adopting a supervision-based approach with enforcement as a supplement. To promote the message of electrical safety to the general public, EMSD had produced a short TV Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on electrical safety to be broadcasted on television channels through the Information Services Department. In addition, a number of animations promoting electrical safety had been produced for dissemination to the public via various social media platforms. With the collaboration of the property management companies, EMSD also reminded the public that a REC

must be employed to carry out electrical work. It was believed that the electrical safety awareness of the general public would continuously be enhanced through various publicity and education efforts.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding publicity and education work on protecting underground cables, EMSD had reminded the working parties to appoint competent persons to conduct cable detection work through distributing pamphlets, and conducting site inspections and talks.)

Agenda Item 5: Progress on Reviewing the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (ESAC Paper 04/2020)

10. EMSD briefed members on the above paper. The paper gave an overview of the progress on reviewing the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (CoP).
11. Regarding EMSD's information on the new revision of the CoP that a new requirement of recommending the installation of arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) would be included, a member enquired whether this requirement was just a recommendation.
12. EMSD stated that the new requirement was just a recommended requirement. Since AFDDs had not yet widely used in Hong Kong and the trade was generally not familiar with the devices, the Working Group believed that it would be more appropriate to make this a recommended requirement first. As such, when RECs and REWs carried out electrical work for specific premises, they might consider installing AFDDs for electrical installation as a means of providing additional protection against fire caused by arc faults in final circuits. The new Working Group may consider updating the recommended requirement to a mandatory installation requirement in light of the prevailing circumstances in the next review of the CoP.
13. A member asked about the relationship between the Electricity Ordinance and the CoP.
14. EMSD responded that the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations under the Electricity Ordinance set out the statutory requirements for achieving

electrical safety, while the CoP provided general technical guidelines on meeting the statutory requirements as stipulated in the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations. Generally speaking, meeting the requirements of the CoP would be considered as having complied with the requirements of the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

15. EMSD briefed members on the review of the Continuing Professional Development Scheme for REWs.
16. A member asked about items organised by occupational safety and health organisations, whether only those which had sought prior approval from EMSD could be recognised as Module 3 training. The member further enquired whether Module 3 attendance could be included as one of the assessment criteria for the Outstanding Registered Electrical Worker Awards Scheme.
17. EMSD responded that the participation of Module 3 was on a voluntary basis. Advocating for diversified learning, prior approval from EMSD was not required for items organised by occupational safety and health organisations to be included as Module 3 training. Moreover, EMSD would relay the member's suggestion on the inclusion of Module 3 attendance as one of the assessment criteria for the Outstanding Registered Electrical Worker Awards Scheme to the next adjudication panel for consideration.
18. No other business was raised by members.
19. EMSD thanked members and the trade for their valuable opinions on electrical safety. EMSD would consider relevant views in detail to further enhance electrical safety.
20. 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.