

**Minutes of the 48th Meeting of
the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

Date : 29 February 2024
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
Miss LEUNG Wai-chun, Karmen
Ir AU Tat-kay, Walter
Ir CHAN Chi-ming, Antonio
Miss CHEUNG Hai-man, Flora
Mr CHEUNG Wing-ho
Mr CHOI Kan-man
Ms LEE Wing-han, Susanna
Mr LING Ming-lun
Professor PUN Kong-pang
Mr TSE Chun-man
Ir YAN Ka-wing
Ms YIP Kam-ye, Candy
Ms YU Hoi-kuen
Ms YEE Sau-wah (Secretary)

In attendance

Mr POON Kwok-ying, Raymond	Deputy Director / Regulatory Services, EMSD
Mr LEUNG Yiu-hong	Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Electricity Legislation, EMSD
Mr CHAN Chi-kin	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Consumer Installations 1, EMSD
Mr CHING Kwong-fai	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Consumer Installations 2, EMSD
Mr SZE Chung-tak	Acting Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Electrical Products, EMSD
Mr WONG Tsz-chung	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Nuclear and Utility Safety, EMSD
Mr NG Chi-shing, Senna	Senior Engineer / Energy Efficiency A9, EMSD
Ms NG Yuk-wa	Technical Secretary, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Ms LAU Wing-yan, Rikki

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 48th meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC) and introduced the officers of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in attendance at the meeting.
2. The Chairman briefed members on the meeting arrangement and specially reminded them to observe the guidelines on the one-tier reporting system related to the declaration of interests by members of advisory boards and committees. Under the system, 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 should disclose full details of the interests involved accordingly. The interests declared by members would also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of the 47th Meeting Held on 25 September 2023

3. The Secretariat had sent by email the minutes of the 47th meeting to members for perusal before this meeting. Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 47th meeting or matters for follow-up. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 47th meeting confirmed. The Secretariat would arrange to upload the minutes of the meeting to the EMSD website for public reference.

Agenda Item 3: Corporate Public Engagement in Promoting E&M Safety and Energy Efficiency (ESAC Paper 01/2024)

4. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an overview of the EMSD's promotion of electrical and mechanical (E&M) safety as well as energy efficiency to the public, and an outline of the public publicity programmes in the coming year.
5. A member recommended that, apart from publicising and promoting its work on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, the EMSD could also consider disseminating electrical safety messages on platforms such as Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat, so that its publicity information could reach a wider public.
6. A member pointed out that there were many foreign domestic helpers working in Hong Kong, who often came in contact with household electrical appliances. Therefore, the

member hoped that the EMSD would consider propagating messages about the safe use of electrical products on social media platforms that they frequently used.

7. The EMSD thanked the members for their recommendations and would continue to explore the use of more online platforms for propagating electrical safety messages to the public from various aspects in the future.
8. A member hoped that the EMSD would step up promotion among the youth, so that they would join the E&M trade and become new blood of the industry, thereby solving the ageing problem in the trade.
9. A member added that the EMSD could strengthen the promotion of refresher courses related to the electrical trade. Nowadays, young people were more interested in information technology subjects such as computer and artificial intelligence (AI), but often overlooked traditional technical industries such as the E&M trade. In this regard, the member hoped that the EMSD could enhance publicity for young people, thereby injecting new blood into the industry.
10. The EMSD responded that it was delighted to collaborate with the industry to encourage young people to join the electrical trade. The EMSD co-organised the Careers Expo with 19 trade organisations at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, providing information on the scope of work, career prospects, promotion opportunities, training and continuing education in the E&M trade. In addition, under the Technician Training Scheme offered by the EMSD, other than undergoing professional training from the EMSD mentors, trainees also received training at trade organisations during the training period. The EMSD was willing to discuss the training of trainees with the industry, who were welcome to discuss with the EMSD if they had any opinions.

Agenda Item 4: Overview of Electrical Safety of 2023 (ESAC Paper 02/2024)

11. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which gave an overview of the enforcement and promotional work of the EMSD on electrical safety in 2023 and the way forward in 2024.
12. A member thanked the EMSD for its efforts in following up on the supply of electrical products that were suspected to be non-compliant with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong through online shopping platforms in the Mainland. The member wished to know that, in addition to adaptors and extension units, whether the EMSD would adopt other measures to follow up on the supply of other electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong through online shopping platforms in the Mainland. Another member added that, other than online shopping

platforms in the Mainland, some local shops also sold electrical products that were suspected to be non-compliant with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong. The member hoped that the EMSD could promote to the public the importance of purchasing electrical products that complied with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong.

13. The EMSD thanked the members for their enquiries and comments, and gave weight to public promotion of the importance of using electrical products that complied with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong. For example, the EMSD would organise activities in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department or other organisations to promote the safety of electrical products to the public. Moreover, the EMSD was concerned about the public's online purchase of electrical products. As early as 2019, the EMSD collaborated with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to set up a Cross-border E-commerce Working Group under the Cooperation Arrangement on Electrical and Mechanical Products Safety and Energy Efficiency to strengthen the co-ordination work in both places on the supply of electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong. In 2023, the EMSD successfully obtained the consent of the Mainland's online shopping platform "Taobao" to add warnings on the order pages of adaptors and extension units, reminding users to pay attention to whether the relevant electrical products complied with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong before placing the orders. At the same time, "Taobao" also promised to identify Hong Kong customers by the users' IP addresses and intercept their orders for adaptors and extension units that were suspected to be non-compliant with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong on the e-commerce platform "Tmall". The EMSD would continue to study the restrictions and hoped that in the future they could cover different types of electrical products and online shopping platforms in the Mainland. The EMSD also adopted AI technology to search for the supply of electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong on local online shopping platforms, and took relevant follow-up or enforcement actions. In January 2024, the EMSD also produced a short video named Tips for Purchasing Household Electrical Products and Gas Appliances Online for the public to know the points to note when purchasing electrical products online. The EMSD would continue to carry out various publicity activities, so as to promote to the public the importance of purchasing electrical products that complied with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong.
14. A member wished to know whether individuals or organisations were criminally liable for using electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong.

15. The EMSD responded that, according to the Electricity Ordinance, it was illegal to supply electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong. In addition, no person shall use electrical products that he/she knew were prohibited. The EMSD pointed out that the parties supplying electrical products that did not comply with the statutory requirements in Hong Kong were liable for criminal prosecution and civil claims from others.
16. A member thanked the EMSD for its efforts at protecting the public in the sale of electrical products through online shopping platforms in the Mainland, sale of second-hand electrical products at “morning bazaars” and electrical safety of subdivided units, and hoped that the EMSD could continue the work in these aspects.
17. The EMSD thanked the member for their support and encouragement, and would continue its endeavour to raise public awareness of the safety of electrical products. In fact, in addition to the GACC mentioned earlier, the EMSD also collaborated with the State Administration for Market Regulation to discuss the co-operation arrangements related to the safety of electrical products. As for subdivided units, the EMSD was also a member of the Task Force on Tackling the Issue of Subdivided Units established by the Government. In this regard, the EMSD would actively assist in handling matters related to the electrical safety of subdivided units.
18. Some members shared their experiences of assisting the residents of subdivided units in installing individual electricity meters. After installation, electrical installations must be inspected, tested and issued with a Work Completion Certificate (Form WR1). Therefore, this could also help ensure the electrical safety of subdivided units.
19. A member said that the electrical work on a number of electrical installations now required Grade C registered electrical workers (REWs). The member hoped that the EMSD could provide the current number of Grade C REWs, and encourage Grade B REWs to sit for examinations to acquire Grade C certificates in due course to avoid manpower shortage in the future.
20. The EMSD stated that the relevant figures would be provided after the meeting.
[Post-meeting note: As at March 2024, the number of Grade C REWs was approximately 4 600.]
21. A member opined that, to become Grade C REWs, applicants must first possess degrees in electrical engineering conferred by recognised universities or institutions of tertiary education. The above-mentioned academic requirements might make it difficult to increase the number of Grade C REWs.

22. The EMSD responded that, in order to meet the qualification requirements for registering as Grade C REWs, applicants must first obtain recognised degrees in electrical engineering or pass examinations held or approved by the EMSD. Last year, the Professional Diploma Meister in Power Electrical Engineering programme was launched by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), providing a new channel for electrical workers. If graduates obtained the requisite results, they would be qualified for becoming Grade C REWs. It was believed that the relevant arrangement could increase the number of Grade C REWs.
23. A member pointed out that at present trade practitioners were mostly responsible for maintenance work. Therefore, they had relatively less experience in the design of electrical systems, so they might not meet the requirements of design experience for becoming Grade B REWs. The member suggested that the EMSD might consider reverting to the previous arrangement in which REWs were classified as Grade 0, 1, 2 and 3.

[Post-meeting note: The EMSD already explained to the member that, to register as Grade B REWs, applicants must first possess certain qualifications and work experience. In addition to design experience, work experience related to installation and maintenance could also be considered qualified work experience.]

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (Third Review of Grading Standards and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards)

24. The EMSD briefed members on the third review of grading standards and the minimum energy efficiency standards under the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS).
25. A member enquired how to ensure that the information submitted to the EMSD by suppliers was true and reliable.
26. The EMSD responded that the grading standards of MEELS were set out in the Code of Practice on Energy Labelling of Products. Manufacturers or importers of the prescribed products were required to conduct tests in accredited testing laboratories. The testing laboratories included accredited laboratories under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme ("HOKLAS") or an accreditation scheme operated by a laboratory accreditation body in other economies with which HOKLAS had concluded a mutual recognition arrangement. The EMSD would check the test reports to ensure that the relevant products could meet the energy efficiency standards they applied for. After

completing the registration, the EMSD would conduct sample checks on the market to see whether the latest energy efficiency labels were shown on the registered products. Moreover, qualified laboratories hired by the EMSD would check whether the performance of the registered products complied with the registered standards. If the performance of the product samples did not meet the registered standards, the EMSD would serve a notice on the manufacturers or importers of the prescribed products, requiring the products to be re-tested in the manner specified in the notice. If the retest results showed that the products still failed to comply with the requirements, the EMSD would remove them from the record of listed models and make a public announcement.

27. A member wished to know how the EMSD would handle a product if its energy efficiency grading standard was affected after the tightening of grading standards.
28. The EMSD responded that there would be a transition period before the official implementation of tightening the grading standards, so that importers and suppliers would have sufficient time to submit product information to the EMSD, in order to confirm the grading standards of the products after the tightening of grading standards. On the other hand, suppliers must also ensure that all products, including their stock in retail stores, could meet the latest requirements for grading standards after the tightening of energy efficiency grading standards. Otherwise, the products concerned could not be supplied on the market. The EMSD would also produce promotional videos to educate the public on the way to identify the latest energy efficiency labels. There was an Energy Saver function in the EMSD's mobile application "E&M Connect". When members of the public took photos of the energy efficiency labels of products with their mobile phones, the app could instantly compare the energy performance and average annual electricity charges of different product models.
29. The EMSD pointed out that it would continue to regularly tighten the energy efficiency grading standards, and hoped to reduce the electricity consumption of residential buildings by 20% to 30% from the level of 2015 by 2050. The EMSD also took this opportunity to thank the industry for its continuous co-operation, support and efforts in improving the energy efficiency performance of household electrical appliances and reducing household electricity consumption. As the cost of electricity generation would increase in the future due to using more and more environmentally friendly fuels, reducing household electricity consumption could also relieve the burden of electricity charges on the public.
30. No other business was raised by members.
31. The Chairman said that this was the last meeting of the current term of the ESAC. He took this opportunity to thank all members for their active participation in the ESAC

work and provision of valuable advice. Their contribution was of paramount significance. On behalf of the EMSD, Mr PANG Yiu-hung, Eric, Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, also expressed sincere and profound gratitude to the Chairman and all members for their dedication and constructive advice on promoting electrical safety in Hong Kong all along, as well as their strong support for the EMSD in the relevant work.

32. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting. The Secretariat would inform members of the date, time and venue of the next meeting in due course.