

## Minutes of the 50th Meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee

Date : 2 April 2025  
Time : 9:30 a.m.  
Venue : Rooms A & B, Interactive Learning Centre, 4/F, Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Department (EMSD) Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

### Present

Ir Dr LO Wai-chau, Edward	(Chairman)
Mr POON Kwok-ying, Raymond	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Mr CHAU Wing-ye, Philip	
Mr CHOI Kan-man	
Mr LEUNG Yip-hung	
Mr LEE Chuen-cheong	
Ms LAW Mei-ling	
Ir Dr CHAN Fuk-cheung	
Mr YANG Shi-long	
Mr YIP Yun	
Ms YEE Sau-wah	(Secretary)

### In attendance

Mr CHAN Pak-cheung	Deputy Director / Regulatory Services, EMSD
Mr KONG Mau-shing, Marsden	Acting Assistant Director / Electricity and Energy Efficiency, 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 CHU Ka-fai, John	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Consumer Installations 2, EMSD
Mr LEUNG Chi-to	Acting Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Electrical Products, EMSD
Mr WONG Tsz-chung	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Nuclear and Utility Safety 1, EMSD
Mr SZE Chung-tak	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Nuclear and Utility Safety 2, EMSD
Mr AU Sze-lim	Senior Engineer / Energy Efficiency B7, EMSD
Mr CHENG Ming-fai	Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / Publicity and Prosecution / 3, EMSD

Absent with Apologies

Miss LEUNG Wai-chun, Karmen

Ms LEE Wing-han, Susanna

Ir HO Kwok-wah

Dr LIU Tao

Professor OR Siu-wing

Ms FUNG Tsz-yan, Liza

Ms LAU Yuen-yee, Janus

Ms LO Siu, Lucy

Ms YU Hoi-kuen

Action

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed members and the EMSD officers in attendance to the 50th meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC).
2. The Chairman stated that the EMSD would like to invite members to visit the recently renovated Registration and Permit Office after the meeting, so that they could gain an understanding of the latest developments of the Office.
3. When briefing members on the meeting arrangement, the Chairman specifically reminded them to observe the guidelines on the one-tier reporting system for 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. The interests declared by members would also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes of the 49th Meeting Held on 4 October 2024**

4. The Secretariat had earlier circulated the minutes of the 49th meeting to all members by email for perusal. As no amendments to the minutes of the 49th meeting or follow-up matters were proposed by members, the Chairman declared the minutes of the 49th meeting confirmed. The Secretariat would arrange to upload the minutes of the meeting to the EMSD website for public reference.

**Agenda Item 3: Overview of Electrical Safety in 2024  
(ESAC Paper 01/2025)**

5. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which provided an overview of the enforcement and promotional work on electrical safety in 2024 and the way forward in 2025.
6. Noting that only 129 out of the 595 incidents investigated by the EMSD were confirmed to be related to the Electricity Ordinance, a member enquired about the investigation outcomes of the remaining incidents.
7. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that for past incidents suspected of involving electricity but not referred by the Fire Services Department, the EMSD would take the initiative to investigate those deemed to be of public concern. Of the 595 incidents investigated, 129 were confirmed to be related to the Electricity Ordinance, while the others were not.
8. A member enquired why there were 129 incidents related to the Electricity Ordinance but 455 prosecution cases. The member further asked whether these two figures were related and what the grounds for the remaining prosecution cases were.
9. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that the number of incidents investigated and the number of prosecutions were not directly related. In 2024, the increase in prosecutions was due to a rise in the number of prosecution cases involving failure to complete periodic inspection and testing for fixed electrical installations and the supply of non-compliant adaptors.
10. A member enquired why the content on the EMSD's WeChat official account was not as rich as that on its Facebook or YouTube pages.
11. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that the EMSD's WeChat official account had only been launched in October of the previous year. In terms of usage, the WeChat official account did indeed differ from social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. With increasing co-operation between the EMSD and Mainland organisations, the EMSD hoped to connect with the general public in the Mainland through its WeChat official

account, thereby opening up more channels to enhance its services. As the content to be published on the WeChat official account was more in-depth and detailed, more time and resources were required for production. Having gained about six months of experience, the EMSD was now actively arranging to publish a new series of electrical and mechanical information relevant to people in both the Mainland and Hong Kong on its WeChat official account. The EMSD welcomed members to provide further feedback through the WeChat official account for its reference.

12. A member expressed appreciation for the EMSD's efforts in proactively enhancing promotional pamphlets, expanding publicity channels, strengthening community collaboration and producing animated promotional videos. The member also noted that the number of electrical incidents had not decreased despite the EMSD's inspections and publicity activities, and enquired whether the EMSD would consider tackling the issue at source, for example, by incorporating relevant safety guidelines into the new editions of codes of practice.
13. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that the number of electrical incidents in Hong Kong was relatively low compared with other places. Nevertheless, the EMSD had been committed to preventing electrical incidents. For each electrical incident, the EMSD would target its cause and take action at source while carrying out publicity activities to prevent similar incidents. In addition, the EMSD would consider incorporating relevant electrical safety guidelines into the new editions of codes of practice for reference of trade members.
14. A member enquired why the EMSD carried out interactive publicity activities for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and the general public, while there was no promotional work for tertiary institutions and universities.
15. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that the purposes of publicity activities for kindergartens and primary schools were to cultivate electrical safety awareness among students from a young age and to guide parents in developing electrical safety habits. In addition, the EMSD organised various activities, such as the E&M Young Ambassador Programme, competitions and visits, to promote electrical safety among tertiary institutions and universities. Recently, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

and electrical trade organisations, the EMSD launched the “Practicing for Future” Pilot Scheme, which enabled electrical engineering students to gain early understanding of the legislative requirements for electrical safety, and exposure to their future work environment and career prospects, thereby better preparing them for future careers in the electrical trade.

16. A member expressed concern that some Mainland e-commerce companies were planning to set up physical stores in Hong Kong and the electrical products to be supplied in Hong Kong might pose safety risks. The member enquired about the measures the EMSD would take to address the issue.
17. The EMSD thanked the member for the question, and stated that electrical products supplied in Hong Kong were regulated under the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation. Therefore, if a Mainland e-commerce company set up a physical store in Hong Kong and supplied electrical products, the products must comply with the applicable safety requirements. The EMSD would also liaise with e-commerce companies and closely monitor developments in this regard.

Furthermore, the EMSD noted that online purchases of electrical products had become increasingly common among the public in recent years. In view of this, as regards the general public, the EMSD stepped up publicity and education to raise public safety awareness of purchasing electrical products, and progressively displayed relevant promotional posters at border control points. Furthermore, the EMSD collaborated with the Consumer Council to remind the public, through articles in the CHOICE magazine, to ensure that electrical products purchased online complied with the applicable safety requirements in Hong Kong. Recently, the EMSD also produced promotional videos and animations to remind the public of the points to note when purchasing electrical products online.

Regarding e-commerce platforms, the EMSD, in collaboration with the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), established the Cross-border E-commerce Working Group under the Co-operation Arrangement on Electrical and Mechanical Products Safety and Energy Efficiency in 2019, to take charge of risk control in both places. The work included reporting unsafe electrical products and providing briefings for Mainland e-commerce companies on the requirements of the laws of Hong Kong. If a suspected supply of unsafe electrical products on an online platform was identified, the EMSD

would notify the GACC. Upon substantiation of the case through investigation, the GACC would intercept the products and require their removal from sale. In addition, the EMSD organised briefings on the statutory requirements in Hong Kong for Mainland e-commerce platforms and companies every year.

18. A member pointed out that the European Union mandated the installation of arc fault detection devices for indoor fixed electrical installations to prevent fires caused by arc faults. The member suggested that the EMSD should incorporate the relevant requirement into the new edition of the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations.
19. The EMSD thanked the member for the suggestion, and stated that multiple task forces had been established for the new edition of the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations. The task forces discussed various items, including incorporating the requirement of installing arc fault detection devices and a feasible timetable for implementation.
20. A member suggested that upon the EMSD's acceptance of the report on the power system of the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, the relevant recommendations could be shared with the other power company for reference, thereby enhancing the overall safety of power supply in Hong Kong.
21. The EMSD thanked the member for the suggestion, and stated that it had always shared good practices with power companies. After reviewing the report, the EMSD would also share the recommendations with the other power company.
22. A member particularly commended the EMSD's use of animations to promote electrical safety, considering this approach effective in attracting public attention and facilitating the acquisition of electrical safety knowledge.
23. The EMSD thanked the member for the view.
24. The Secretary indicated that a written enquiry had been received from a member on whether parallel imported electrical products were regulated under the Electricity Ordinance.

25. The EMSD thanked the member for the enquiry, and stated that electrical products supplied in Hong Kong were regulated by the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation made under the Electricity Ordinance. Therefore, parallel imported electrical products supplied in Hong Kong must comply with the relevant requirements of the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation.

**Agenda Item 4: Proposed Amendments to the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610) and Its Subsidiary Legislation (ESAC Paper 02/2025)**

26. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which outlined the proposed amendments to the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (BEEO) (Cap. 610) and its subsidiary legislation, along with the legislative and implementation timetable.
27. The Chairman stated that following the amendments to the BEEO, both the numbers of premises required to conduct energy audits and the associated assessors would increase. He enquired whether the EMSD had assessed the sufficiency of manpower in the market.
28. The EMSD thanked the Chairman for the enquiry, and stated that following the amendments to the BEEO, the corporate members of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers in the energy discipline, registered professional engineers and professional members of the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals could apply for registration as Registered Energy Assessors. The EMSD had conducted relevant assessments and was convinced that there would be sufficient manpower in the market to meet the demand.
29. A member expressed support for including data centres as buildings required to conduct regular energy audits, given the substantial energy consumption involved in their daily operations.
30. The EMSD thanked the member for the view.
31. A member enquired whether mandating more public facilities to conduct regular energy audits would affect their building operations and increase their operating costs.

32. The EMSD thanked the member for the enquiry, and stated that a public consultation on the amendments to the BEEO had been conducted for over one year. Positive feedback in support of the amendments was received from stakeholders. Following the amendments, the energy audit process would be streamlined, making it easier for building owners to conduct audits. Compared with past data, 80% of buildings saw a reduction in energy consumption after completing energy audits, with significant improvements in the energy utilisation index. Furthermore, energy audit costs would only account for about 1% of overall annual electricity costs for buildings required to conduct energy audits under the regulatory scope of the amended BEEO.

**Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business**

33. A member enquired whether power banks were regulated under the Electricity Ordinance.
34. The EMSD thanked the member for the enquiry, and stated that power banks were regulated under the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance enforced by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED). If a power bank was charged through a socket outlet, its cord and adaptor were regulated under the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation. Nevertheless, the EMSD would maintain close communication with the C&ED. If problematic power banks were identified during EMSD's investigation, the case would be referred to the C&ED for follow-up action.
35. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting. The Secretariat would further inform members of the date, time and venue of the next meeting. As with this meeting, the Secretariat would circulate the information papers to all members for reference by email prior to the next meeting.