

Minutes of the 51st Meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee

Date : 25 September 2025
Time : 2:30 p.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-yee, Philip
Mr CHOI Kan-man
Mr LEUNG Yip-hung
Ms LEE Wing-han, Susanna
Ms LAW Mei-ling
Ir HO Kwok-wah
Ir Dr CHAN Fuk-cheung
Dr LIU Tao
Ms FUNG Tsz-yan, Liza
Ms LAU Yuen-yee, Janus
Ms LO Siu, Lucy
Mr YANG Shi-long
Ms YEE Sau-wah (Secretary)

In attendance

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

Absent with Apologies

Miss LEUNG Wai-chun, Karmen

Mr LEE Chuen-cheong

Professor OR Siu-wing

Mr YIP Yun

Ms YU Hoi-kuen

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Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed members and the EMSD officers in attendance to the 51st meeting of the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC).
2. 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 50th Meeting Held on 2 April 2025

3. The Secretariat had earlier circulated the minutes of the 50th meeting to all members by email for perusal. As no amendments to the minutes of the 50th meeting or follow-up matters were proposed by members, the Chairman declared the minutes of the 50th 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 the First 6 Months of 2025
(ESAC Paper 03/2025)**

4. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which provided an overview of the enforcement and promotional work on electrical safety in the first 6 months of 2025.

5. A member expressed appreciation for the EMSD's efforts in responding to power supply interruptions in buildings caused by adverse weather. In addition, the member raised the following questions:

- (1) Were residents of subdivided units (SDUs) legally required to install residual current devices (RCDs)?
- (2) Was the increase in the number of registered electrical workers (REWs) related to the importation of foreign labour?
- (3) In the operation "Beacon Tower" announced earlier by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), had the EMSD taken action to revoke the registration of the REWs involved?
- (4) Which organisations should the public contact in the event of a power supply interruption incident in "three-nil" buildings?

6. The EMSD thanked the member for the questions, and stated as follows:

- (1) Electrical installations in SDUs, in common with those in ordinary buildings, must comply with the Electricity Ordinance. RCDs must be installed on relevant electrical circuits in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations. The EMSD would conduct regular inspections and, if a fixed electrical installation in an SDU was found non-compliant with the statutory requirements, including failure to install an RCD, would by notice require the owner of the installation to rectify the installation in accordance with the law. If the owner failed to do so within the specified time, the EMSD might consider instituting prosecution against the owner.

The EMSD had remained highly concerned about the safety of electrical installations in SDUs and stepped up relevant inspection and publicity efforts. Firstly, the EMSD, in collaboration with the Buildings Department, conducted inspections in districts with a higher number of SDUs, including Mong Kok, Sham Shui Po, Fanling, Tsuen Wan and Wan Chai. Moreover, the EMSD launched publicity and education campaigns through various channels to raise residents' awareness of electrical safety. Recently, the EMSD placed advertisements in 56 MTR stations and strengthened publicity on various online platforms. Furthermore, in collaboration with district organisations,

including the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Mong Kok Kai Fong Association Limited Chan Hing Social Service Centre, the H.K.S.K.H. Lady MacLehose Centre, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Estate Agents Authority, the EMSD held a number of electrical safety seminars, sharing messages concerning electrical safety of fixed electrical installations with SDU residents, estate agents and volunteers.

- (2) According to the EMSD's records, no foreign workers were registered as REWs. Therefore, the increase in the number of REWs was unrelated to the importation of foreign labour.
 - (3) With regard to the operation "Beacon Tower" announced earlier by the ICAC, the EMSD had revoked the registration of the REWs involved in accordance with the Electricity Ordinance.
 - (4) Based on past experience, in the event of a power supply interruption incident in buildings, the public could contact the EMSD, the District Offices or the power companies. Regarding the electrical safety of "three-nil" buildings, the EMSD planned to follow up, through the HAD's Pilot Scheme on Joint Property Management, the matters relating to buildings' failure to conduct periodic testing for fixed electrical installations as scheduled.
7. Noting the improper use of extension units by some SDU residents, a member suggested the EMSD to collaborate with various community organisations to promote household electrical product safety. The member also noted that some high-power USB chargers would emit excessive heat when in use, which might compromise electrical product safety.
 8. The Chairman stated that as modern USB chargers used gallium nitride (GaN) instead of traditional silicon, they were able to withstand higher energy levels and temperatures. There was no cause for concern provided that they were used properly.
 9. The EMSD stated that it had been monitoring the use of extension units by SDU residents. Due to insufficient socket outlets in some SDUs, the residents concerned might end up using too many extension units or using them improperly. With the upcoming implementation of the Basic Housing Units Ordinance, the

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EMSD would develop a technical guideline detailing the standard design for electrical installations in basic housing units. The design would ensure an appropriate number of socket outlets in these units, thereby reducing the needs for residents to use extension units. The EMSD believed this approach would offer a more effective solution to the problem.

Furthermore, the EMSD pointed out that USB chargers supplied in Hong Kong with an operating voltage exceeding 50 volts (V) alternating current (AC) or 120V direct current (DC) must comply with the safety requirements of the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation, while extension units with USB charging functions must comply with the IEC 62368 standard.

10. A member enquired whether portable chargers (power banks) were regulated under the Electricity Ordinance.
11. 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). In general, electrical products with an operating voltage exceeding 50V AC or 120V DC were regulated under the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation. Nevertheless, the EMSD had maintained close communication with the C&ED. If problematic power banks were identified during investigations, the case would be referred to the C&ED for follow-up action.
12. A member suggested leveraging innovation and technology, such as deploying battery energy storage systems (BESSs) for rapid power restoration in buildings affected by power interruptions, and using smart meter systems of the two power companies to identify units with current leakage and issue corresponding alerts.
13. The EMSD thanked the member for the view, and stated that it would explore, together with the trade and power companies, the feasibility of applying such technologies.
14. A member expressed concern that some members of the public had recently purchased electrical products from the Mainland and had them installed by unregistered electrical workers, worrying that this would pose a risk to electrical safety and that the members of the public concerned might be breaking the law.

15. The EMSD thanked the member for the concern raised, and stated that it had maintained close communication with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and major e-commerce platforms, while regularly monitoring cross-border online platforms. If unsafe electrical products were found to be supplied to Hong Kong via such platforms, the EMSD would notify the GACC. The GACC would then initiate an investigation into the case and take follow-up action on a case-by-case basis, including requiring the e-commerce platforms to take proactive measures, such as intercepting orders and removing the products from sale.

Moreover, the EMSD collaborated with the Consumer Council to publicise in the CHOICE magazine the risks of cross-border shopping, and to remind the public to engage registered electrical contractors to carry out electrical works. Under the Electricity Ordinance, it was an offence for any person to employ an unregistered electrical contractor to carry out electrical works, such as connection works for range hoods or air-conditioners powered by fixed electrical circuits.

16. A member stated that the public might not know how to test an RCD, particularly how to reset it after testing. The member hoped that the EMSD would provide more guidance on this.
17. The EMSD stated that the public should press the RCD's in-built test button at least once every three months to check the proper functioning of the RCD. The EMSD would also strengthen public publicity and educational efforts in this regard in the future.
18. A member suggested that, in addition to a QR code linking to the EMSD's website, the EMSD could consider including QR codes linking to its Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages on souvenirs it produced to facilitate public access to information on electrical and mechanical safety and energy efficiency.
19. The EMSD thanked the member for the suggestion, and stated that it would explore the inclusion of more QR code links in future souvenir production, with a view to enabling public access to safety information disseminated by the EMSD via different online platforms.

Agenda Item 4: Co-operation between the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Mainland Authorities on Electrical Product Safety (ESAC Paper 04/2025)

20. The EMSD briefed members on the above paper, which outlined the background of co-operation between the EMSD and Mainland authorities on electrical product safety and the relevant work undertaken.
21. A member stated that while the trade did not dispute the safety of electrical products certified under the China Compulsory Certification (“3C” Certification) System, cross-border electrical products were still of varying quality. The member also stated that, in addition to meeting the safety certification requirements, cross-border electrical products must also comply with other local legislation, including the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance and the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance.
22. The EMSD thanked the member for the view, and stated that it had maintained close communication with Mainland e-commerce companies, and clearly explained to them the relevant legislation and requirements regarding the supply of electrical products in Hong Kong.

With the support of the GACC, the EMSD reached a co-operation agreement with Alibaba in 2023 to intercept the orders of unsafe household electrical products or to remove such products from sale. Furthermore, the EMSD had held multiple meetings with JD.com representatives since December 2024 to proactively explain the prevailing legislation on household electrical product safety in Hong Kong, and established a notification mechanism with JD.com to safeguard public safety in the use of household electrical products. In July 2025, the EMSD also held a meeting with Pinduoduo representatives to discuss the establishment of a notification mechanism. To sum up, the EMSD had established mechanisms with major Mainland e-commerce companies, which were believed to have a gatekeeping role to a certain extent in safeguarding electrical product safety.

In addition, the EMSD would strengthen public education through a variety of channels, such as disseminating information via social media platforms and its online publications, collaborating with the Consumer Council on publicity in the

CHOICE magazine, and distributing promotional materials at border control points.

23. The member representing the Consumer Council stated that an article on cross-border online shopping would be included in the CHOICE magazine to be published in October. Furthermore, the Consumer Council would handle the received complaints about cross-border online shopping.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

24. The Chairman suggested that the EMSD could strengthen publicity on the major amendments in relation to arc fault detection devices (AFDDs) in the Code of Practice for the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations, so as to facilitate wider application of the technology and enhance electrical safety.
25. The EMSD thanked the Chairman for the suggestion, and stated that it would step up publicity and educational efforts among the trade on the amendments relating to AFDDs.
26. A member stated that the EMSD's WeChat official account was currently text-based, and suggested adopting a publicity approach that was simpler and easier to understand.
27. The EMSD thanked the member for the suggestion, and stated that its WeChat official account had only been launched in October of the previous year. The usage patterns of the WeChat official account did differ from other promotional channels such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. The EMSD would actively explore different forms of publicity.
28. 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.