

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024

Matters of Discussion

1. Review of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO) / Regulations

Progress of the review:

- Implementation of the amended DGO, Cap. 295 and its subsidiary legislation

Since the implementation of the amended DGO, FSD had arranged seven “FSD Connects with the Relevant Industries of Dangerous Goods” sharing sessions. To further facilitate the compliance of packing, marking and labelling requirements of dangerous goods (DG) by the trade and general public and address some frequently asked issues from the trade, the seventh sharing session was held on 14.3.2024.

The amendment of Schedule 2 of Dangerous Goods (Application & Exemption) Regulation 2012, Cap. 295E and Code of Practice for Control of Dangerous Goods on Land were in progress.

- Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulation 2012 [DG(S)R 2012]

Two legislative amendments to DG(S)R 2012, Cap. 295F were in progress, one to replace the symbols of single right quotation mark with apostrophe for representing arc-minutes of the coordinates in order to be consistent with the general requirement of the International Hydrographic Organization; and another to facilitate the use of alternative fuels in Hong Kong.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

From February to April 2024, the Dangerous Goods Enforcement Team (DGET) of FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 137 PFS during which fire safety advice was given to the PFS operators.

According to the updated Addendum to Fire Safety Requirements for PFS, operators of PFS shall caution individuals within the PFS against

using any equipment that had the potential to emit sparks in the hazardous area of the licensed store.

3. Enforcement Actions Related to Over-Storage of Dangerous Goods

From February to April 2024, DGET had conducted 388 surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next table-top exercise on the Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme – Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident was scheduled for 20.6.2024.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

From February to April 2024, FSD had carried out 653 surprise inspections to approved DG stores. The condition of most of the DG stores inspected was satisfactory. All DG licences previously granted under Dangerous Goods (General) Regulation, Cap. 295B had been converted to new DG licences under DG(C)R, Cap. 295G.

6. Proposed Amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (GSO), Cap. 51

The Government was introducing legislative amendments to GSO, Cap. 51 to regulate the use of hydrogen as a fuel. With the proposed amendments to GSO, the future regulatory oversight of hydrogen would depend of its specific use. The use and intended use of hydrogen as a fuel would be regulated under GSO, other uses of hydrogen would remain being regulated under DGO. FSD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) had established a communication platform to exchange views on legislative amendments for the smooth implementation of the new regulatory regime.

7. Retrofitting Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Facilities at Existing PFS

A representative of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) briefed

Members of the latest EV development of Hong Kong and two initiatives of the Government on (i) conversion of PFS to quick charging stations; and (ii) retrofitting EV quick chargers at existing PFS.

Members expressed their views and concern on the new initiatives and unanimously agreed that safety should always be put at the top priority for implementation of the new initiatives for promotion of EV in Hong Kong. EEB would work hand in hand with FSD, EMSD and other Government Departments to devise the safety requirements and regulations for retrofitting EV chargers at PFS.