

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)025

(Question Serial No. 0745)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (VEELS) has covered 22 types of household appliances and office equipment since its launch. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

1. What were the manpower and expenditure involved each year for taking forward the VEELS? Is provision earmarked for publicity work in 2024-25? If yes, what is the amount involved?
2. Does the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department have any plan to extend the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) to cover more products under the VEELS? If yes, is there any timetable? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Will the Government strengthen the publicity and education work among consumers on online purchase of related products, in particular the ways to identify product risks and whether the products concerned comply with the requirements of the energy efficiency labelling schemes?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The implementation of the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, including its related publicity and public education work, is part of the daily duties of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to promote energy conservation and is undertaken by the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.
2. The fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) has come into effect in 2023 and will be fully implemented on 1 December 2024, with the coverage extended to light emitting diode lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters. To date, the MEELS has covered a total of 11 types of prescribed products, accounting for about 80% of the total residential energy consumption. Moreover, the new energy efficiency grading standards for refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters will come into effect in June 2024. The EMSD will continue to review overseas experience, international testing standards, potential energy saving benefits, opinions of stakeholders, etc. to extend the

coverage of the MEELS and upgrade the grading standards of products under the MEELS, with a view to ensuring that the grading standards are abreast of the latest technological development.

3. According to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598), energy labels are required to be affixed to the prescribed products supplied in Hong Kong to inform consumers of the energy efficiency performance of the products concerned.

The EMSD will take samples of the products in the market to check whether the actual energy efficiency performance of the products concerned is in line with the information shown on their energy labels. If a listed model is found to be non-compliant with the performance requirements, the EMSD will remove its reference number from the record of listed models, thereby prohibiting the supply of the model concerned on the market. The non-compliant products will also be publicised to consumers.

To step up publicity on the points to note for purchasing safe and highly energy-efficient household electrical and gas appliances through online shopping platforms, the EMSD has been disseminating the relevant information through various channels, such as promotional videos which are produced for uploading to various social media platforms and broadcasting through the MTR in-train TV, the social media platform page “Witty Bear” of the EMSD, publications such as EnergyWits and Energy Label Newsletter, and the mobile application “E&M Connect” of the EMSD.

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