

Bills Committee on Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill
Disposal of Used Compact Fluorescent Lamps

At its meetings on 10 July and 12 July 2007, the Bills Committee on Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill (the “Committee”) discussed the treatment of used compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). The response of the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to Members’ views is as follows:

In accordance with the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation, the waste producer is required to make suitable arrangements for the storage, collection and disposal of chemical waste if large quantities of mercury-containing waste (including CFLs) are disposed of. The waste producer has to arrange for the delivery of chemical waste to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) in Tsing Yi for proper treatment. In the CWTC, the mercury content of CFLs will be extracted and recovered by physical treatment in a mercury waste treatment facility. Air pollution control system is in place to ensure that the emissions comply with the stipulated emission limits. Solid residues produced during the treatment process are stabilized and tested to ensure compliance with the relevant standard before final disposal.

As CFLs for domestic use usually have a long lifespan and will not be in large quantities, residents may dispose of them together with other solid waste, which will be delivered to the landfills for disposal. The landfills are equipped with impermeable liner, leachate collection and treatment system, and surface water and groundwater management systems, which provide effective means for the treatment of pollutants to prevent land and groundwater contamination.

Usage of CWTC

The CWTC provides treatment service for public and private organizations which may need to dispose large quantities of used CFLs and fluorescent tubes. At present, a number of organizations, including Government departments (the Housing Department, the Electrical and

Mechanical Services Department, the Customs and Excise Department and the Drainage Services Department), education institutions such as tertiary institutions and private companies, have put in place a voluntary collection system for used CFLs and fluorescent tubes. These organizations will collect and store the used CFLs and fluorescent tubes and arrange delivery to the CWTC when they accumulate to a certain quantity. The CWTC will charge a disposal fee of HK\$1,027 per tonne.

Suggested arrangements

The EPD will continue to actively encourage public and private organizations which may need to dispose of large quantities of used CFLs (including public transport operators, tertiary institutions, the airport, hotels, shopping arcades, etc.) to deliver their used CFLs to the CWTC for treatment. Apart from this, in response to the views of the Committee, the EPD plans to write to property management companies. The Department will introduce to them the guideline entitled “A Guide to Waste Producers for Handling and Disposing Spent Mercury-Containing Lamps” and encourage them to make the following arrangements with reference to it -

- Implement a voluntary collection mechanism at housing estates for collection of CFLs and fluorescent tubes, including setting up facilities for collection and storage of used CFLs;
- When the used CFLs and fluorescent tubes collected have accumulated to a certain quantity, engage licensed chemical waste collectors to deliver them to the CWTC. The disposal fee is HK\$1,027 per tonne, and will be charged by the CTWC on a pro rata basis based on the actual weight. The list of licensed chemical waste collectors is available at EPD’s website; and
- Promote the proper way to handle used CFLs and the above collection scheme to the residents. The EPD will produce posters to facilitate their promotion work.

The EPD will provide technical advice to property management companies on matters relating to the implementation of the above-mentioned scheme. The EPD has also started to contact the trade to explore the feasibility of implementing a collection scheme operated by them.

**Environment Bureau and Environmental Protection Department
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