

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 614/06-07
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/SS/2/1

**Subcommittee on
Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation**

**Minutes of first meeting
held on Friday, 15 December 2006, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Chairman
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
- Members absent** : Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
- Public officers attending** : Environmental Protection Department

Mr TSE Chin-wan
Assistant Director (Air Policy)

Mr PANG Sik-wing
Principal Environmental Protection Officer
(Air Policy)

Mr SHIU Lik-king
Senior Administrative Officer (Air Policy Division)
- Department of Justice

Mr Vidy CHEUNG Chi-wai
Senior Government Counsel

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Mr Stephen LAM
Assistant Legal Adviser 4

Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

I. Election of Chairman

Nominated by Ms Emily LAU and seconded by Mr Howard YOUNG, Ms Audrey EU was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Meeting with the Administration

2. The Committee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at **Annex A**).
3. Members decided that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 4 January 2007, at 8:30 am to continue discussion on the Regulation. They agreed that invitation should be extended to deputations who had been earlier consulted by the Administration to see if they had further comments on the Regulation and whether they would like to make an oral presentation before the Subcommittee. It was also agreed that a notice would be put on the LegCo's website to invite public views on the Regulation.

III. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:30 am.

**Proceedings of the first meeting of the
Subcommittee on Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation
on Friday, 15 December 2006 at 8:30 am
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 - 000048	Mr Howard YOUNG Ms Emily LAU Ms Audrey EU	Election of Chairman Ms Audrey EU was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee	
000049 - 001100	Chairman Ms Emily LAU Mr Howard YOUNG Clerk	The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 4 January 2007, at 8:30 am. Deputations which had been earlier consulted by the Administration on the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation (the Regulation) would be invited to express their views, if any	
001101 - 001924	Chairman Administration	Administration's explanation on the Regulation	
001925 - 002153	Mr Howard YOUNG	Mr Howard YOUNG's remarks that the affected trades had reservation on the initial proposals on the control of volatile organic compounds (VOC) which covered a wide variety of consumer products. They were much relieved after the scope of control was narrowed down. However, they would not welcome further tightening of control	
002154 - 002625	Mr Martin LEE Administration	Mr Martin LEE's enquiry on the views of green groups on the Regulation Administration's explanation - (a) green groups were consulted on the revised control scheme and were strongly supportive of proposed Regulation to control VOC emissions; (b) the imposition of prescribed VOC limits for regulated products starting from 1 April 2007 would help expedite the control regime and dispense with the requirements for registration and testing of products; and	

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(c) depending on the results of the control scheme, consideration would be given to extending the control to cover solvents used in industries. A study on the alternatives for solvents was being carried out by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.</p>	
002626 - 003540	Ms Emily LAU Administration	<p>Discussion on VOC emission sources and the progress being made to meet the 2010 emission reduction targets for VOC</p> <p>Administration's explanation -</p> <p>(a) very stringent emission standards were adopted for vehicles, fuels and industrial processes in Hong Kong;</p> <p>(b) paints, printing industry, VOC-containing consumer products and motor vehicles were the four major emission sources which contributed to about 92% of total VOC emissions in Hong Kong. The remaining 8% were from vessels and aircraft, as well as other industrial and domestic sources;</p> <p>(c) with the introduction of emission reduction measures over the years, VOC emissions from vehicles had been reduced to the practical minimum. Together with other measures, this helped to achieve a 23% reduction of local VOC emission by 2004;</p> <p>(d) a 45% to 50% reduction of local VOC emissions was expected with the implementation of the proposed control on VOC emissions, which could almost meet the reduction target of 55% VOC emissions by 2010 target; and</p> <p>(e) active cooperation was being sought from the Mainland on the reduction of VOC emissions</p>	

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
003541 - 003713	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's concern -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) need for control on VOC emissions to protect workers' health; (b) effects of white spirit on workers' health should be addressed; and (c) need to invite views from workers' associations <p>Administration's response -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) effect of white spirit on printing workers was related to occupational health and not air pollution control; and (b) printing workers' associations were consulted on the Regulation and they had not raised objection 	
003714 - 004113	Chairman Mr Martin LEE Administration	<p>Chairman's enquiry on the next course of action to control VOC emissions</p> <p>Administration's explanation that control on the use of industrial solvents would be introduced as a next step</p>	
004114 - 004923	Chairman Administration	<p>Discussion on overseas experience in the prevention of smog</p> <p>Administration's explanation -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) control on VOC emissions would help the prevention of smog. However, there were different causes for smog in different places. By way of illustration, the smog in California was caused by nitrogen oxides and VOC emissions from vehicles while the smog in London was caused by sulphur dioxide and dust from the burning of coal. The photochemical smog in Hong Kong was caused by emissions from a combination of sources and was complicated by hot weather and high population density. As such, each place has to adopt its own emission reduction measures to suit its individual circumstances; and 	

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		(b) United States had imposed control on VOC emissions. However, other places, such as Japan and European countries, had yet to work out similar controls but studies were being carried out in this respect	
004924 - 005504	Ms Emily LAU Administration	<p>Ms Emily LAU's concern about emissions from vessels/aircraft and industrial sources</p> <p>Administration's explanation -</p> <p>(a) emissions from vessels and aircraft were governed by international standards. Vessels and aircraft would need to be suitably retrofitted in order to meet the standards;</p> <p>(b) control on emissions from vessels was being tightened and Hong Kong would follow suit; and</p> <p>(c) there were control on the use of industrial fuels in Hong Kong</p>	
005505 - 010030	Ms Emily LAU Administration Chairman ALA4	<p>Ms Emily LAU's enquiry about the reaction of the cosmetic and perfume industry to the Regulation</p> <p>Administration's explanation -</p> <p>(a) the cosmetic and perfume industry had not raised objection to the Regulation after the control on consumer products was narrowed down to six major emitting sources, namely hairsprays, insecticides, insect repellents, air fresheners, floor wax strippers and multi-purpose lubricants. Efforts would be made to comply with the prescribed limits on VOC; and</p> <p>(b) exemptions were granted to products with no alternatives available</p>	