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**Subcommittee on
Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance
(Amendment of Schedules) Order 2009**

**Background brief prepared for the
meeting on 16 November 2009**

Purpose

This paper gives a summary of discussion by the Panel on Environmental Affairs (the Panel) on the second phase of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS).

Introduction

2. MEELS was introduced through the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598) (the Ordinance) which was enacted on 9 May 2008, with a grace period of 18 months ending on 8 November 2009. Under the Ordinance, energy labels are required to be shown on all prescribed products for supply in Hong Kong to inform consumers of their energy efficiency performance. The initial phase of MEELS covers three types of prescribed products, namely room air conditioners, refrigerating appliances and compact fluorescent lamps, which already account for about 60% of local electricity consumption in the residential sector.

3. In view of the positive feedback on the initial phase, the Administration proposes to amend the Ordinance to implement the second phase of the MEELS to include washing machines and dehumidifiers. The two proposed products together account for about 7% of the annual electricity consumption in the residential sector. It is estimated that the implementation of the second phase of MEELS can bring about an additional energy saving of about 25 GWh. This amounts to a saving of about \$25 million in electricity bill per year, and an annual reduction of carbon dioxide emission of 17 500 tonnes.

4. In line with the arrangement of the initial phase of MEELS, a grace period of 18 months will be allowed for the second phase. Product models which have already been registered under the voluntary scheme need not be re-tested for transferring to MEELS.

The Order

5. The Order amends the Ordinance by adding two prescribed products, namely washing machines and dehumidifiers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and 3 of the Ordinance. The Order is subject to the negative vetting procedure.

Major issues raised by the Panel

6. The Panel received a briefing on the second phase of MEELS at its meeting on 15 July 2009.

7. While there was general support for the implementation of the second phase of MEELS, some members questioned why only two more products were to be included in the second phase. Given that many electrical appliances would become outdated within a very short period of time as a result of rapid technological development, there was a need for the Administration to expedite the progress of MEELS to keep up with the latest development.

Relevant papers

Information paper provided by the Administration for the Environmental Affairs Panel meeting on 15 July 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ea/papers/ea0715cb1-2197-5-e.pdf>

Minutes of the Environmental Affairs Panel meeting on 15 July 2009

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ea/minutes/ea20090715.pdf>

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