

## **LegCo Panel on Trade and Industry**

### **Labelling Requirements for Electrical and Gas Appliances**

#### **Introduction**

This paper informs Members of the statutory labelling requirements for electrical and gas appliances which are within the purview of the Economic Services Bureau.

#### **Electrical Products**

2. The labelling requirements for electrical appliances are stipulated under the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation (EPSR) of the Electricity Ordinance (Cap 406). The EPSR prescribes the labelling requirements for electrical products that are designed for household use and supplied in Hong Kong. They aim to ensure compliance with the relevant safety standards, and to provide users with instructions on the correct usage. The labelling requirements cover three categories: essential safety requirements for all electrical products, specific safety requirements for prescribed products (including plugs, adaptors, lampholders, flexible cords, extension units and unvented thermal storage type electric water heaters) and special warning label requirements for electrical products designed solely for use at less than 200V. These labelling requirements, as contained in Schedule 1 – 3 of the EPSR, are summarised in the Annex.

#### **Gas Appliances**

3. Currently, there is no statutory labelling requirement for gas appliances. However, a voluntary code of practice entitled “Approval of Domestic Gas Appliances” (GU05) has been introduced since June 1998. The code of practice prescribes the requirements for the approval of domestic gas appliances by the Gas Authority. Consideration is now being given to legislate the requirement for all new domestic gas

appliances to be approved by the Gas Authority and for the approval to be signified by the display of an approval mark on the gas appliance. The intention is that the scheme will apply to all domestic gas appliances supplied for use in Hong Kong, including parallel imports which we understand are not significant in the Hong Kong market.

### **Need for additional labelling requirements**

4. The labelling requirements for electrical and gas appliances are part and parcel of the regulatory framework to safeguard public safety. They are reviewed from time to time in the light of changing circumstances. From a safety view point, currently, we do not see the need for additional labelling requirements as a result of the proposed liberalisation of parallel importation of trade mark goods. This is because the existing safety-related labelling requirements already apply to all products supplied for use in Hong Kong, regardless of the mode of import.

Economic Services Bureau  
15 May 2000

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**Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation (EPSR)**  
**Electricity Ordinance Chapter 406**

**A summary of the Key Labelling Requirements**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Relevant Section of EPSR</b>	<b>Labelling Requirements</b>
Electrical products that are designed for household use and supplied in Hong Kong (Essential safety requirements)	Schedule 1	<p>The requirements shall be printed on the product in English, Chinese or international standard symbols, or if this is not possible, on an accompanying notice.</p> <p>The requirements shall include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) rated voltage and frequency;</li> <li>(b) rated input in terms of watts or kilowatts and amperes or milliamperes;</li> <li>(c) model or type reference number; and</li> <li>(d) manufacturer's name or trade mark.</li> </ul>
<p>Specific safety requirements for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) plugs</li> <li>(b) adaptors</li> <li>(c) lampholders</li> <li>(d) flexible cords</li> <li>(e) extension units</li> <li>(f) unvented thermal storage type electric water heaters</li> </ul>	Schedule 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) plugs – the number of BS, the rated current, the identities of plug pins, the word “FUSED” or “FUSE” or equivalent symbol (  ), clear instructions for safe connections of the appropriate flexible cords etc</li> <li>(b) adaptors – the total maximum loading, the word “FUSED” or “FUSE” or equivalent symbol (  ) and the standard of the fuse link</li> <li>(c) lampholders – the letter “L” for an Edison screw lampholder; the words “THE LAMP-HOLDER MUST BE EARTHED” and the symbol ( E or  ) for a metal lampholder</li> <li>(d) flexible cords – the nominal cross sectional area of a conductor and the relevant standard to which a flexible cord conforms</li> <li>(e) extension units – the word “FUSED” or “FUSE” or equivalent symbol (  ) together with the information regarding the minimum cross sectional area of the respective flexible cords</li> <li>(f) unvented thermal storage type electric water heaters – the standard reference and storage capacity</li> </ul>

<b>Product</b>	<b>Relevant Section of EPSR</b>	<b>Labelling Requirements</b>
Electrical products that are designed solely for use at a voltage of less than 200V alternating current single phase	Schedule 3	<p>The warning label shall be in both the English and Chinese languages and contain the following text-</p> <p>“警告 此產品不應直接接駁香港的電力供應系統，否則可導致人身受傷或財產受損。 WARNING This product should not be connected directly to the electrical supply system in Hong Kong, otherwise personal injury or damage to property may result.”</p>

**Penalty :** Any person who supplies an electrical product which fails to comply with the above labelling and marking requirements commits an offence under Section 12 of the EPSR and is liable on first conviction to a fine at \$100,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year, and on subsequent conviction to a fine of \$500,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years, as stipulated in Section 13 of the EPSR.