



The views of the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society (AES) on the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill (the Bill)

Energy Efficiency (EE) labelling of electrical products has been introduced in Hong Kong on a voluntary basis since 1995. Some suppliers have been keen and took the trouble to go through the process and display the proper label on their products. Not all the products of the same kind have been displayed with the appropriate label thus causing customers headaches in making their choice in selecting their purchases. The shopkeepers are not always helpful or not conversant with the system.

After two years of trial, the response was positive, most people are now showing more concerns in environment issues and also in cost savings.

Sufficient experience has been gained and it is an appropriate time to introduce law making EE labelling of electrical products mandatory. This will assist people in making the correct choice in purchasing the products. In addition, it will also teach people understanding more about energy efficiency, cost savings and our environment.

The implementation of the scheme must be closely monitored. There are numerous brands of the same product in Hong Kong. Reputable suppliers will comply with the law but there are always people wanting to make easy money and use illegal means. This must be prevented. The Director must provide with adequate power to enforce the law and take preventative measures to eradicate all illegal products in the market. Effective implementation may need the close coordination of the Customs Department to monitor the importation and distribution of goods.

The Bill refers to “code of practice” in a number of places. The code will be approved by the Director. All codes should be specified in the bill or issued by the Director. Code should be specifically named or a number allocated.

Early implementation will help to retard the deterioration of our environment.

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN SOCIETY
May 2007