

LC Paper No. CB(2)731/06-07(01)



食物環境衛生署
Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

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Our Ref.: FEHD GAS 1-55/2/3

22 December 2006

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Flora TAI)
(Fax Number: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss TAI,

**Inclusion of "Cremation service of the Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department" into the agenda of the
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

Regarding the proposal raised by the Hon. WONG Kwok-hing on 4 December 2006 to include the cremation service of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) into the agenda, the following information relating to the three topics proposed are provided for reference by you and the Panel.

- (1) To request FEHD to explain the case where FEHD staff were suspected of opening the coffin without authorisation, cremating the wrong body and dereliction of duty
We have launched an investigation into the case and will give an account once findings are available.
- (2) Occupational safety measures in crematoria
For the occupational safety and health of our staff working in crematoria, we have put in place, the following measures:

- The departmental Occupational Safety and Health Manual has been published and issued to all the staff. There is a separate chapter in the Manual on occupational safety and health in cemeteries and crematoria to remind the staff concerned of the relevant issues.
- To further enhance staff awareness of occupational safety and health, we produced a series of innovative booklets in 2004/05 to alert our staff, in a simple and vivid manner, of occupational safety and health issues under different working conditions. One of the booklets is devoted to safety measures in cemeteries and crematoria for easy reference and comprehension of the staff concerned.
- Occupational safety and health training courses are organised regularly. In 2005/06, 29 staff members working in cemeteries and crematoria attended the Fork-lift Truck Operator Course and the Fork-lift Truck Operator Course (Novice Class) organised by the Occupational Safety and Health Council.
- Supervisors of work venues conduct occupational safety and health surveys at least once every six months. The 2006 survey for cemeteries and crematoria has been completed.
- Professional consultants have been engaged to conduct reviews and assessments in various work venues (including cemeteries and crematoria) on the safety management system and the occupational safety and health aspects of specific duties. Preliminary inspections were carried out at Fu Shan Crematorium and Wo Hop Shek Cemetery by professional consultants (from the Occupational Safety and Health Council) on 1 December. A report will be submitted in due course to the Department (FEHD) for consideration and follow-up action.

The operation of the cremator plant of Kwai Chung Crematorium and Fu Shan Crematorium will be handed over to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) next year. In this connection, EMSD has appointed safety officers to conduct a separate risk assessment on the duties it is due to take over and to formulate the following report, manual, guidelines and rules on occupational safety and health for compliance by their staff to ensure safety in work:


- Risk assessment reports on Fu Shan Crematorium and Kwai Chung Crematorium
- Safety and health handbook and guidelines for employees of EMSD
- Code of practice for crematorium staff
- Contingency plan and guidelines for crematorium staff

(3) Contracting out the duties of Artisans and Workman II in crematoria to private sector

With regard to this matter, the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau wrote to the Panel on 20 December.

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on 22.12.2006

Yours sincerely,



(YEUNG Shun-kui)

for Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

c.c. Mr Vincent LIU, Principal Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food