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Panel on Environmental Affairs

Meeting on 18 December 2012

**Background brief on "Restriction of sale of
energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs"
prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat**

Purpose

This paper sets out the background of the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs ("ILBs").

Background

2. Lighting on average accounted for about 15% of the total electricity consumption in Hong Kong in the past decade. Since ILBs have been used on a massive scale and consume much electricity, replacement of ILBs by energy-efficient lighting products will achieve substantial saving in power consumption.

3. In the 2008-2009 Policy Address, the Government committed to conducting a study on progressively replacing ILBs by other more energy-efficient lighting products, and on whether the sale of ILBs should be restricted by legislation. In formulating the proposal to restrict the supply of ILBs, the Government has taken into account different overseas regulatory regimes and the availability of replacement options for ILBs in Hong Kong.

Public consultation on the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs

4. On 12 August 2011, the Government launched a three-month public consultation on the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient ILBs by phases

through legislation in order to conserve energy, reduce carbon emissions and alleviate the impact of climate change. In the consultation document, the Government proposed that the initial phase of the mandatory scheme should cover non-reflector type ILBs that were 25 watt or above, which operated at a single phase electricity supply of nominal voltage of 220 volts, including General Lighting Service lamps, candle-shaped, round-shaped and other decorative lamps, but excluding tungsten halogen lamps. The Government also proposed to prohibit the supply of lamps that could not meet the minimum energy performance standards ("MEPS") and to govern the supply of those lamps that could meet the requirements of MEPS by a registration system. The Government would make reference to overseas mandatory schemes in determining suitable MEPS for Hong Kong.

5. According to the Administration's estimation, the implementation of the mandatory scheme could bring about a saving in electricity of up to 390 GWh per annum, which yielded a potential annual saving of about \$390 million in electricity bills and a reduction of 273 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

6. The consultation document on the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs was circulated to members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2896/10-11(01) on 12 August 2011.

Council question

7. Hon Audrey EU raised a question relating to ILBs, hot cathode fluorescent lamps and light emitting diodes at the Council meeting on 25 April 2012. Details of the Council question are hyperlinked in the **Appendix**.

Relevant papers

8. A list of relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix**.

Appendix

Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs

List of relevant papers

Council/ Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Environmental Affairs	--	Information paper on "Public Consultation on the Restriction of Sale of Energy-inefficient Incandescent Light Bulbs" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1)2896/10-11(01)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/ea/papers/eacb1-2896-1-e.pdf

Hyperlink to relevant Council Question:

Date	Council Question
25 April 2012	Council question raised by Hon Audrey EU http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201204/25/P201204250255.htm