



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Saturday, October 21, 1995

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Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations

The Gas Safety (Gas Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 1995, published in the Government Gazette yesterday (Friday), amends the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations in two respects to convey more clearly the intention of the regulations, a Government spokesman said today (Saturday).

Regulation 3 is amended to convey more clearly that the keeping or placing together of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders having an aggregate nominal water capacity exceeding 130 litres (four large domestic LPG cylinders exceed this capacity) amounts to the erection of a notifiable gas installation and hence requires the approval of the Gas Authority (the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services).

Regulation 39(6) is amended to convey more clearly that a liquefied petroleum gas cylinder wagon should be manned by not less than two competent persons while on the usual round of cylinder delivery and collection.

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Firing practice in November

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on six days this month. The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

Date	Time
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November 6 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 8 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 9 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 10 (Friday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 16 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
November 27 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ Million	Time (Hours)	Cumulative Change (\$ Million)
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Opening Balance in the account	3,115	09:30	-360
Closing Balance in the account	2,552	10:00	-360
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-360
Money Market Activity	-360	11:30	-360
Laf Today	-203		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 121.8 *-0.1* 21.10.95

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High-level conferences on improvement in public sector

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The Efficiency Unit of the Government Secretariat and the Hong Kong Public Administration Association are jointly organising two one-day conferences at the Studio Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, on Thursday and Friday (October 26 and 27).

The event forms part of the "Serving the Community" programme which the Efficiency Unit is promoting this year. It is designed to present ideas and provoke discussion on best practice in public sector management.

The Head of the Efficiency Unit, Mr Robert Footman, noted that earlier this year the Efficiency Unit published the Serving the Community booklet, setting out a comprehensive and coherent management framework, built on the Government's aims, principles and values.

"The forum will provide senior Government directorate with a chance to further their understanding of the framework and to learn from the private sector as well as overseas experience on public sector reform," he added.

The Deputy to the Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, will deliver a keynote speech at the opening of the conferences on Thursday which is expected to be attended by some 300 people including senior Government officials, academics and public sector consultants.

To coincide with the conferences, the Housing Department will stage an exhibition featuring the theme of continuous improvement. Various building types and landscaping designs since 1965 will be put on display.

The winning entries to the Serving the Community Poster/Photo Competition organised by the Efficiency Unit will also be displayed. More than 200 entries have been received and participants of the conferences will be requested to select the best entry.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

EU to initiate anti-circumvention proceedings on discs

The Trade Department announced today (Sunday) that the European Union (EU) had initiated anti-circumvention investigations on imports of 3.5" microdisks from Hong Kong and eight other countries. This is the first anti-circumvention case initiated under the EU's new Anti-dumping Regulation that came into force on January 1 this year.

The EU's action has stemmed from a complaint filed by the Committee of European Diskette Manufacturers (DISKMA). DISKMA has alleged that 3.5" microdisks are exported from or via third countries in order to circumvent the EU's anti-dumping duties imposed on the like products manufactured in China and Taiwan.

These third countries named by DISKMA include Canada, Malaysia, Macau, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Singapore, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

The EU is charging anti-dumping duties on imports of 3.5" microdisks from China and Taiwan at residual rates of 39.4 per cent and 32.7 per cent respectively. Hong Kong's exports of 3.5" microdisks to the EU are also subject to anti-dumping duties at individual company rates ranging from 6.7 per cent to 13.3 per cent or at residual rate of 27.4 per cent. Any Hong Kong company found guilty of circumvention would then be subjected to the higher duties applicable to China or Taiwan. For those innocent producers, the existing anti-dumping rates will maintain.

"The Hong Kong Government is gravely concerned about the EU's anti-circumvention action," said Miss Emma Lau, Assistant Director-General of Trade.

"We consider that anti-circumvention action is incompatible with GATT/WTO principles. We also believe that the allegation of circumvention of anti-dumping duties by Hong Kong is unjustified," she said.

"Our domestic exports of unrecorded magnetic diskettes (specific trade statistics on 3.5" microdisks not available) to the EU have declined by 70 per cent in 1994 over 1993. During the same period, Hong Kong's share of the EU market has also dropped from 19 per cent to 8 per cent. It is illogical for exports to drop so drastically whilst circumvention is alleged."

On the way forward, Miss Lau said the Hong Kong Government would adopt a robust approach in seeking termination of the case.

"Hong Kong will continue to register concern and objections with the European Commission and liaise with other affected parties for coordinated action," she said.

"Apart from taking up the issue bilaterally with the EU, Hong Kong will also consider raising our objection through the multilateral channel," she added.

Hong Kong's domestic exports of unrecorded magnetic disks in 1994 amounted to \$254 million or 0.1 per cent of its total domestic exports. The EU member countries as a whole (12 in 1994) took up the largest share (31 per cent) of Hong Kong's domestic exports, followed by the US and China.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

Chung Yeung Festival holiday reminder

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) reminded employers that November 1 (Wednesday), the Chung Yeung Festival, is one of the 11 statutory holidays for employees.

Under the Employment Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, are entitled to statutory holidays and must be paid for the day off if they have worked continuously for the same employer for three months or longer before the statutory holiday.

Holiday pay should be equivalent to an employee's earnings on a full working day and should include basic wages as well as allowances that can be expressed in money terms such as meals and cost of living allowances.

Where the earnings vary from day to day, holiday pay should be the average daily earnings during every complete wage period, which could be between 28 and 31 days, preceding the holiday.

If an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday, he must be given an alternative day off within 60 days before or after that day.

Enquiries about statutory holidays may be made at the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1771.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

New District Officer for Sham Shui Po

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Mr John Leung Chi-yan will replace Ms Linda Lai Wai-ming as the District Officer of Sham Shui Po from tomorrow (Monday).

Aged 33, Mr Leung joined the Government as an Administrative Officer in 1987 and was promoted to Senior Administrative Officer in April 1994.

He has served as the Assistant District Officer of North District in the former City and New Territories Administration and worked in the former General Duties Branch and the Constitutional Affairs Branch.

Mr Leung's last posting was Principal Trade Officer in the Trade Department.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

Public invited to join education liaison sub-committee

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Members of the public who wish to serve the community on educational matters are reminded the closing date for joining the Educational Services Liaison Sub-committee is November 2.

A spokesman for the Education Department said the sub-committee was set up under the Board of Education as a channel for the public to exchange views with the Education Department on educational services and to make suggestions to improve the services.

The spokesman said: "The sub-committee has 16 members, including two students members.

"So far over 40 public spirited people have indicated their interest in joining the sub-committee.

"Students at the secondary 4 or above level and post-secondary students are welcome to join the sub-committee."

The sub-committee will meet four times a year and the meetings will be conducted in Chinese. Members will serve a two-year term from November 1995.

Members of the public wishing to join the sub-committee can contact the Education Department's Serving Community Unit on telephone number 2961 7435 or fax number 2893 0718 to obtain application forms.

Completed application forms should be sent to the Unit at Room 2328, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, on or before November 2, 1995.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

October Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics published

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A feature article entitled "Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Construction Sector" is published in the October 1995 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics.

The article analyses the performance and structural characteristics of the construction sector during the period from 1985 to 1993. Analyses are made based mainly on data collected from the Annual Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors (in respect of the years 1985 to 1993). For more recent analyses on output performance, reference is made to the latest available statistics for 1994 and 1995 from the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output.

Both the Annual Survey and the Quarterly Survey were conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The October 1995 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics is already on sale at \$50 a copy. It contains all information about Hong Kong's latest situation regarding economic growth, the labour market, inflation and many other social and economic issues that have important impact on business and everyday life.

Purchase of this publication can be made at the Government Publication Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. The publication is also available for sale at the Publications Unit of the Census & Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Regular subscription can also be arranged with the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department on 2598 8194.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

33 new building plans approved in August

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The Buildings Department approved 33 building plans in August this year.

Of these, 11 are for Hong Kong Island, 11 for Kowloon and 11 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include six for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 11 for commercial development, 12 for factory and industrial developments, and four for community services development.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 26 building projects, which involve 10,843.9 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 96,166.9 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the department also issued 22 Occupation Permits - seven for Hong Kong Island, two for Kowloon and 13 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 20,804.8 square metres and 97,190.5 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$853 million.

In addition, 26 demolition consents involving 58 buildings were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 715 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 593 Removal Orders on unauthorised works in the month.

End/Sunday, October 22, 1995

Fresh water cut in Tsz Wan Shan

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tsz Wan Shan will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Thursday(October 26) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water works.

The affected area will include Tsz Oi Estate, Tsz Ching Estate, Tsz Man Estate, Tsz On Estate, Tsz Lok Estate, Wan Wah Street, Wai Wah Street, Hong Wah Street, Yuk Wah Street, Yuk Wah Crescent, Lok Wah Street (Tate's Cairn Tunnel's fire service system), Shung Wah Street, Hill Top Garden and King Lai Court at Fung Shing Street, Nam Shan Mei Village; all premises bounded by Yuk Wah Street, Po Kong Village Road, Po Ming Lane and Po Leung Lane; the Housing Department's staff quarters, Wu York Yu Clinic and St. Bonaventure College at Sheung Fung Street; and 171-199 Po Kong Village Road.

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