

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2023

Matters of Discussion

1. Review of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO) / Regulations

Progress of the review:

- Implementation of the amended DGO, Cap. 295 and its subsidiary legislation

Since the implementation of the amended DGO, FSD had arranged five “FSD Connects with the Relevant Industries of Dangerous Goods” sharing sessions. To further facilitate the compliance inspection for DG licences, storage of Class 9A DG, as well as providing information on frequently asked questions, the fifth sharing session was held on 14.11.2023.

The FSD proposed to update the list of Schedule 2 DG and Code of Practice for Control of DG on Land in 2024 to reflect the latest updates of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and keep in line with international practice. The proposal was circulated and no comments were received.

- Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulation 2012

Starting from the second quarter of 2024, the Marine Department (MD) would issue all certificates, permits and licenses in electronic format for local vessels and local seaman.

- Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 (DG(A&E)R 2012)

The Civil Engineering and Development Department proposed to amend the Schedule 1 to DG(A&E)R 2012 to include UN Nos. 0511, 0512 and 0513 which were Electronic Detonators for blasting purpose and take it into effect on 1.1.2025. The proposal was circulated and no comments were received.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

From August to October 2023, the Dangerous Goods Enforcement Team (DGET) of FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 134 PFS during which fire safety advice was given to the PFS operators.

The conversion of DG licences of PFS under Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (DG(C)R), Cap 295G was in good progress.

3. Enforcement Actions Related to Over-Storage of Dangerous Goods

From August to October 2023, DGET had conducted 179 surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next tabletop exercise on the Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme – Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident was scheduled for 13.12.2023.

The conversion of DG licences of oil depots under DG(C)R, Cap. 295G was in good progress.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

From August to October 2023, FSD had carried out 1,369 surprise inspections to approved DG stores. The condition of most of the DG stores inspected was satisfactory.

6. Training of Shore-based Personnel Engaged in DG Handling

The MD revealed that no nonconformities regarding the implementation of IMDG code in Hong Kong were identified during the audit visit by the International Maritime Organisation.