

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 27 August 2025

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

The Notices for amendment of schedules (the Notices) were tabled to the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 16 July 2025. On 18 July 2025, the House Committee agreed that it was not necessary to form any subcommittee to study the proposed amendments. The scrutiny period was completed on 30 July 2025 and the Notices would come into effect on 1 January 2026, while certain amendments were scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2027, in order to align with the mandatory implementation date specified in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. The revised Code of Practice would also be published in the gazette in due course.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 10 PFS from May to July 2025, during which fire safety advice was given to the operators.

Special operation for surprise inspections of PFS across the territory to ensure compliance with Fire Safety Requirements (FSR) was completed satisfactorily in June and July 2025 respectively. A total of 169 PFS were inspected in the special operation, during which fire safety advice was provided to the PFS operators. Further, there was a recent case of leakage of petrol at a PFS due to suspected automatic cut-off function of the dispenser being malfunction at a PFS during vehicle refilling activity on 7 August 2025. The operators took remedial actions in accordance with their corresponding procedures to handle the leakage. Referring to conditions of store and use licence as stipulated in S.98(t) of Cap. 295G, the operators were responsible to report any incident of fire or leak of dangerous goods from the store to the D of FS immediately. Pursuant to S.9B of Cap. 295, a breach of any condition

endorsed upon any licence issued shall constitute an offence. To prevent the recurrence of similar matters, the operators of PFS should be reminded to ensure all the conditions of licence being complied with.

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

From May to July 2025, FSD conducted 330 surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG. In addition, a recent incident related to over-storage of DG was shared with members. Subsequent to the high-profile inspection to the Illicit Fuelling Activities (IFA) blackspot in May 2025, FSD collaborated with Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department (C&ED) to conduct a two-week territory-wide joint operation from 16 to 29 June 2025. During the operation, 6 IFA stations were smashed with a total of more than 8,000 liters of diesel and more than 6,000 liters of motor spirit being seized. Besides, from May to July 2025, the Anti-Illicit Fuelling Activities Task Force conducted a total of 6 planned operations, 196 inspections of target locations and handled 139 IFA-related complaints.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next table-top exercise on the “Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme - Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident” was tentatively scheduled for 19 December 2025.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

From May to July 2025, 578 surprise inspections were carried out to approved DG Stores. The condition of most inspected DG stores was satisfactory. Further, there was a recent case on DG Store Amendment Application involving amendment works of pipelines where an amendment application received was recently by FSD regarding addition and alteration of pipelines in a hospital. The amendment plans were then endorsed by FSD after vetting. However, subsequent inspection in July 2025 revealed that the altered pipelines had already been put into commission without approval before compliance inspection was conducted by FSD. It should be reminded that all newly installed pipelines or system should not be put into commission before approval has been granted by FSD.

6. Retrofitting Electric Vehicles (EV) Charging Facilities at Existing PFS

As of 20 August 2025, FSD received 72 proposals for retrofitting EV charging facilities at existing PFS, 57 of which were granted approval. As for the remaining ones, the concerned PFS operators were notified of the vetting results for amendments and re-submission. Due to the inherent fire risks of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), FSD reiterated its position that the use of BESS at PFS should be undesirable and would not be supported until stringent regulations and safety measures be established and verified.

7. Control of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry

In respect of the recent announcement made by the Development Bureau on 21 July 2025 on the direct handover of a 3-hectare site in Yuen Long to Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation for the purpose of accelerating the development of a microelectronics ecosystem within Yuen Long InnoPark. FSD was exploring the formation of a dedicated focus group under the Dangerous Goods Standing Committee (DGSC) to support regulatory review and coordination on special gases fire safety with a view to fostering regular dialogue among relevant stakeholders.

8. Enhancing Safety of Dangerous Goods Vehicle (DGV)

To enhance the fire safety awareness on conveyance of dangerous goods, Dangerous Goods Enforcement Division (DGED) of FSD has worked with the Hong Kong Fuel Transportation Association Limited (HKFTA) in organising a training course for the DGV drivers. Apart from HKFTA members, DGED also invited the DGV drivers from the oil industry to participate in this training course.

From May to July 2025, DGED conducted surprise inspections to 33 numbers of licensed DGVs. FSRs and relevant licensing conditions were found to be complied with.

In view of the development of cross-boundary goods traffic, surprise inspections on DGVs would be strengthened.

9. Formation of Anti-Illicit Fuelling Activities Strategy Group (AIFASG) under DGSC

It was reported that AIFASG as a sub-committee under DGSC would be established to combat IFA in Hong Kong. AIFASG would serve to monitor and advise on IFA cases, enhance interdepartmental enforcement coordination, promote advanced legislative measures, foster technological innovations, and strengthen public awareness and industry engagement in addressing this critical public safety issue.

Members had been invited to provide their comments on “Proposed Formation of Anti-Illicit Fuelling Activities Strategy Group” and no comments were received.

10. Study of Arresting Powers vested under Section 19(1) of Cap.95F

Members were briefed about an over-storage of dangerous goods case responded by Fire Protection Task Force at Tung Chung Area on 11 August 2025. The case reflected the complexity of handling suspects at the crime scene, thereby shedding lights on the need of studying of arresting powers vested under s.19(1) of Cap.95F.

11. Safe Management of Petrol Filling Stations

In relation to the safety management at PFS especially in selling portable fuel, FSD issued a letter to all oil companies in 2020 to remind them that license conditions of PFS, together with measures to be taken by PFS operators in selling portable fuel, should be monitored. Having observed different practices in selling portable fuel at PFS being adopted, it was suggested to streamline the practices.