

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 9 November 2021

Matters of Discussion

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

Progress of the review:

➤ Dangerous Goods (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021

The Dangerous Goods (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021 was passed by the Legislative Council on 15.9.2021. All the legislative amendments to the DGO and its subsidiary legislations, as well as the technical consequential and related amendments were completed.

A commencement date would be appointed for all relevant legislation, consequential ordinance and regulation amendments to come into operation which was tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

➤ Publication of Codes of Practice (CoP)

Having considered the inputs and comments from stakeholders, the 1st consolidated English version of the draft CoP had been prepared. The major content of the draft CoP was presented at the meeting and members were invited to offer their comments by November 2021. In addition, legal advice was also being sought and translation of draft CoP from English to Chinese was being performed.

➤ Dangerous Goods (Shipping) Regulations

There was no update to report.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Station (PFS)

From August 2021 to October 2021, the Dangerous Goods Enforcement Team (DGET) of FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 19 PFS during which fire safety advice was given to the operators.

In response to recent public complaint received against parking of vehicles in PFS, representatives of oil companies were reminded to

ensure all fire safety requirements (FSR) for their PFS should be complied with and vehicles should not be allowed to park in PFS for any purposes other than fuelling.

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

From August 2021 to October 2021, DGET had conducted 187 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 progress on the Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme – Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident was reported. A tabletop exercise with an oil company was scheduled for December 2021.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

From August 2021 to October 2021, Dangerous Goods Division (DGD) of FSD had carried out 1,192 surprise inspections to approved DG stores to ensure the continuous compliance of the FSR issued.

The operators of DG stores were reminded to conduct regular stock checks and inspections to ensure the storage environment was safe and the containers of DG were in good condition.

6. Review on Fire Safety Requirements for Dangerous Goods Vehicles

The revised FSR for DG tank wagons which regulated the condition of quick shut-off valve had put into full implementation on 1.10.2021.

On the other hand, DGD was conducting a feasibility study on the use of GPS for tracking the dangerous goods vehicles which targeted to enhance public safety and combat illicit fuelling activities in Hong Kong.