

Customs and Excise Department Controlling Officer's Environmental Report 2023

Preface

The Customs and Excise Department (the Department) is a progressive and dynamic law enforcement agency responsible for anti-smuggling, interdiction of drug trafficking, intellectual property rights protection, trade facilitation, import and export control, safeguarding consumer rights as well as collection of excise on dutiable goods.

In discharging its statutory role, the Department strives to promote sustainable development and is committed to making the best use of available resources.

Services and Operations Conducive to Greening

We consider it necessary to be environmentally responsible in delivering our services and operations, and are actively participating in the following international and community-wide environmental programmes:

- *Ozone Layer Protection*

The Department took part in "Project Sky-Hole-Patching" jointly launched in 2006 by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organisation Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) to combat illegal trading activities connected with Ozone Depleting Substances. The project has been extended to cover the hazardous waste and has operated as a routine project since 2007. In 2023, we performed checking on 70 related licences.

- *Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste*

To fulfill international obligations arising from the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, we continued to work with the Environmental Protection

Department (EPD) on implementation of the "Strategic Control Scheme on Hazardous Waste". In this regard, 5 containers were returned to the relevant exporting countries while 14 pieces of seizure information were relayed to RILO A/P and overseas counterparts for follow-up action in 2023.

- *Recycling of Rechargeable Batteries*

To minimise pollution caused by improper disposal of harmful materials and conserve natural resources, we also joined the "Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme" conceived by EPD, conservation groups and battery traders, under which 9 744 seized rechargeable batteries were sent abroad for recycling in 2023.

Green Approach to Facilitate Trade Activities

We have adopted a green approach to improve our services and developed the following systems to facilitate trading activities:

- *Electronic System for Cargo Manifests (EMAN)*

EMAN enables a one-stop electronic submission of manifests by air freight, marine cargo and river trade carriers. As at the end of 2023, over 85.5% of inbound marine cargo pre-arrival information was submitted through the "EMAN Statement I Submission Scheme" and 223 major forwarders had joined the "e-Sea Customs Clearance Scheme". Continued efforts will be made by our officers to induce users to submit manifests electronically.

- *Money Service Operators Licensing System (MSOS)*

MSOS was implemented in 2012 to process on-line submission of licence applications, regular returns and public enquiries. The system not only reduces paper consumption, but also mitigates environmental impact of errands run by Money Service Operators (MSOs) when submitting paper-based applications and returns. The Department has recorded a significant increase in the number of on-line submissions over the past few years and will continue to encourage the use of

electronic means in lieu of paper by MSOs.

- *Dutiable Commodities System (DCS)*

The e-Licence website of DCS was launched in January 2017 for the electronic application of dutiable commodity licences. Since 27 July 2017, all licence applications have been required to be submitted electronically through the DCS. The DCS has also supported electronic submission of Application for Ships' Stores and Confirmation of Receipt of Ship's Stores since 16 March 2020 and 30 June 2021 respectively. The initiatives have enhanced efficiency and reduced paper consumption.

- *Smart Hydrocarbon Oil Management (SHOM)*

The initiative of SHOM was introduced to the DCS in June 2021 for hydrocarbon oil companies to submit sales return electronically through a newly designated electronic platform. It has achieved a paperless and more environmental-friendly business approach by reducing the printing of documents in hard copies for duties calculation and auditing.

- *Smart Liquor Valuation and Verification (SLVV)*

The SLVV system was introduced in the DCS in September 2023. This initiative streamlines the workflows related to liquor valuation, transforming the previously paper-based verification process into an environmentally-friendly paperless practice. By providing electronic access to a sustainable digital database, the SLVV system promotes sustainability throughout the DCS operations. This transition not only improves overall efficiency but also enhances the integrity of the valuation mechanism and reduces the carbon footprint and resource consumption associated with traditional paper-based processes.

- *Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones Registration System (DRS)*

DRS was launched in March 2023 to support electronic registration and submission of returns for dealers in precious metals and stones to augment efficiency and save paper. DRS also applies blockchain and dynamic QR code authentication technology to enhance online

validation of a dealer's registration. In January 2024, the system has uplifted its environmental-friendly design by introducing electronic payment feature. The initiatives have enhanced efficiency and promoted paperless workplace and business environment.

Green Office and Quarters Environment

We make every effort to cultivate a green environment in our offices and departmental quarters (DQ) through the following measures:

- *Headquarters Building*

The Customs Headquarters Building (CHB) contains a diverse array of environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient installations including zero ozone depleting refrigerant for chiller units, occupancy sensors for lighting and air-conditioning as well as photovoltaic panels and vehicle battery charging facilities. Meanwhile, water-cooled air conditioning system, high-efficacy illuminating devices and podium gardens are deployed to speed up heat dissipation.

- *Housekeeping Measures and Staff Training*

We monitor closely the outcome of different housekeeping measures aimed at minimising wastage, encouraging recycling and promoting energy conservation. In addition, we regularly update and re-circulate guidelines to alert colleagues on their environmental responsibilities, support events hosted by conservation groups.

- *Electricity Consumption*

The Department has implemented various measures to save energy and invited the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to perform proactive maintenance and servicing of the air-conditioning systems and chiller plants, thereby containing the impact of increased services on electricity consumption. A very mild increase of about 0.15% in electricity consumption was recorded in 2023, due mainly to the Department's increase of staff and operational functions. The Department would continue to support Government's objective on

electricity saving by implementing various electricity saving measures.

- Carbon Audit

To echo the need for combating climate change, the Department also assessed the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (carbon performance) for its premises with high energy consumption, i.e. with an annual electricity consumption of more than 500 000 kWh. In 2023, the GHG emissions of four buildings and four control points with a total floor area of 167 515 square metres were 18 369 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

- Renewable Energy

We respond to the government's encouragement on the use of Renewable Energy (RE) and have installed photovoltaic panels for generating solar energy in some of the Department's major premises, including CHB, Kwai Chung Customhouse (KCCH), Tsing Chau Street Customs Staff Quarters, Yau Yue Wan Customs Staff Quarters and Sheung Fung Street Customs Staff Quarters, and the generated electricity is returning to the electricity supply of those premises. The Department would identify suitable locations to install additional photovoltaic panels for promoting the use of RE in energy saving.

- Use of Recycled Paper

We continue to promote the use of recycled paper which accounted for 42.62% of the paper consumption in 2023.

- Indoor Air Quality

We have participated in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme launched by EPD for promoting and commending good IAQ management practice. In 2023, 17 C&ED's premises served by mechanical ventilation and air conditioning systems have joined the IAQ Certification Scheme and had their IAQ assessed. We have 7 premises attained the "Excellent IAQ Class" and 10 premises attained the "Good IAQ Class".

	Premises of C&ED Participated in the Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme 2023	IAQ Class
1	Customs Headquarters Building, 222 Java Road, North Point	Excellent
2	Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, 33 Shing Fung Road	Excellent
3	Tsing Chau Street Customs Staff Quarters, 11 Tsing Chau Street, Hung Hom	Good
4	Kwai Chung Customhouse, 63 Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung	Good
5	China Hong Kong City, 33 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui	Good
6	Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal, Shun Tak Centre, 168-200 Connaught Road Central, Sheung Wan	Good
7	Nan Fung Commercial Centre, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay	Good
8	Passenger Terminal Building, Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Hong Kong Area	Good
9	River Trade Terminal Building, 201 Lung Mun Road, Tuen Mun	Good
10	Customs and Excise Department Tsing Yi Station, 30 Cheung Fai Road, Tsing Yi	Good
11	Sha Tau Kok Control Point, Sha Ho Road, Sha Tau Kok	Good
12	Stelux House, 698 Prince Edward Road East, San Po Kong	Good
13	Tuen Mun Customs Marine Base, 25 Ho Wo Street, Tuen Mun	Excellent
14	C&ED Inbound Cargo Examination Building, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Hong Kong Port, Lantau	Excellent
15	C&ED Inbound Vehicle X-ray Examination Building, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Hong Kong Port, Lantau	Excellent
16	C&ED Outbound Cargo Examination Building, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Hong Kong Port, Lantau	Excellent
17	C&ED Outbound Vehicle X-ray Examination Building, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Hong Kong Port, Lantau	Excellent

- *Use of Plastic Waste Bags*

Our building management contractors are regularly reminded to reduce reliance on plastic waste bags for their cleansing services and are required by tender conditions to use plastic waste bags made from degradable or recycled materials.

- *Reduction of Waste from Catering*

In support of the Government's drive to reduce food waste, we signed the Food Wise Charter in October 2015. In 2023, we continued to carry out a number of corresponding measures including the display of posters and publicity materials at staff canteens to arouse staff's awareness. The staff canteen and Mess at CHB have been offering the option of "less rice" for meals and "lesser number of courses" in banquet menu and have complied with the requirement on "Avoidance of Use of Disposable Tableware" by not providing plastic tableware and poly-foam food containers, and using paper-based food containers and wooden tableware for take-away meals instead. In September 2023, we participated in the "Bring Your Own Containers Eateries Scheme" launched by the Environment & Ecology Bureau to encourage officers to develop the good habit of bringing their own containers when ordering takeaways.

In December 2023, Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC) joined the pilot scheme on food waste collection initiated by EPD. The EPD contractor now collects and recycles all the food waste generated in the staff and trainees' canteen on a daily basis. Besides, HKCC also adopts the same "Avoidance of Use of Disposable Tableware" requirement as CHB.

- *Departmental Quarters*

To support the government's carbon neutrality policies and promote energy saving in DQ, three DQ sites at Tsing Chau Street, Yau Yue Wan, and Sheung Fung Street incorporated a number of environmentally-friendly and energy-saving installations, including Smart Destination Solutions in the elevator control system to avoid unnecessary stops at each floor, rainwater recycling system, occupancy sensors for lighting

as well as photovoltaic panels, while electrical vehicle charging facilities are under planning.

Looking Forward

We will uphold the impetus in advocating a green workplace and continue to inculcate deeper awareness among our staff on the essence of green living.

Comments and Suggestions

This report is accessible on our homepage at www.customs.gov.hk. We welcome feedback conveyed either in writing to our Green Manager at the Customs Headquarters Building, 222 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong or via e-mail at customsenquiry@customs.gov.hk.

Customs and Excise Department
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