

**Energy, Postal Services,  
Meteorological Services,  
Competition and Consumer Protection**  
(formerly under the then Economic Services  
Bureau)

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**Detailed Progress**

# I Administer regulatory arrangements for the energy sector

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position †
To encourage/ co-ordinate efforts of concerned Government bureaux and departments in enhancing competition in the fuel market  <i>(the then Economic Services Bureau)</i>	To ensure timely follow-up to the Competition Subcommittee's recommendations by concerned Government bureaux and departments  <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

\* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

# the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

† the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

## 2 Ensure energy needs are met efficiently and safely

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To strengthen the regulatory requirements for gas safety  <i>(Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (E&amp;MSD))</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To introduce regulations for a new gas appliance approval scheme into the Legislative Council by 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To step up enforcement of the Gas Safety Ordinance and related regulations in 2001 by increasing random inspections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete the review of the penalty provisions under the Gas Safety Ordinance and its related regulations in 2001 and to introduce, as appropriate, legislative amendments into the Legislative Council by 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Penalty review under consideration having regard to the current economic climate.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>
	<i>(2000)</i>	
To increase public awareness of electrical and gas safety  <i>(E&amp;MSD)</i>	To carry out a series of publicity programmes in 2001-2002  <i>(2000)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> </ul>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To implement the Certificate of Safety Compliance Scheme for electrical products on sale in Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(E&amp;MSD)</i></p>	<p>To ensure compliance with the scheme through intensified market surveillance and product sampling of over 30 models of electrical products per year</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To work out the post 2008 regulatory regime for our electricity supply sector after expiry of the current Scheme of Control Agreements</p> <p><i>(the then Economic Services Bureau (ESB)/ E&amp;MSD)</i></p>	<p>To examine options and map out the broad direction for future development of the electricity supply sector before the next interim review of the Scheme of Control Agreements scheduled for 2003</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To enact new legislation to control electricity supply standards</p> <p><i>(ESB/E&amp;MSD)</i></p>	<p>To introduce legislative amendments into the Legislative Council in 2001</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p>The requirement for legislative amendments will be considered in the context of the overall review on the post-2008 regulatory regime for the electricity supply sector.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

### 3 Enhance the quality of postal services

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past year. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To extend PayThruPost Service to accepting Treasury bill payment  ( <i>Hongkong Post (HKP)</i> )	To commence the extended service in October 2001  (2001)	( <i>Action Completed</i> )
To upgrade counter service through :  a. Accepting postage prepayment items at General Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on Sundays  b. Accepting Speedpost and Local CourierPost at Mobile Post Offices  ( <i>HKP</i> )	To complete upgrading of counter service by end-2001  (2001)	( <i>Action Completed</i> )

## 4 Enhance the quality of weather information services

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To provide a climate information service for travel planning <i>(Hong Kong Observatory (HKO))</i>	To place monthly climatological information of key weather stations in the world on HKO's website in early 2003 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To enhance the weather satellite information service <i>(HKO)</i>	To provide high resolution cloud imageries from polar orbiting satellite on the HKO website in 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To implement ISO standards in aviation weather service <i>(HKO)</i>	To obtain certification in 2003 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To provide a long range weather forecasting service <i>(HKO)</i>	To complete a pilot study on seasonal weather forecast by end-2002 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To improve accessibility to weather information <i>(HKO)</i>	To start delivering weather information to mobile phone users in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To provide additional official weather information on world cities through the Internet</p> <p>(HKO)</p>	<p>To provide the information on the HKO website by 2002</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>(Action Completed)</p>
<p>To acquire equipment to detect low level windshear and turbulence around the Hong Kong International Airport under fine weather conditions</p> <p>(HKO)</p>	<p>To install the equipment in 2002</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</p>
<p>To review the performance of the windshear and turbulence detection system for the Hong Kong International Airport with a view to improving its detection and warning capability</p> <p>(HKO)</p>	<p>To complete the review in 2001</p> <p>(1999)</p>	<p>(Action Completed)</p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To install a next-generation geostationary meteorological satellite system</p> <p><i>(HKO)</i></p>	<p>To install the system in 2000</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Installation of the reception system is intended to dove-tail with the launch of a new satellite in Japan. Procurement has been put on hold following an unsuccessful launch of the satellite in late 1999, and will be resumed to tie in with scheduled re-launch of satellite in mid-2003.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>



## 5 Enhance consumer protection

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To review the web-based services of the Consumer Council and its network infrastructure for computer applications <i>(Consumer Council)</i>	To commission consultancy services in 2002-2003 for reviewing website and web-based services and its network infrastructure for computer applications <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To continue to liaise with the retail sector to promote awareness of consumer protection legislation <i>(Customs and Excise Department)</i>	To conduct four visits to the management of major retail chain stores by March 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To align safety standards for more types of toys and children's products set out in the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance with international standards <i>(the then Economic Services Bureau (ESB))</i>	To update the safety specifications and standards listed in the Schedule to the Ordinance regularly <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To provide a clear legal basis for consumers to seek compensation from producers, retailers, etc., for loss or injury arising from the use of unsafe products</p> <p><i>(ESB)</i></p>	<p>To expedite drafting of the proposed Bill on civil liability for unsafe products by addressing issues raised during public consultation by 2001</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p>We are considering whether and how appropriate legislation might provide recourse for consumers for injury or damage in the use of unsafe parallel imports.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

## 6 Identify energy needs and sources of supply

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To lay the groundwork for possible introduction of a common carrier system for piped gas supply <i>(the then Economic Services Bureau/ Electrical and Mechanical Services Department)</i>	To map out around 2004 broad institutional, infrastructural and regulatory framework necessary for possible introduction of a natural gas based common carrier system, pending the availability of a secure and reliable source of gas supply <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>