

Analogue TV households should take immediate action to prepare for full digital TV broadcast

Hong Kong will implement full digital TV broadcast on December 1 (00.00 hours) this year. Households using analogue TVs should take immediate action to obtain digital TV receivers in the remaining 100 days, otherwise they will not be able to receive local free TV programmes, a spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said today (August 23).

According to the latest survey findings, by July this year, nearly 95 per cent of Hong Kong households have already switched to digital TV, while only 2.6 per cent (around 68 000) of households are still using analogue TV. These figures show that most Hong Kong residents are ready for full digital TV broadcast.

The Government engaged the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to launch the Community Care Fund Digital Television Assistance Programme in January. As of now, more than 15 000 applications have been received, of which some 12 100 households have their digital TV receivers successfully installed. Analogue TV households benefiting from specified social assistance programmes, or with low income, will not be required to go through additional means testing. Within eight weeks after receipt of an application, the electrical appliances contractor will liaise with the applicant and arrange one-stop services, including delivery and installation of a set-top box or digital TV set as well as disposal of the old analogue TV set.

Although the Community Care Fund Digital Television Assistance Programme will run until July 15, 2021, eligible households should apply now to allow time for processing and delivery before the analogue TV transmission is switched off in December. Application forms can be obtained from the 100 district service units which assist in implementing the programme and the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres in the 18 districts. Forms can also be downloaded from the programme website (digitaltv.hkcss.org.hk/en/). For details, please visit the dedicated website or call 2922 9230.

The spokesman added that a new set of TV (www.isd.gov.hk/eng/tvapi/20_it56.html) and radio Announcements in the Public Interest will be launched from today to remind analogue TV households to change their TV sets or install set-top boxes as soon as possible.