

Pig farm at Muk Kiu Tau Tsuen in Yuen Long convicted fourth time for discharging livestock waste into river

A pig farm at Muk Kiu Tau Tsuen in Yuen Long discharged untreated livestock waste into a nearby watercourse and its person-in-charge was fined \$10,000 by Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (May 15) for contravening the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulations. This is the fourth conviction of the pig farm concerned for discharging livestock waste into a nearby watercourse.

During an ambush inspection in Yuen Long last November, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff found that some greyish-brown wastewater with the odour of pig waste was being discharged from the outfall of a pig farm in Muk Kiu Tau Tsuen, which seriously polluted Shan Pui River. The analysis results of the wastewater sample taken by the EPD showed that the concentration of five-day biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids in the sample exceeded the discharge standard by 26 and 20 times respectively. After gathering sufficient evidence, the EPD subsequently initiated prosecution against the person-in-charge of the pig farm in accordance with the Regulations and notified the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the case concerned.

An EPD spokesman said that untreated livestock waste contains high concentrations of excreta and will lead to serious pollution and odour problems if discharged into rivers. According to the Regulations, liquid livestock waste generated by livestock farms must be treated properly in a wastewater treatment facility to meet the statutory requirements before being discharged. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and a daily fine of \$5,000 for a continuing offence.

The spokesman reminded owners and staff members of livestock farms in the New Territories to properly maintain and operate treatment facilities for wastewater generated from livestock waste and not to discharge untreated livestock waste into nearby watercourses. The department will continue to conduct surprise inspections to combat any irregularities of livestock farms.

More information about the livestock waste control scheme is available on the EPD's website: www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/laws_regulations/enforcement/lwis.html.

Employers and employees should take precautions against heat stroke

As the Hong Kong Observatory has issued the very hot weather warning, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke.

Heat stroke could occur if an employee works in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time, as the body may fail to regulate its temperature by effective heat dissipation through sweating.

The early symptoms of heat stroke include feeling thirsty, fatigue, nausea and headache. Later, the victim may experience shortness of breath, rapid and weak pulse, dizziness, confusion or even loss of consciousness and convulsion.

For example, construction workers, cleaning workers, kitchen workers and porters are more prone to heat stroke when working for long hours in such an environment, especially if appropriate preventive measures have not been taken.

The LD reminds employers to arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stress in the work environment and take appropriate preventive measures. The LD has produced two leaflets entitled "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Construction Sites" and "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces" respectively. Employers engaged in construction or outdoor cleaning work are advised to refer to these checklists in assessing the risk of heat stress at their workplaces. As for heat stress assessment at a workplace in general, employers can refer to a booklet entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" produced by the LD.

The LD also reminds employers and employees to take the following precautions to prevent heat stroke:

Employers

- (1) Take heed of the weather report and adopt shift work arrangements for employees to reduce their exposure to the hot environment, or arrange appropriate rest breaks for them during very hot periods;
- (2) Avoid working under direct sunlight and set up temporary sunshade wherever possible;
- (3) Provide cool potable water for employees at all times during work. If necessary, provide drinks containing minerals for employees to replenish loss of electrolytes during profuse sweating;
- (4) Minimise physical demands by using tools or mechanical aids at work;
- (5) Increase air flow by enhancing ventilation or air-conditioning as appropriate;

- (6) Isolate heat-generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimise heat dissipation to the other work areas; and
- (7) Provide relevant information and training for employees on heat stroke such as preventive measures and first aid treatment.

Employees

- (1) Wear clothing made of suitable materials (for example, cotton) that is loose-fitting and light-coloured to help heat dissipation, minimise heat absorption and allow sweat evaporation;
- (2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat when working outdoors;
- (3) Drink plenty of water or other appropriate beverages to replenish the fluids and electrolytes lost through sweating; and
- (4) Whenever there are any symptoms of heat stroke, inform supervisors and take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulty in adapting to a hot working environment owing to their own health conditions. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of their doctors when assigning work to these employees.

In addition to the publications on risk assessment, the LD has produced a leaflet entitled "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" for the public. The publications can be obtained free of charge from the offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD, or downloaded from the department's webpage at www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_9.htm.

The LD organises occupational health talks in public places and at its own training venues regularly to raise employers' and employees' awareness of occupational health. Details of health talks on the prevention of heat stroke at work in May and June are as follows:

(A)

Dates: May 25, June 4, 19 and 26 (am)
May 16, June 7 and 22 (pm)

Time: Half-day

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department, 13/F, KOLOUR·Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

(B)

Date: May 23

Time: 6.30pm to 8pm

Venue: Activity Room I, Hong Kong Central Library, 66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
(Opposite Victoria Park, MTR Tin Hau Station Exit B)

(C)

Dates: May 29 and June 8

Time: Half-day, morning

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department, G/F,

Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong
(MTR Kwun Tong Station Exit A1)

(D)

Date: June 13

Time: 3pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon (MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit E)

For enrolment or enquiries about these occupational health talks, please call 2852 4040 or 2361 8240 (for talks organised at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre). Moreover, the LD also provides an outreach health education service and occupational health nurses will, on invitation, disseminate occupational health information at workplaces at a convenient time. Please contact the nursing officer at 2852 4062 for details. All these health talks are free of charge.

[Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo meeting \(with video\)](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting this morning (May 15):

Reporter: Mrs Lam, President Xi also suggested that only patriotic scientists would get funding, and only people who love the country and Hong Kong would be able to, you know, participate in national level programmes. Do you think that this will affect academic freedom in any way?

Chief Executive: Not at all, because I read the guidelines issued jointly by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance. The guidelines do not specifically refer to the so-called prerequisite that you have mentioned. But in the instructions given by President Xi Jinping, he did mention about the importance of giving more support to scientists and researchers in Hong Kong who love the country and love Hong Kong. I think this is only a matter of terminology, but of course, in Hong Kong we do expect, whether you are a scientist, a researcher, a government official like myself, to love our country and love Hong Kong, so that is nothing unusual. I think some commentators have read too much into this term, and additionally, because I have the privilege of having read this letter from the fellows to President Xi, in fact it was in their letter that they appealed to President Xi for his support, because these scientists said that they are doing great work, not only for Hong Kong but for the country, and they want to do more

for the country ("å,Ææ>å ±æ•^åæ<å®¶"), so in response, the President made those remarks that these researchers have really touched him because they really want to contribute to the country. I think this is only very natural.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date : May 15, 2018
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q1820
Issue date : May 16, 2018
Maturity date : August 15, 2018
Amount applied : HK\$114,175 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$43,557 MN
Average yield accepted : 1.15 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 1.18 PCT
Pro rata ratio : About 29 PCT
Average tender yield : 1.21 PCT

Tender date : May 15, 2018
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H1849
Issue date : May 16, 2018
Maturity date : November 14, 2018
Amount applied : HK\$42,100 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$15,000 MN
Average yield accepted : 1.42 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 1.47 PCT
Pro rata ratio : About 89 PCT
Average tender yield : 1.52 PCT

Tender date : May 15, 2018
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Y1889

Issue date : May 16, 2018
Maturity date : May 15, 2019
Amount applied : HK\$14,260 MN
Amount allotted : HK\$3,000 MN
Average yield accepted : 1.59 PCT
Highest yield accepted : 1.61 PCT
Pro rata ratio : About 22 PCT
Average tender yield : 1.69 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning May 21, 2018:

Tender date : May 21, 2018
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : Q1821
Issue date : May 23, 2018
Maturity date : August 22, 2018
Tenor : 91 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$49,977 MN

Tender date : May 21, 2018
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H1850
Issue date : May 23, 2018
Maturity date : November 21, 2018
Tenor : 182 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$17,000 MN

[Tentative issuance schedule for Exchange Fund Bills and Notes](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) issued today (May 15) a tentative issuance schedule for Exchange Fund Bills and Notes (EFBNs) for the coming quarter of July to September 2018. The schedule contains information on the tentative tender dates, tender sizes and issue dates of individual issues, representing rollover of maturing issues and taking into account

planned adjustments to the maturity spectrum of the EFBNs portfolio.

The quarterly schedule is issued in the second month of each quarter (i.e. February, May, August and November), covering the EFBNs tenders in the following quarter.

It should be noted that the tender dates, tender sizes and issue dates projected in the advance issuance schedule are tentative. The details of new issues of Exchange Fund Bills are to be confirmed and announced at least 4 business days prior to the respective tender dates. The details of new issues of Exchange Fund Notes are to be confirmed and announced 7 business days prior to their respective tender dates. The HKMA may make changes in the light of prevailing market conditions.