

Contractors of rooftop works at Hing Tung Shopping Centre in Shau Kei Wan convicted for illegal discharge of wastewater

The contractors of rooftop works at Hing Tung Shopping Centre in Shau Kei Wan illegally discharged wastewater into the communal storm drain and polluted Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter. The contractor, Sinocham (HK) Enterprises Limited, and its sub-contractor were convicted and fined a total of \$16,000 by Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (June 25) for contravening the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO).

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) spokesman said that the department received complaints from members of the public this January that milky wastewater was discharged into Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter. Upon investigation and evidence collection by the EPD, it was confirmed that the wastewater originated from resurfacing works at the rooftop of Hing Tung Shopping Centre. During the works period, the contractor failed to take appropriate wastewater discharge measures, resulting in the runoff of waterproof materials through the storm drain into Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter. The EPD subsequently prosecuted both involved contractors according to the WPCO.

The wastewater generated from construction sites is regulated under the WPCO. The spokesman reminded all construction contractors to take appropriate measures to prevent any untreated wastewater or construction materials from being discharged into storm drains to protect the environment. Under the WPCO, it is an offence for anyone to discharge wastewater into storm drains. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment.