

EPD convictions in June

One hundred and twenty-three convictions were recorded in June 2020 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

Sixteen of the convictions were under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, 25 were under the Noise Control Ordinance, one was under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance, 49 were under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, three were under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, 28 were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and one was under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

Separately, two companies were fined \$40,000, which was the heaviest fine in June, for importing controlled waste without a permit and carrying out prescribed construction works not in accordance with the conditions of a construction noise permit.

US Dollar Liquidity Facility Tender Notice

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

US Dollar Liquidity Facility Tender Notice

Tender date	: July 22 (Wednesday)
Tender submission time	: 9am to noon
Settlement date	: July 23 (Thursday)
Repayment date	: July 30 (Thursday)
Tenor	: Seven Days
Amount on offer	: US\$10,000 Million

Note: Licensed Banks interested in participating in the tender for the first time are encouraged to provide US dollar settlement instructions by email (settlementsection@hkma.gov.hk) to the HKMA's Settlement Team in advance, preferably two days prior to the tender. Required information includes name of corresponding bank, name of final beneficiary (must be the Licensed Bank participating in the tender), and account or CHIPS number of a US dollar bank account to be settled in the US. Such information needs to be provided once only, unless there is further change.

Appeal for information on missing man in Cheung Sha Wan (with photo)

Police today (July 20) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Cheung Sha Wan.

Lam To-yung, aged 73, went missing after he left his residence on Broadway on July 18 morning. His family made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.7 metres tall, 72 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a square face with yellow complexion and is bald. He was last seen wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt, black trousers and white sports shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Hong Kong Customs maintains necessary services

â€‹Hong Kong Customs today (July 20) announced that apart from maintaining customs clearance at the boundary control points that remain open, the Customer Service Centre located on the third floor of the Customs Headquarters Building in North Point also continues to be in operation to facilitate the submission of applications to the department by members of the public and industry practitioners.

Illegal worker jailed

An illegal Vietnamese worker was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts on July 17.

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted an anti-illegal worker operation on June 10. During the operation, officers of the ImmD General Investigation Section raided a restaurant in To Kwa Wan. A female Vietnamese illegal worker, aged 38, was arrested. When intercepted, she was found working at the bar of the restaurant. Upon identity checking, she was found to be a holder of a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment, and further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on July 17 with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.