

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	: June 3 (Wednesday)
Tender submission time	: 9am to noon
Settlement date	: June 4 (Thursday)
Repayment date	: June 11 (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.

EPD successfully intercepts four cases of illegal import of hazardous electronic waste by sea and air (with photos)

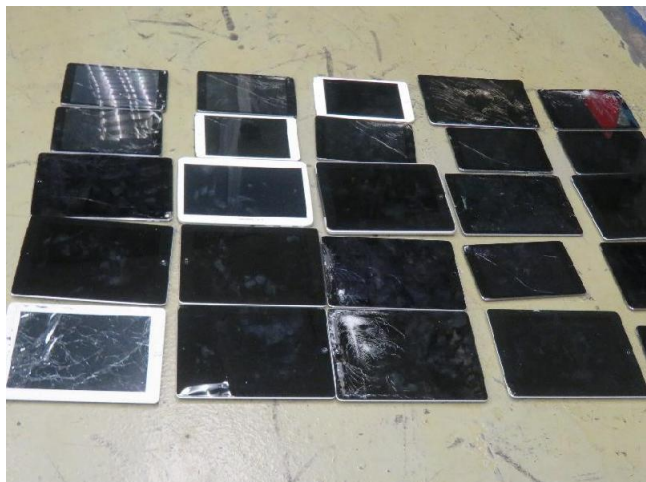
The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) successfully intercepted earlier four cases of illegal import of hazardous electronic waste from the United Kingdom and Germany at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and the Kwai Chung Container Terminals (KCCT). The four importers involved, namely E8 Electronics Company Limited, KamShun Telecom HK Limited, Tanda Global Trading Limited and Well Sense Environmental Recycling Limited, were convicted and fined a total of \$122,000 at Eastern Magistrates' Courts and Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (June 1) and on May 26 respectively for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO).

An EPD spokesman said, to prevent Hong Kong from becoming a dumping ground for imported waste or a distribution hub for the illegal import of waste, the department has been closely exchanging intelligence and collaborating with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) on strengthening the interception of waste of various types entering Hong Kong illegally through different channels.

With the assistance of the C&ED, the EPD intercepted three batches of air cargoes and one sea container at HKIA and the KCCT respectively in November last year. These air cargoes and sea container were claimed to contain telecom equipment, electrical appliances and more. After inspection, they were found to be loaded with hazardous electronic waste, namely waste mobile phone displays, waste tablet displays, waste batteries and waste printed circuit boards, with a total market value of about \$900,000. The EPD immediately returned all the intercepted hazardous electronic waste to the places of origin and notified the local enforcement authorities concerned about the return shipments. The EPD also instituted prosecutions against the four importers involved under the WDO.

The spokesman stressed that waste mobile phone displays, waste tablet displays, waste batteries and waste printed circuit boards are hazardous electronic waste containing various heavy metals and other toxic chemical substances. They are regulated under the existing laws on waste disposal. Improper disposal of such waste will cause harm to the environment and public health. The EPD will continue to rigorously combat the illegal import and export activities of hazardous waste and bring offenders to justice to prevent Hong Kong from becoming a distribution hub for illegally imported and exported waste.

The spokesman reminded importers and exporters of the waste recycling trade not to illegally import (including import into or transshipment through Hong Kong) or export hazardous waste. According to the WDO, it is an offence for anyone to import or export hazardous waste without obtaining a valid permit beforehand. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.



Over 2.7 million tax returns for individuals issued

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is sending out about 2.77 million tax returns for individuals today (June 1). In general, taxpayers should file their tax returns by July 2. For sole proprietors of unincorporated businesses, a three-month period is allowed and the filing deadline is September 1. Filing via eTAX will have an automatic extension of one month (i.e. deadline for general cases extended to August 3 whereas deadline for sole proprietors extended to October 3).

In the Budget for this year, the Financial Secretary has proposed a 100 per cent reduction of profits tax, salaries tax and tax under personal assessment for the year of assessment 2019/20, subject to a ceiling of \$20,000 per case. Taxpayers should file their returns for the year of assessment 2019/20, as usual. Upon enactment of the relevant legislation, the IRD will effect the reduction when making assessments.

From today to July 2, except on Sundays and public holidays, the IRD will extend the service hours of the telephone enquiries hotline 187 8022 to 7pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays to answer taxpayers' enquiries about completing tax returns.

Occupational safety and health training courses open for applications

The Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department (LD) will launch a wide range of occupational safety and health training courses in the second half of 2020. The courses aim at enhancing the working population's understanding of the legal requirements and standards stipulated in occupational safety regulations, and their awareness of occupational health.

â€‹The training courses cover a wide range of topics, including:

1. Major Safety Regulations related to Industrial Accident Prevention
2. Major Health Regulations related to Industrial Accident Prevention
3. Safety Management Regulation cum Safety Inspection Programme and Accident/Incident Investigation

4. Safety Regulations related to Risk Assessment
5. Major Safety Regulations related to Accident Prevention in Office Work
6. Safety Regulations on Working in times of Inclement Weather and Hot Environment
7. A Brief Introduction to Safety Regulations related to Working on Construction Sites cum a Brief Introduction to Codes of Practice related to Working on Construction Sites
8. Safety Regulations on Working at Height and a Brief Introduction to Safety Regulations related to Electrical Work on Construction Sites cum Codes of Practice on Scaffolds
9. Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear Regulations cum Codes of Practice for Safe Use of Cranes
10. Major Safety Regulations related to Renovation, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works
11. Major Safety Regulations related to Working in the Catering Trade
12. Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and Regulation
13. Safety Regulations on Manual Handling Operations
14. Dangerous Substances Regulations
15. Health Hints on the Use of Computer cum More Exercise Smart Work
16. Occupational Stress cum More Exercise Smart Work
17. First Aid in the Workplace (Including demonstration and practice of bandaging)
18. Strategies for the Prevention of Occupational Diseases cum Work and Healthy Lifestyle

The courses will mainly be conducted in Cantonese at the LD's Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre, 13/F, KOLOUR Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan. Enrolment is free.

Application forms are available at the training centre or offices of the Occupational Safety and Health Branch of the LD. They can also be downloaded from the department's website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/form.htm). For enquiry, please call 2940 7057.

Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme opens for applications

The Education Bureau (EDB) announced today (June 1) that the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme (MUSSS) 2020/21 will, from today until September 21, be open for applications from eligible Hong Kong students pursuing undergraduate studies in 186 designated Mainland institutions.

Eligible students may apply for a means-tested subsidy (only for those students who have passed the means test) or a non-means-tested subsidy under

the MUSSS. The subsidy under the MUSSS is granted on a yearly basis. The subsidised period covers the normal duration of the undergraduate programme pursued by the student concerned in the designated Mainland institution. Eligible applicants may only receive either a means-tested subsidy or a non-means-tested subsidy in the same academic year.

For the 2020/21 academic year, the means-tested subsidy under the MUSSS is HK\$16,800 (full-rate) and HK\$8,400 (half-rate). The non-means-tested subsidy is HK\$5,600. There are 186 designated Mainland institutions, including 122 institutions participating in the 2020/21 Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions. The MUSSS is not subject to any quota.

A spokesperson for the EDB said, "It is envisaged that the MUSSS will benefit most Hong Kong students who pursue undergraduate studies on the Mainland and have different financial needs. Hong Kong students who receive and complete a senior secondary education in Hong Kong, including those studying the local or non-local curriculum, as well as non-Chinese speaking students who meet other criteria, may apply for the subsidy."

Details of the MUSSS and the application form are available at the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/musss). Eligible students are required to submit the completed application forms to the EDB by post on or before August 14 (for students who entered the designated Mainland institutions before the 2020/21 academic year), or on or before September 21 (for students who will first enter the designated Mainland institutions in the 2020/21 academic year). The EDB will notify individual applicants of the application results by the first quarter of 2021.