

They have no Certificate of Safety Compliance hence illegal to sell already !

COSH calls for a ban on electronic cigarettes

30-03-2015

 Lam Tai-hing



 Daniel Ho



 Antonio Kwong



The Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) has urged the government to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

A survey it carried out found that less than two per cent of Hong Kong people have tried electronic cigarettes. But four percent of young people are using them.

University of Hong Kong Professor Lam Tai-hing, who carried out the survey, said sellers of e-cigarettes target youngsters with appealing product designs and a variety of flavours.

He warned that the use of e-cigarettes would "normalise" smoking and threaten public health.

Dr Daniel Ho, from the University's School of Public Health, says claims about e-cigarettes' effectiveness to help people quit smoking are questionable.

The Chairman of COSH, Antonio Kwong, says imposing a complete ban on e-cigarettes would be the most effective way to tackle the problem.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Ko Wing-man, says he is inclined to accept COSH's proposal of an e-cigarette ban. But he says more studies should be carried out before legislation is introduced. Dr Ko says even nicotine-free e-cigarettes might contain other substances that may damage a smoker's health. He also said the act of smoking may make young people accept real cigarettes more readily.



(1st to 3rd L) Daniel Ho, Lam Tai-hing and Antonio Kwong



Electronic cigarettes.
Photos: Wendy Wong

www.scmp.com/article/672106/electronic-cigarettes-are-ruled-illegal
<http://tobacco.cleartheair.org.hk/?p=737>

Electronic Cigarettes Are Ruled Illegal Mar 5th, 2009

Two arrested at Sham Shui Po shop for selling unregistered 'quit-smoking' products Amy Nip and Agnes Lam – Mar 05, 2009 – SCMP



Electronic cigarettes are an unregistered pharmaceutical product and it is illegal for the public to possess them, the Health Department warns. Two people were arrested for selling electronic cigarettes, Health Department director Lam Ping-yan said at a press conference yesterday. The items in question are cigarette-shaped electronic devices that atomise nicotine into an aerosol. No burning is involved in the process. The Health Department and police raided an appliance shop yesterday in Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, arrested two people and seized nine types of products. They included atomisers and “smoke cartridges”, which are refill products. The two people arrested were a manager and a store employee. Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, electronic cigarettes containing nicotine and marketed as products to help people quit smoking are pharmaceutical items that require registration with the Health Department.

None of the electronic cigarettes sold in the city is registered and it is illegal to sell or possess the product. Anyone who sells or possesses the products is liable to a HK\$100,000 fine and two years in prison. “Keeping such products at home is not allowed,” Dr Lam said. “Anybody who has them should dump them quickly. If they don’t know how to deal with them, they can hand them to the Health Department. Department staff will dispose them.” Using the unregistered product was dangerous, he warned. “It is hard to predict how asthma patients or people with respiratory illnesses would react” to using them, Dr Lam said. “We found a high level of nicotine in the electronic cigarettes. There is 36 milligrams of nicotine in one smoke cartridge, higher than in one pack of cigarettes.”

A pack of cigarettes had an average 14 to 15 milligrams of nicotine. It was difficult to ban Net ads for electronic cigarettes, Dr Lam said. They cost about 200 yuan (HK\$230) on one mainland website. Mr Chiu, whose shop was raided two days ago, said the Health Department had seized his stock of electronic cigarettes. “The electronic cigarettes have been quite popular recently,” he said. “Health Department officers came to my shop and seized all my stocks after I was interviewed by reporters. “The officers said all electronic cigarettes had to undergo examination. I don’t understand why. These products are helping smokers. I want to help smokers.” He said most electronic cigarettes were made on the mainland and the products were very popular in Europe. “I don’t see why the government has to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes. How can these products be bad for people when they help people quit smoking

News› Hong Kong HEALTH

Hong Kong anti-smoking watchdog urges ban on e-cigarettes

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Just 1.8 per cent of Hongkongers have used an e-cigarette. Photo: Reuters

Hong Kong's anti-smoking watchdog is calling for a ban on electronic cigarettes due to both proven and unknown health risks from using the devices. The Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) said a "nip in the bud" approach was necessary – even though just 1.8 per cent of people in the city had used an electronic cigarette, according to a University of Hong Kong survey. The telephone survey was compiled between May and September last year. The 2,400 respondents included smokers, ex-smokers and people who had never smoked, with each group comprising about one third of the total. Results showed that among people who had never smoked, 3.6 per cent of respondents aged between 15 and 29 had used e-cigarettes – more than three times higher than the average of 1 per cent for the group. Young people are particularly vulnerable as e-cigarettes are usually marketed as the "affordable alternative" to traditional cigarettes, and the targets of marketing campaigns, COSH said. A government-commissioned survey of smoking among more than 45,000 secondary school students from 2012 to 2013 found that about 1 per cent of secondary school pupils had used e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes – the "personal vaporisers" used as an alternative to tobacco – *can be legally sold in Hong Kong, except those containing nicotine*. Any product containing more than 0.1 per cent nicotine is required to be registered with the Health Department, **but no e-cigarettes have yet been listed**. Professor Daniel Ho Sai-yin, of the department of community medicine at HKU's school of public health, said new findings that e-cigarettes contain harmful ingredients keep emerging. We cannot start banning [e-cigarettes] only after hundreds of thousands of people have been killed Professor Daniel Ho "We cannot start banning [e-cigarettes] only after hundreds of thousands of people have been killed," Ho said.

"In the 1980s, Hong Kong managed to ban smokeless tobacco before it became popular, so that's why today we don't see any cases of people who have cancer because they chew such tobacco." Apart from nicotine, which causes addiction, Ho said e-cigarettes had also been found to contain carcinogenic chemicals such as formaldehyde after ingredients were heated at high temperature. The council also dismissed as "misleading" many claims made by e-cigarette manufacturers that their products help smokers quit traditional cigarettes, or that they are non-addictive or even eco-friendly. Citing World Health Organisation advice that calls for similar regulations on e-cigarettes as those that now exist for traditional cigarettes, the council advocates a total ban of the devices from sale, advertising, promotion and sponsorship, to distribution, importation and manufacturing. Currently, some 13 countries including Singapore, Thailand and Brazil have imposed a complete ban on e-cigarettes.

www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/electricity_pub_epsr.shtml

None has a **Certificate of Safety Compliance** hence cannot be legally sold here anyway!

Here is why: they explode, start fires and kill people! Hundreds of examples online

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/video-watch-e-cigarette-explode-set-3388651>

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/E-cig-Explosion-Santa-Ana-hand-295729771.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26958397>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/electronic-cigarette-explodes-in-mans-mouth-causes-serious-injuries/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-28701515>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5992812/E-cigarette-explosion-nearly-blows-David-Aspinalls-legs-off.html>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1315474/man-dies-after-e-cigarette-explodes-into-flames>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2442715/E-cigarette-explosion-causes-Wisconsin-home.html>

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<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calls-for-safety-warnings-after-exploding-ecigarette-chargers-cause-more-than-100-fires-9862857.html>

<http://ktla.com/2015/03/10/e-cigarette-explodes-in-santa-ana-mans-hand-partially-lodging-in-ceiling/>

<http://www.myfoxla.com/story/28338947/man-injured-bed-catches-fire-after-e-cigarette-explodes>