



The University of Hong Kong

# SAFETY MATTERS

December 16, 2005

To: List "C"

## Pantry Electric Water Boiler

It has come to my attention that the plastic dispensing valves which are installed on most pantry electric water boiler can suddenly break when the vertical lever is pulled down to dispense. The fracture is found to occur at the horizontal section of the valve connecting the body of the boiler. Serious accidents have been reported as a result of scalding by the gushing of boiling water when the valve is broken.

The valve in question bears a 'Tomlinson' mark with a red handle. It is not possible yet to find out conclusively the reasons for the failure. Most probably prolonged use could not be ruled out.

In the interests of safety, it is suggested that Heads of Departments should arrange to have a check to be carried out on all their pantry electric water boilers, to identify those with plastic dispensing valves and request Estates Office for replacement with a metal one.

Water boilers with a metal dispensing valves do not suffer from similar failures. If there are any queries, I am happy to discuss.

Meanwhile, please bring this to the attention of all pantry users.

Rheo LAM  
Assistant Director of Safety

RL/ac

c.c. Mr. Kenneth Wong – Estates Office  
Mr. C.B. Lo – Estates Office