

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)020**

**(Question Serial No. 1446)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety  
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2016-17, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will continue to promote and implement the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops, as well as to conduct an in-depth study on the development of a mandatory registration system for both vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops. Please advise this Committee:

- (a) the number and the percentage of registered vehicle mechanics and workshops under the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops in 2015-16;
- (b) the resources for handling the work and work details and targets of the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops in 2016-17; and
- (c) the progress of the study on the development of a mandatory registration system for both vehicle mechanics and workshops, and when the system will be implemented.

Asked by: Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming (Member Question No. 23)

Reply:

- (a) As of 18 March 2016, there were 6 773 vehicle mechanics registered under the voluntary registration scheme, representing about 74% of the total vehicle mechanics in Hong Kong. Besides, since the implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops on 15 July 2015, 740 vehicle maintenance workshops have been successfully registered so far, amounting to about 27% of the total vehicle maintenance workshops in Hong Kong. The EMSD is processing about 400 applications.

- (b) The EMSD will continue to promote the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops in 2016-17 through various means, including television and radio announcements in the public interest, as well as newsletters and promotional visits to vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops. The budgeted expenditure involved in implementing and promoting the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops is \$6.77 million in 2016-17. There is no separate breakdown of the budgeted expenditure for the two schemes.
  
- (c) The EMSD has commenced an in-depth study on the feasibility of putting in place a mandatory registration system for the vehicle maintenance trade (including both mechanics and workshops), with regard to the experience of the two voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops. In considering a possible regulatory framework for a mandatory registration system, a survey is being carried out to gauge the general acceptance by the trade and the public in respect of such mandatory registration. A regulatory impact assessment is also being carried out to assess the net benefits of mandating the registration of vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops. The EMSD will also review the two voluntary registration schemes in the third quarter of 2016. The EMSD will work closely with the trade on the study.

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