

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB038

(Question Serial No. 0920)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the filling stations for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, will the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department inform this Committee of the following:

1. Details of the 2 additional LPG filling Stations and 1 additional LPG filling Station in 2015 and 2016 respectively (including their locations and number of filling nozzles);
2. Details of the LPG filling station planned to be approved in 2017 (including its location, number of filling nozzles and date of commencement of operation);
3. The utilisation rate and the average waiting time at the dedicated and non-dedicated LPG filling stations in the past 3 years. Has the waiting time at dedicated LPG filling stations been shortened with an increase of LPG filling stations? If yes, what is the average reduction in waiting time? If no, what measures will be taken by the Government to alleviate the queuing problem at the dedicated LPG filling stations?
4. The utilisation rate and breakdown condition of the filling nozzles at the dedicated LPG filling stations in the past 3 years. To avoid affecting the waiting time of the LPG vehicle users, what measures have been taken by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to ensure proper operation of the filling nozzles? How is the effectiveness of the measures and what is the associated estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

1. The 2 additional non-dedicated LPG filling stations in 2015 are located at Clear Water Bay Road (near Anderson Road) and Hiram's Highway (near Tai Chung Hau) in Sai Kung with 2 and 4 filling nozzles respectively for providing services. The additional non-dedicated LPG filling station in 2016 is located at Cheong King Road, Chek Lap Kok with 4 filling nozzles for providing services.

2. The non-dedicated LPG filling station planned to be approved in 2017 is located at Clear Water Bay Road (near Tseng Lan Shue), Sai Kung with 8 filling nozzles for providing services. It is expected to be put into operation by end 2017.
3. Based on the operational records provided by the operators of the 12 dedicated LPG filling stations, the respective monthly numbers of vehicles refilled at each station for the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016
Monthly utilisation rate of each dedicated LPG filling station (no. of vehicles/month)	32 149 to 120 375	32 526 to 116 639	30 278 to 112 361

The Government does not collect information on the number of vehicles refilled at the non-dedicated LPG filling stations and the waiting time at all LPG filling stations.

LPG vehicles usually queue up for refilling during shift-changing periods, in particular at those dedicated LPG filling stations at popular locations. Outside shift-changing periods, the waiting time of LPG vehicles is normally not long even at the dedicated LPG filling stations. For non-dedicated LPG filling stations, LPG vehicles in general do not need to queue up for a long time for refilling service. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will continue to encourage LPG vehicle users to refill during off-peak hours through regular meetings with the trade and operators of the dedicated LPG filling stations.

4. Based on the operational records provided by the operators of the 12 dedicated LPG filling stations, the monthly average availability of the filling nozzles at each station for the past 3 years is above 95%.

EMSD monitors the daily operation of the LPG filling stations through routine and surprise inspections. The inspections mainly involve safety checking of the LPG storage and dispensing facilities, LPG replenishing arrangements, and operation and repair of the LPG dispensing facilities. Besides, operators of the dedicated LPG filling stations have to submit monthly records of the availability of the filling nozzles, repair records of the LPG dispensing facilities, training records of the filling operators, etc. of their LPG filling stations. According to the inspection records and related reports, the performance of the operators of the dedicated LPG filling stations complied with contractual requirements.

Law enforcement work in connection with LPG vehicles and filling stations is undertaken by a team of engineers and inspectors in EMSD. Their responsibilities cover a wide range of duties related to LPG vehicles and filling stations including the overseeing of LPG filling network, supporting infrastructure for LPG vehicles, and conducting law enforcement work related to the revalidation of LPG vehicle fuel tanks, etc. We do not have a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the above work.