

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)001

(Question Serial No. 0247)

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 (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2022-2023, the Government will study the introduction of a mandatory registration system for vehicle mechanics (VMs) and vehicle maintenance workshops (VMWs). Please inform this Committee of:

1. the registration figures of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics and the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops, the percentages they represented among the total numbers of VMs and VMWs, and their year-on-year changes over the past three years;
2. the measures of the Government to encourage more members of the trade to register voluntarily, and the resources and expenditures involved in such work, before the introduction of a mandatory registration system for VMs and VMWs;
3. the latest progress and the anticipated completion date of the study on the introduction of a mandatory registration system for VMs and VMWs; and
4. the progress made by the Government regarding the construction of multi-storey buildings for vehicle maintenance, with a view to the establishment of more qualified VMWs.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. The numbers of registered vehicle mechanics (RVMs) and registered vehicle maintenance workshops (RVMWs), the percentages they represented among the total numbers of vehicle mechanics (VMs) and vehicle maintenance workshops (VMWs), and their year-on-year changes over the past three years are tabulated below:

	RVM		RVMW	
	Number of RVMs (Percentage of the total number of VMs)	Year-on-year changes	Number of RVMWs (Percentage of the total number of VMWs)	Year-on-year changes
2021	8 263 (80.2%)	+0.83%	2 061 (74.1%)	+0.39%
2020	8 195 (79.5%)	-9.06%	2 053 (73.8%)	-0.05%
2019	9 011 (87.5%)	-	2 054 (73.8%)	-

2. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will continue to encourage more members of the vehicle maintenance trade to register under the Voluntary Registration Scheme (VRS) for VMs and VMWs through various means, including:
- promoting VRS through announcements in the public interests and publication of newsletters;
 - promoting VRS directly to VMWs and VMs through EMSD's regular inspections;
 - organisation of webinars and enhancement of the continuing professional development (CPD) platform to uplift the standards of RVMs and RVMWs; and
 - regular visits to RVMWs to provide guidance and advice to workshop owners and RVMs for improving their work practices and standards in accordance with the VRS.

The expenditure earmarked for the implementation and promotion of VRS is \$3.076 million in 2022-23.

3. The THB and EMSD have been examining the feasibility and viable options of introducing a mandatory registration system for both VMs and VMWs, with a view to keeping up with the development of vehicle technology and maintenance needs, ensuring that the public can have safe and reliable vehicle maintenance services, as well as providing CPD and opportunities for practitioners in the trade. Following the Government's publication of the "Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles" (the Roadmap) in March 2021 and "Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050" (the Action Plan) in October 2021, we are now working with the trade, academia and training institutions, professional bodies, vehicle owners' associations and other stakeholders, as well as the relevant departments, to jointly study the impact of the Roadmap and the Action Plan on the vehicle maintenance trade (including the registration system for VMs and VMWs).
4. EMSD has conducted, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the first stage benchmarking consultancy study on the designs of multi-storey buildings (MSBs) for VMWs, as well as related experiences in the provision of such workshops in different jurisdictions outside Hong Kong. The first stage consultancy study was completed in September 2021. EMSD is now conducting the second stage consultancy study to examine whether the designs and options identified in the first stage could be applied to

Hong Kong and to develop a set of general design guidelines regarding MSBs for vehicle maintenance for reference. To canvass the views of the industries on the design requirements, technical details and modes of operation of such MSBs, members of the industries have been invited to form a trade engagement working group. The second stage consultancy study is expected to be completed by end 2022.

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