

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)030

(Question Serial No. 3135)

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 (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the approval and monitoring of the operation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) There were only 5 cases of “competent persons enlistment applications processed” and 6 cases of “filling stations approved”, which should be completed within 25 or 30 working days according to the targets set. What is the staffing provision of the Department (including the post title, pay point, exact number of staff, etc.) for processing the relevant applications, and what other duties do the staff undertake as well?
- 2) What are the numbers of LPG taxis, LPG light buses, LPG filling stations and LPG filling nozzles currently in Hong Kong? Does the Government has any data on the utilisation of each LPG filling station; if yes, please provide the utilisation rate of each station.
- 3) Since Hong Kong is planning to cease the registration of fuel-propelled vehicles progressively and there is a growing popularity of hybrid or electric taxis and light buses in recent years, what are the development strategies of the Government for auto-LPG?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

- 1) The approval and monitoring work associated with LPG vehicles and filling stations is undertaken by a team of engineers (Master Pay Scale (MPS) Points 32 to 49) and inspectors (MPS Points 24 to 37) in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. Their duties cover a wide range of areas, including approving and overseeing the LPG filling network; monitoring LPG supply from LPG terminals and transportation arrangements of LPG road tankers; approving and monitoring the operation of LPG vehicle maintenance workshops; handling the revalidation of LPG vehicle fuel tanks; approving and monitoring the performance of relevant technical staff, etc. Processing

enlistment applications of competent persons and approving LPG filling stations constitute only a small part of the above duties. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower for processing and approving these applications.

- 2) At present, there are about 18 000 LPG taxis and 4 600 LPG light buses operating in Hong Kong. LPG refuelling services for these vehicles are provided by 12 dedicated LPG filling stations and 58 non-dedicated LPG filling stations with a total number of 508 LPG filling nozzles. The operators of dedicated LPG filling stations have contractual arrangements with the Government. Based on the operational records provided by the operators of the 12 dedicated LPG filling stations, the average monthly utilisation rate of each LPG filling station ranged from 25 451 to 128 717 vehicles in 2022. The Government does not have any information on the number of vehicles refilled at non-dedicated LPG filling stations.
- 3) Since LPG vehicles emit air pollutants, the Government will focus on promoting zero-emission electric vehicles and other new energy vehicles with a view to achieving the Government's ultimate goal of zero vehicular emissions before 2050. Nevertheless, the Government will still strive to ensure a stable and reliable supply of auto-LPG to meet the demand.

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