

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB046

Question Serial No.

4714

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the approval and revalidation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fuel tanks used in vehicles, please advise why there is a decrease in the estimated figure in 2013-14 as compared to the actual figure in 2012-13, and the estimated expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

The LPG taxi incentive scheme which encouraged taxi owners to switch from diesel vehicles to LPG ones was launched in 2000. The number of LPG vehicle fuel tanks requiring the second five-year revalidation peaked in 2011 and started to decrease in 2012. The downward trend is expected to continue in 2013.

The approval and revalidation processes of LPG vehicle fuel tanks are handled by a team of engineers and inspectors in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department whose responsibilities cover a wide range of duties, including inspection, investigation, public education and publicity. We do not have a breakdown of the estimated expenditure involved in the approval and revalidation processes.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

Supplementary Information for SFC Q4714:

Q1 Can we use a non-approved LPG vehicle fuel tank?

A1 In accordance with Regulation 7(1) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, EMSD may prohibit the use of non-approved LPG container.

Q2 Who will carry out LPG vehicle fuel tank revalidation and where?

A2 Revalidation of LPG vehicle fuel tanks should be carried out by a Class 1 Competent Person (31 nos. of

CP1 on EMSD list) at a venue accepted by EMSD. Currently, there are 5 revalidation sites which are well-ventilated and equipped with suitable facilities for LPG vehicle fuel tank purging / revalidation processes. The charges of a fuel tank revalidation for a 5-seater taxi and a public light bus are about \$3,000 and \$6,000 respectively.

Q3 What are the numbers of fuel tanks required for revalidation in next few years?

A3 It is anticipated that the third five-year revalidation will peak in 2016. The numbers of fuel tanks required for revalidation before 2016 will be below 2,000 per year.

Q4 What are the works for handling approval and revalidation of fuel tanks?

A4 The approval process involves vetting submissions by EMSD including design standard, specification, calculations with respect to the container code used and safety features/devices in associated with the fuel tank etc to ensure compliance with all relevant regulations, standards and codes of practice. The revalidation process involves the Class 1 Competent Person notify EMSD and the owners in writing, usually in form of a certificate, of the result of the revalidation. We will carry out audit checks of the certificates, conduct audit inspections and surprise checks to the revalidation sites to oversee the revalidation process and the performance of the competent persons.

Q5 What are the requirements of the relevant legislations?

A5 The LPG fuel tank installed on a LPG vehicle must be of a type approved by EMSD. According to Regulation 8 (2) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, Cap 51B, the owner of an LPG fuel tank shall arrange for the LPG fuel tank to be tested and examined not less than once in the 5 years period immediately preceding the use of the LPG fuel tank to contain LPG, so as to make sure that it can be used safely.