

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

ENB058

Question Serial No.

5033

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 handling of competent persons' enlistment applications under the indicator for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle safety, would the Administration please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of enlisted competent persons (by age range and year of enlistment) in each of the past five years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2012-13);
- (b) the requirements or conditions to obtain the relevant qualifications, e.g. the examination or work experience required; the recognised scope of works of related competent persons; and the average processing time by the Administration for each application;
- (c) whether the Administration has evaluated the adequacy of the number of enlisted persons in meeting the current demand of LPG vehicles? If yes, what is the evaluation result? If no, what are the reasons?;
- (d) whether the Administration has considered allocating more resources to provide more training programmes, so as to attract more people to join the industry. If yes, what is the plan? If no, what are the reasons?
- (e) whether the Administration has provided support to the competent persons in enhancing their skills through continuing education? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

- (a) A total of 101 persons were enlisted as competent persons for the maintenance of fuel system of LPG vehicles in the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012). The breakdowns of the age profile of these competent persons and the year of enlistment are shown in the following table:

Age range	Number of competent persons enlisted					Sub-total
	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	
21 to 30	9	8	6	5	1	29
31 to 40	4	4	19	8	4	39

41 to 50	6	2	7	4	8	27
51 to 60	0	0	0	5	1	6
Above 60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	19	14	32	22	14	

- (b) A motor vehicle mechanic who has at least three years of relevant working experience and has completed a relevant LPG vehicle servicing course conducted by the Vocational Training Council (VTC) or equivalent is qualified to be enlisted as a competent person for the maintenance of LPG vehicles. A competent person is responsible for carrying out works on dismantling, assembling, testing, commissioning, decommissioning, connecting, disconnecting, maintaining, repairing or replacing any parts of the LPG vehicle fuel system. The average processing time for such applications in 2012 was 15 days.
- (c) The number of LPG vehicles increased at a rate comparable to that of competent persons in the past five years. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has not received feedback from regular trade meetings about insufficient competent persons in the trade.
- (d) The VTC will organise more training courses on LPG vehicles should there be an increasing demand.
- (e) EMSD has been providing support to competent persons on the maintenance of LPG vehicle fuel system through:
- disseminating technical information leaflets;
 - conducting briefing sessions;
 - publishing codes of practice; and
 - producing video films.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013

Supplementary Information for SFC Q5033:

Q1 What is the ratio on numbers of LPG vehicles to CP6 in last 5 years?

A1 The total numbers of enlisted competent persons and LPG vehicles and ratios in the last 5 years are shown in the following table:

Year	Cumulative no. of competent persons enlisted (a)	Total no. of LPG vehicles (b)	Ratio of LPG vehicles to competent persons enlisted (c) = (b)/(a)
2008	1,026	21,261	20.7

2009	1,040	21,425	20.6
2010	1,072	21,626	20.2
2011	1,094	21,714	19.8
2012	1,108	21,813	19.7

Q2 What LPG vehicle training course available for CP6?

A2 A part time course (51 hours) entitled “LPG Vehicle Servicing” organized by Vocational Training Council is available on a need basis and the course fee is \$1,350. Two courses had been organized in September and October 2012, and the numbers of participants were 11 and 8 respectively.

Q3 Can maintenance work not carried out by CP6?

A3 According to Regulation 16 of Gas Safety Ordinance Cap.51B, only competent persons shall carry out work on or in relation to gas pipes or the work being carried out shall be under their supervision. The registration system for CP6 has served the purpose to facilitate the trade, especially the owners of vehicle workshops, to identify and locate persons whose competence has been acceptable to the Gas Authority.