

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

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)010**

Question Serial No.

3088

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

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2013-14, it is mentioned that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will continue to promote and implement the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle mechanics, and plan for a voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops. Please advise this committee on:

- (a) the number of applications for registration in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012) according to the table below:

	Number of new applications issued with certificates	Number of renewal applications issued with certificates	Number of applications rejected
2012			
2011			
2010			

- (b) the main reasons for rejecting the above applications; and
- (c) the details on implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops.

Asked by: Hon. POON Siu-ping

Reply:

- (a) The number of applications for registration as vehicle mechanics in the past three years is shown in the table below:

	Number of new applications issued with certificates	Number of renewal applications issued with certificates	Number of applications rejected
2012	154	572	54
2011	225	3 739	118
2010	300	2 181	185

- (b) The main reasons for rejecting the applications were non-compliance with the minimum years of experience for new applications and non-compliance with the continued professional development requirements for renewal applications.
- (c) It is planned to implement the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops in 2014, and a code of practice for vehicle maintenance workshops was developed in 2012. To promote compliance with this code of practice, a Charter Scheme for workshops was launched in early 2013. So far, 144 workshops have subscribed to the Charter Scheme and promotional activities for the Charter Scheme will continue.

Name in block letters:

CHAN FAN

Post Title:

Director of Electrical and  
Mechanical Services

Date:

5.4.2013

## Supplementary Information: Possible Follow-up Questions

1. How many vehicle mechanics are working in the trade? How many of them are registered?  
  
According to the manpower surveys conducted by the VTC in 2012, there were around 9,400 vehicle mechanics working in the vehicle maintenance trade, excluding the operative and unskilled workers from their manpower survey. As at 31 March 2012, 7,407 vehicle mechanics are registered under the scheme.
2. What promotional or add-value activities have been carried out for the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle mechanics?
  - rubber stamps to all RVM for easy identification of their registration status
  - distribution of a quarterly newsletter to communicate with the mechanics
  - a code of practice stipulating that, among other requirements, a vehicle workshop has to employ registered vehicle mechanics in order to provide services of the same registered classes
  - Smart Mechanics Competition held in late 2012
3. What will be the way forward for the voluntary registration scheme for the vehicle maintenance trade?

On the recommendation of the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC), a similar registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops has been implemented. It was first started with launching a Charter Scheme in early 2013 for workshops to abide by the practice guidelines, with the strategic objective of introducing a fully-fledged voluntary registration scheme for vehicle workshops in parallel with the mechanic scheme tentatively in 2014.

4. When a Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Workshops shall be launched?

EMSD shall conduct a consultancy survey among the trade to gauge the acceptance of the Practice Guidelines, the Charter Scheme, and a Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Workshops (VRSVW) in 2013, and to understand their views on the regulatory framework and the future development of the scheme. Subject to a general and positive response from the trade, the VRSVW may be commenced as early as in 2014.

5. When shall a mandatory scheme for the vehicle maintenance trade be ready for launching?

Subject to a smooth implementation of the in 2014, it is estimated that it will take 2-3 years to get the vehicle workshops pitching in the VRSVW to show majority support before formulating the requirements for a mandatory scheme for the vehicle maintenance trade.