

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(E)038**

**(Question Serial No. 0672)**

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 (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners, can the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the number of newly registered technicians per year and the total number of registered technicians by registration class (i.e. Classes A and B) since the launch of the scheme to date;
- (2) whether the Government has formulated the administrative procedures and criteria for registration renewal, as the first batch of registered technicians will require renewal; if so, the details; if not, the reasons; and
- (3) whether the Government will conduct a study on making the registration of technicians handling mildly flammable refrigerants of household air-conditioners mandatory; if so, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (1) Since the launch of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners (the Voluntary Registration Scheme) on 30 May 2023 to date, the number of newly registered technicians per year and the total number of registered technicians are as follows:

Year	Number of Newly Registered Technicians		
	Class A (Note 1)	Class B (Note 2)	Classes A and B in Total (Note 3)
2023 (Starting from 30 May)	49	951	1 000
2024	43	561	604
2025	27	341	368
2026 (As of 28 February)	0	34	34
Total (From 30 May 2023 to 28 February 2026)	119	1 887	2 006

- Note 1: Registered technicians who can install window-type air-conditioners using mildly flammable refrigerant.
- Note 2: Registered technicians who can install household air-conditioners using mildly flammable refrigerant (including window-type, split-type and multi-split type) and carry out works for handling mildly flammable refrigerant (including repairing refrigerant pipework of air-conditioners).
- Note 3: When the Voluntary Registration Scheme was launched in 2023, it received an enthusiastic response from the market, attracting the participation of 1 000 technicians. Subsequently, as the total number of technicians in the market remained roughly unchanged, and 1 000 technicians had already registered in the first year of the scheme, the number of new participants gradually dropped over the following 2 years. At present, it is believed that most of the technicians who wish to join have already been enrolled in the Voluntary Registration Scheme, so a decline in the number of new registrations is a normal market phenomenon, as expected.
- (2) As the technology of designing and installing household air-conditioners using mildly flammable refrigerant has become mature, after the deliberation and endorsement by the Provisional Refrigerant Technical Advisory Committee (the Committee), the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) decided to extend the validity period of technicians' voluntary registration from 3 years to 5 years in March 2026. The relevant arrangements were announced in the "New Refrigerant Newsletter" published in the same month, and all registered technicians were notified by email and post. The first batch of applications for registration renewal will progressively commence in the first half of 2028. The renewal criteria include that the applicants must have at least 1.5 years of work experience relevant to their registration class within the 5-year registration period, and have completed no less than 10 hours of continuing professional development training. The relevant criteria and procedures for registration renewal have been uploaded to the EMSD website for industry practitioners' reference.
- (3) The Voluntary Registration Scheme aims to raise the technical competence and safety awareness of technicians in handling mildly flammable refrigerant of household air-conditioners. The EMSD and the Committee will continue to review the effectiveness of implementing the Voluntary Registration Scheme, and consider the development needs of the trade as well as the technology development in the design and installation of household air-conditioners, with a view to exploring ways to optimise the registration system. Should there be any proposed measures, the trade will be consulted in a timely manner.

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