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RVM Newsletter

Issue No. 1
(Inaugural Issue)



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Launch of the RVM Newsletter

Since its implementation in 2007, the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics has enjoyed the enthusiastic support of trade members. Its achievements are well-recognised by trade members and the public as a whole. Apart from disseminating the up-to-date news about the scheme on the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department website, the government also uses other publicity channels, such as letters and short text messages as well as radio broadcasts, to promote the scheme. To meet the needs of future development, we publish the RVM Newsletter to update registered vehicle mechanics regularly on the latest developments of the scheme and provide information that is of concern to them all. The newsletter will become a platform for two-way communication as contributions are welcome from registered vehicle mechanics who want to share their experiences.

The successful launch of the RVM Newsletter has been due to the efforts of Chief Editor Mr Wong Teck-sun and the editors of its various sections. As well as voicing their views and suggestions on the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee for the consideration of the government, they are also dedicated to the improvement of the professional standards and status of the registered vehicle mechanic. In this issue, Mr Wong Yiu-kwong will revisit with us some vehicular terms which are commonly used but easily confused. Mr Lai Chi-wah will remind us of the importance of lifelong learning so we can meet the requirements of continuing professional development for registration renewal. It is hoped that you will take time to read this first issue of the RVM Newsletter, and give us your valuable feedback on how the newsletter can cater more to your needs and play the role as a bridge of communication.

CHAN Fan
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee

To ensure that the registration scheme can meet the needs of the trade, the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC) was established in May 2006 with members from trade associations, professional institutions, training institutes, transport operators employing large number of vehicle mechanics, vehicle suppliers' associations, vehicle owners' association, relevant government departments, and an independent person nominated by the Home Affairs Bureau. Members of the VMTAC are appointed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing. The VMTAC is chaired by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services.

To facilitate effective discussion and finalisation of various details of the registration scheme, two subcommittees have been formed by members of the VMTAC and with co-opted members from the trade. Each subcommittee is chaired by a Convenor who is elected among the members of the respective subcommittee. The subcommittees report progress and make recommendations to the VMTAC, which will deliberate on the detailed implementation of the registration scheme.

List of Members

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services [Chairperson]	Mr. LIU Keung (vehicle owners' association)	Mr. WONG Chun-keung (training institute)
Mr. FUNG Ming-kong, Steve (training institute)	Mr. LIU Tat-ming (workers union)	Mr. Alexander WONG Teck-sun (professional institution)
Mr. GOT Chong (trade association)	Mr. SHUM Yuet-hung, Kane (transport operator)	Mr. WONG Yiu-kwong (trade association)
Ms. HUI Ming-ming, Cindi (independent)	Mr. SO Kwok-kin, Kenny (transport operator)	Mr. YIP Yung-ching (workers union)
Mr. KWOK Kai-shing (trade association)	Mr. TAM Wai-leung, Eric (trade association)	Mr. YUEN Ping-hang (trade association)
Mr. LAI Chi-wah (workers union)	Mr. TANG Wing-hong, Madison (professional institution)	Representative from Transport Department (government department)
Mr. LAW Wai-yan (workers union)	Mr. TONG Put-hung (training institute)	Representative from Environmental Protection Department (government department)

List of Co-opted Members

Mr. LIN Chi-yuen (trade association)	Mr. Jacky Coke (trade association)	Ms. MAN Yuen-ling, Ellen (professional institution)
Mr. CHAN Kwok-tin (trade association)	Mr. WONG Ho-chuen, Eric (trade association)	

Latest Development in the Registration Scheme

New Registration Requirements

- Effective from 1 January 2012, new applications for registration must comply with the new requirements: 20 hours of continuing professional development in the past 3 years on top of existing registration requirements. Applicants should use the new Form 1 (EMSD/VM01 (1/2012)) to apply for registration. Please visit the EMSD website for information and application forms.
- Effective from 1 January 2012, if a registered vehicle mechanic fails to renew his registration that has expired for more than 2 years, he is required to apply for re-registration and has to comply with the above registration requirements.

Number of vehicle mechanics in the vehicle servicing sector in 2010 8 7 3 6¹

Note 1: 2010 Manpower Survey Report by Automobile Training Board (excluding the S2, S3, S4 and S5 vehicle mechanics)

Number of registered vehicle mechanics (as of March 2012) 7 6 8 8

A Word from a Member of the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee

I am honoured to be the representative of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee. This committee has under it two working subcommittees, i.e., the Subcommittee on Management and Review of Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics and the Subcommittee on Research and Development of Vehicle Maintenance Services. The first subcommittee is mainly responsible for improving the detailed implementation of the existing registration scheme in relation to registration, renewal, training, monitoring and publicity; identifying and implementing the incentives and other ways and means to maintain the registration level as well as making the scheme more attractive. The second subcommittee is mainly responsible for reviewing and confirming the prerequisites and supporting arrangements for the smooth transition of the Voluntary Registration Scheme to a mandatory scheme; identifying the concerns of the stakeholders with regard to the mandatory scheme; as well as advising on a relevant development strategy, implementation method and schedule.

You may be aware that many in the vehicle maintenance trade have been calling for the expeditious transition from a voluntary scheme to a mandatory scheme. Indeed, this view coincides with the majority view of the members of the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee, who see that such development is conducive to improved professional skills, image and social status for the vehicle mechanics, and the continued effective improvement of vehicle maintenance services, thus putting safer and more reliable vehicles on the road. However, some vehicle maintenance trade practitioners still have reservations about a mandatory scheme. As it is important to engage the support of all stakeholders and the public, the Advisory Committee therefore will carefully consider the relevant details, arrangements and implementation schedule for a mandatory scheme.

As a supporting arrangement, the Subcommittee on Research and Development of Vehicle Maintenance Services has prepared the draft "Practical Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops" and consulted trade members recently, in order to take forward the implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops.

It is my honour to be elected by other members to serve as Convener of the Subcommittee on Management and Review of Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics, and Chief Editor of the RVM Newsletter. I hope that the newsletter will serve as a direct and effective platform for all registered vehicle mechanics to keep abreast of the latest developments of the voluntary registration scheme and the supporting arrangements for moving towards a mandatory scheme. You are welcome to reflect your views with regard to the RVM Newsletter and the current voluntary registration scheme to the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit of EMSD, or get in touch with me through them.

WONG Teck-sun
Chief Editor



Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops

What do the Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops² have to do with me?

"I'm not the owner nor am I the manager. I'm just an employee. What do the Practice Guidelines have to do with me?"

To put it simply, the Practice Guidelines describe the roles and duties of the proprietor, person-in-charge (PIC) of the workshop, vehicle mechanic and customer, and their inter-relationships. While the Practice Guidelines have a direct bearing on how the workshop proprietor and the manager run the vehicle maintenance workshop, the suggestions in those Guidelines are very important as well to the vehicle mechanics. It pays therefore to study the contents of the Practice Guidelines. For example, the Guidelines state that:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Clause 4.6 | The PIC shall employ a certain number of registered vehicle mechanics. |
| Clause 4.5 | The PIC shall arrange work training and continuing professional education for vehicle mechanics. |
| Clause 4.4 | The PIC shall provide reference documents for the repair work and set up a mechanism for handling staff complaints. |
| Clause 4.1-4.3 | The PIC shall put emphasis on the work safety of staff, and provide the vehicle mechanics with the equipment and facilities for vehicle maintenance. |
| Clause 3.1-3.3 | Vehicle mechanics shall provide maintenance service in accordance with good trade practice under the instructions of the PIC. |

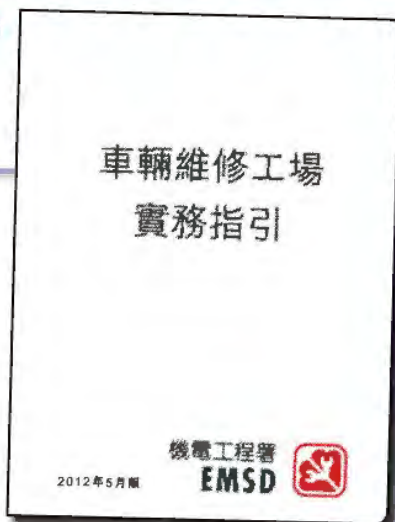
Although the Practice Guidelines contain much that is already common knowledge, a concerted effort by all maintenance trade members to build mutual trust with customers on the basis of the Guidelines will surely help raise the social standing and professional image of the trade, as well as winning more respect from customers and the general public.

It goes without saying that the harder you work, the better the results. However, improvement takes time, and haste makes waste. It is hoped that under the basic principles of gradual and orderly progress and not putting one's livelihood in jeopardy, the trade will work together to accomplish new milestones.

Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit, EMSD

Note 2

EMSD released the draft Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops to solicit views from the trade in November 2011. Two consultation forums for the trade were held on 13 and 20 December 2011 at EMSD Headquarters. Trade members may download for reference the draft Practice Guidelines at the following web page: http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgj/vmrs_pub_pg.shtml



Some photos taken at the two consultation forums held at EMSD Headquarters

Commonly-Used Technical Terms

This column aims to facilitate your understanding of commonly-used professional terms that you may come across in your daily maintenance work or maintenance reference materials.

1.) Run-in

Subsequent to the replacement of parts or overhaul of an engine, the vehicle will go through the run-in process whereby the small rough surfaces generating friction are smoothed out gradually, under medium load over time or mileage. Dynamometers may be used to complete the job.

2.) Run on

A phenomenon that the engine of a petrol fuelled vehicle continues to run after the ignition switch is turned off. This is usually attributed to an excessively high temperature or carbon deposit inside the engine. It is mostly found in vehicles installed with carburettors of early days. Run on is also known as Dieseling, for it resembles compression ignition in diesel engines.

3.) Runout

The pulsation or runout measured outside the centre point of the rotating parts such as gear, flywheel, fan blade, brake disc or tyre, etc. (e.g. runout of brake disc will cause pulsation of the brake pedal when the car is braked).

4.) Run-flat

To run on flat tyres in which tyre pressure cannot be maintained due to air leakage (e.g. run-flat tyres of cars manufactured in recent times).

WONG Yiu-kwong

RVM Chat Room

Background: (Master Wong and Mechanic Ming have just serviced a car and are having afternoon tea in a tea stall)

Master Wong: I've applied to renew my vehicle mechanic registration and got the new card yesterday. Hey, Ming, you and I got registered at about the same time. Your registration should be expiring too.

Mechanic Ming: I don't think I can renew my registration now as it has already expired for more than 6 months.

Master Wong: Don't worry. If your registration has not expired for more than 2 years, you can still have it renewed. But you should have recorded 18 months of working experience of relevant service class and 20 hours of continuing professional development within the past 3 years of the date EMSD received your application.

Mechanic Ming: I see. Having 18 months of experience should not be a problem for me, but I don't have any hours of continuing professional development. Why should I bother as my know-how is sufficient?

Master Wong: Ha, learning is for life. Learning more never hurts! Just like the car we've just serviced, everything is electronically controlled. When we were apprentices, we didn't learn anything like that. Luckily, I've taken a skills upgrading course in Electronics over the past few years. This allows me to learn while I work. Otherwise, I wouldn't know how to fix the car.

Mechanic Ming: I know, but I'm so busy working that I don't have time for training!

Master Wong: Well, it's hard sometimes. I take courses on Sundays. In fact, there's an array of training activities that may be accepted as continuing professional development record, such as courses provided by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education and Vocational Training Council, Skills Upgrading Scheme Plus courses, seminars, courses and activities organised by workers unions and trade associations on management, occupational safety, legislation, reception, languages and communication, and even technical exchange visits. They are offered on weekdays as well as weekends. You can always find something that suits you. After you have finished the training, remember to ask your son to download the Renewal Application Form 2 from the EMSD website and return the completed form to EMSD!

We welcome any views, opinions and questions from trade members.

Lai Chi-wah

PRIZE QUIZ

- 1) Under the current Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics, how much is the registration fee?
A) Free of charge B) \$50
C) \$100 D) \$200
- 2) Starting from January 2012, how many hours of continuing professional development should an applicant acquire within the immediate past 3 years for registration as a registered vehicle mechanic?
A) Nil B) 10hrs
C) 20hrs D) 30hrs
- 3) Under the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics, the validity of registration is for:
A) 1 year B) 3 years
C) 5 years D) Permanent
- 4) How many work classes are currently under Specific Services?
A) 5 B) 6
C) 7 D) 8
- 5) How many years of relevant working experience are required for a motorcycle mechanic to register for class S1 under Specific Services?
A) 1 year B) 3 years
C) 5 years D) 10 years

How to participate?

Please complete the form below, circle the correct answers, and send it to the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit by fax or email (fax: 2577 4901; email: vmru@emsd.gov.hk).

Deadline: 15 May 2012

Question	Answer
1	A. B. C. D.
2	A. B. C. D.
3	A. B. C. D.
4	A. B. C. D.
5	A. B. C. D.

Name: _____ Vehicle Mechanic Registration No: _____ HKID No: _____
(enter the first 4 digits including the alphabet)

Email Address: _____ Contact Telephone No: _____

- Each winner will receive a souvenir. As there are totally ten souvenirs, the winners will be decided by lottery if more than 10 participants give correct answers to all the questions.
- Only registered vehicle mechanics may participate, each not more than once in each quiz.
- Answers are as decided by the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit; should there be any dispute, the decision of the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit shall be final.
- The correct answers and list of prize winners will be announced in the next issue of the RVM Newsletter. The Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit will also notify individual prize winners.



Some of the Training Institutes that Provide Continuing Professional Development Courses for Vehicle Mechanics (in random order)

1. Traffic Services
Employees Association

<http://www.facebook.com/tseahk> 2575 5544



2. Pro-Act Training and
Development Centre (Automobile)

http://www.vtc.edu.hk/vtc/web/template/about_the_central.jsp?fldr_id=452&lang=tw 2449 1310



3. The Institute of the
Motor Industry Hong Kong

<http://www.hkimi.org.hk> 2625 5903



4. Hong Kong Vehicle Repair
Merchants Association Limited

<http://www.hkvrma.com.hk/training/index.html> 2399 7977



5. The Society of Operations Engineers
(Hong Kong Region)

<http://www.soe.org.hk/events.asp> 3188 0062



Gentle Reminder

1. Please watch out from each issue: It helps to update you on the development of the registration scheme, to acquire hours of continuing professional development, and to enhance the quality of service.
2. Every year the Newsletter provides a quiz on the matters discussed in the past issues. Registered vehicle mechanics who get the answers correct are deemed to have acquired, at most, 2 hours of continuing professional development. Details will be announced in the next issue.
3. Registered vehicle mechanics are welcome to submit articles (about 150-200 words) and photos to the editorial board of the newsletter. Registered vehicle mechanics whose contribution is accepted and published are deemed to have acquired 2 hours of continuing professional development in the year of their contribution. Attention: the editorial board reserves the right to edit.

For enquiries, please contact the EMSD Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit
(Fax: 2577 4901; Email: vmru@emsd.gov.hk; Tel: 2808 3867 or Government Hotline: 1823)

Editorial Board Members:

Mr. Alexander WONG Teck-sun (Chief Editor) , Mr. FUNG Ming-kong, Mr. LAI Chi-wah, Mr. LIU Tat-ming, Mr. SHUM Yuet-hung, Mr. TAM Wai-leung, Mr. TONG Put-hung, Mr. WONG Yiu-kwong, Ms. MAN Yuen-ling, Mr. Chu Kei-ming and Mr. Law Ko-ming

