

## RVM Newsletter (Issue No. 9)

**Disuse of** Ten-year Experience as the Means for  
Qualifying as Registered Vehicle Mechanics by end 2016

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## From the Editor

### **Future Development of the Registration Scheme**

Some registered mechanics have already renewed their status twice in the seven years of the implementation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics since 2007. There were 6 962 registered mechanics as at the end of June 2014, making up 74% of the total number of mechanics in the industry. The past year has seen a decline in the numbers of registered mechanics staying in the scheme, possibly because some of them decided to quit as they did not see any sign of legislative action for a mandatory registration scheme

The Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC) has actually been in constant consultation with the industry with regard to the future development of the scheme. The aim is to legislate for a mandatory registration scheme to raise service standards and professional status so that the industry can better serve the public.

The VMTAC published the Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops in 2012 for reference by the industry. The Vehicle Maintenance Workshops Charter Scheme was subsequently introduced in 2013 in order to allow time for the industry to familiarise with the guidelines and be prepared for the implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops. After consultation with the industry, the VMTAC is of the view that in order to raise service standards and improve professional image for the industry, legislation for the vehicle mechanics registration scheme and the vehicle maintenance workshops registration scheme must go in parallel. This would enable holistic regulation of the industry and shared responsibility between employers and employees towards vehicle maintenance, and is the only way to secure the recognition of practitioners within the industry and the public they serve. There are about 2 700 vehicle maintenance workshops in Hong Kong providing various kinds of vehicle maintenance services. The number of workshops applying to join the workshops charter scheme since its introduction has been 579, of which 389 have successfully become signatories whose information is now publicly accessible on EMSD website.

The VMTAC plans to launch the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops by end 2014. This is to be implemented alongside the workshops charter scheme to enable more workshops to join in according to their operational circumstances. The VMTAC expects to review the situation one year after the implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for maintenance workshops. If the participation rate of both vehicle mechanics and workshops (e.g., 70%) indicates that the two registration schemes have the support of the industry, the VMTAC will suggest to the government that it should proceed with the legislation for mandatory registrations for vehicle mechanics and maintenance workshops.

Meanwhile, the VMTAC has decided to disuse “ten-year experience” as the means for vehicle mechanics to obtain registration by end 2016. All vehicle mechanics then must qualify academically or

by passing assessments for their technical skills in order to be registered. I hope to use this issue of the RVM to remind all vehicle mechanics who have not qualified academically or been certificated for their technical skills yet to apply for registration or renewal of their registered status without delay. This is important for keeping their registered mechanic status to facilitate their transition to the mandatory registration scheme for registered mechanics subsequently. I would like to appeal to the folks to get and stay registered without delay.

The voluntary registration scheme for vehicle mechanics will have been implemented for 10 years by the end of 2016, since it was launched at the beginning of 2007. Its implementation has been gradual and in such a way as to improve service standards while not affecting the livelihoods of the practitioners. The support and participation of the industry as a whole is necessary for the continued development of the scheme, particularly in terms of whether we can proceed with the legislation for the mandatory registrations for vehicle mechanics and maintenance workshops in 2016.

**LI Tak-fat**  
**Chief Editor**

## Sharing

### **Future Development of the Registration Schemes for Vehicle Mechanics and Vehicle Maintenance Workshops**

How time flies. It has been more than eight years since the setting up of the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC) in May 2006. I am honoured to be re-elected as Chairman of the Research and Development Subcommittee for the new term of VMTAC. I will do my best to move the mandatory registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops forward in the days ahead.

At the request of the industry, the Government carried out an opinion survey at the end of 2004 on legislation to regulate the vehicle maintenance sector. The results indicated that the great majority of vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshop operators were in favour of proceeding first with a voluntary registration scheme and moving gradually towards the goal of a mandatory registration scheme.

The Research and Development Subcommittee held a meeting recently to specifically look into the possibility of proceeding with legislation for the mandatory registrations of both the vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops simultaneously. Although some committee members suggested that the mandatory registration scheme for vehicle mechanics should be implemented as soon as possible, the views and concerns of the union representatives expressed previously were also taken into account, i.e., that registered mechanics would solely be held legally liable if mandatory registration was applicable to them only. The consensus of the Subcommittee was that the legislative regulation of mechanics and workshops should ideally happen simultaneously so that legislation could be holistic and queries would be averted in the legislative debate.

The Subcommittee believed that the mandatory registration for vehicle maintenance workshops should be expedited to enable the simultaneous legislation. The details for the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops will be finalised at end 2014. This scheme should model after the proposed mandatory registration scheme in order to facilitate the smooth transition of the registered workshops to the mandatory scheme. Meanwhile, the VMTAC would conduct a review of the situation one year after the launch of the voluntary registration scheme for workshops. If the participation rate reaches 70%, the committee would suggest to the policy bureau to proceed with legislative procedure for the mandatory registrations for both the mechanics and maintenance workshops.

**Dr LEE Yiu-pui**  
**Chairman**

**Research and Development Subcommittee for the Registration Scheme**

## Latest Developments of the Registration Scheme

### 1. The 5th Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee

To ensure that the registration scheme can meet the needs of the industry, 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.

Two subcommittees with members from the VMTAC and industry representatives have been formed to discuss the various details of the registration scheme and report progress and make recommendations to the VMTAC for deliberation on the detailed implementation of the registration scheme.

Members of the 5th VMTAC have been appointed by the Government and their term of office is from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2016.

#### **List of Members**

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Chairperson)	LAI Chi-wah (workers union)	LIU Tat-ming (workers union)
HUI Kin-wah (workers union)	YUEN Shu-ming (workers union)	LAM Hing-cheong (trade association)
WONG Sui-wan (trade association)	WONG Yiu-kwong (trade association)	FUNG Ka-fai, Vincent (transport operator)
SO Hing-shun (transport operator)	LEUNG Wing-hang, Michael (trade association)	CHAN Ho-man (trade association)
FUNG Man-keung (training institute)	FUNG Ming-kong, Steve (training institute)	YUEN Wai-ming (training institute)
LEE Yiu-pui, Ringo (professional institution)	LI Tak-fat (professional institution)	LIU Keung (vehicle owners' association)
SHUM Hau-yan, Karen (independent person)	Representative from the Transport Department (government department)	Representative from the Environmental Protection Department (government department)

## List of Co-opted Members

MOK Chi-fai (trade association)	TSE Bing-kwong, Alexander (trade association)	COKE Tak-shing, Jacky (trade association)
CHAN Lap-yan (trade association)	MAN Yuen-ling, Ellen (professional institution)	LEE Ping-sun (trade association) Joined in July 2014

2. Promotional pamphlets of the Vehicle Maintenance Workshops Charter were delivered to the licensing offices of the Transport Department and the administration buildings of different tunnels, various Public Enquiry Service Centres of the Home Affairs Department and petrol filling stations during the month of June 2014 for distribution to the public.
3. **Reminder: Disuse of Ten-year Experience as the Means for Qualifying as Registered Vehicles Mechanics.**  
The VMTAC has decided to disuse the criterion of ten-year experience as the means for vehicle mechanics to obtain registration by end 2016. Vehicle mechanics who wish to register or who have yet to register on the strength of their working experience should submit their applications for renewal or registration as soon as practicable, before the ten-year experience criterion is disused for the purpose of registration.
4. **Reminder: With effect from 1 January 2013, all registered vehicle mechanics applying for renewal of registration must submit copies of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training records together with the application form.**  
With effect from 1 January 2013, all registered vehicle mechanics applying for renewal of registration must submit copies of their CPD training records (e.g., attendance certificates or in-house training records) together with the application form. To facilitate the recording of training information, registered mechanics may download a Record of Continuing Professional Development from the EMSD website. The completed and signed record form will suffice as documentary proof. (The Record of Continuing Professional Development can be downloaded from [http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e\\_download/sji/CPD\\_record\\_form.pdf](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e_download/sji/CPD_record_form.pdf))
5. Registered vehicle mechanics will each be given two lapel badges by the end of July.
6. **What's New: As per the deliberation of the Subcommittee, a mechanic enrolling in a recognised auto industry-related course under the Qualifications Framework (QF) will earn ten CPD hours by the completion of one QF credit.**

Information on the number of registered vehicle mechanics:

Number of vehicle mechanics in the vehicle servicing sector in 2012	9,420 <sup>1</sup>
Note 1 2012 Manpower Survey Report by Automobile Training Board	
Number of registered vehicle mechanics (as of June 2014)	6,962

Information on the number of workshops which have become signatories to the Vehicle Maintenance Workshops Charter Scheme:

Number of workshops which have applied to join the charter scheme	579
Number of workshops which have successfully become signatories to the charter (as of June 2014)	389

Signatories to the Vehicle Maintenance Workshops Charter are listed on the EMSD website for public information together with information such as the service classes they provide.

(About the Charter: [http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/vlntry\\_vmrs\\_chrtr.shtml](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/vlntry_vmrs_chrtr.shtml))

(Charter Subscriber List: [http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e\\_download/sgi/CharterWorkshop.pdf](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/e_download/sgi/CharterWorkshop.pdf))

## Auto Update (Continued from last issue)

### Introduction to Euro VI diesel engines and after-treatment systems (2)

#### Introduction to after-treatment systems

Working principle of DOC

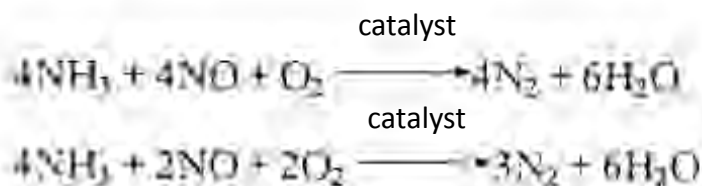
DOC Inlet	DOC Outlet
SO <sub>2</sub>	SO <sub>3</sub>
CO	CO <sub>2</sub>
HC	H <sub>2</sub> O
NO	NO/NO <sub>2</sub>

#### Working principle of DPF

- I. Mission regeneration is an active regeneration method that takes place when the vehicle is in operation or in motion.
  - a) Car speed
  - b) Temperature of DOC
  - c) Turn off the manual regeneration switch.
- II. Active non-mission/ stationary/ parked DPF regeneration
  - a) DPF Lamp is on.
  - b) Enable conditions for stationary/ parked regeneration.
  - c) Stationary regeneration can be initiated by pushing the stationary/ parked regeneration switch.
  - d) Engine rotation speed will automatically and slowly increase when regeneration is initiated.

#### Chemical reaction of SCR

- a) Urea is injected into the exhaust pipe and breaks down into ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) under high temperature;
- b)  $\text{NH}_2\text{-CO-NH}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3 + \text{CO}_2$   
Under the effect of catalyst, NH<sub>3</sub> reacts with nitrogen oxides (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>) and restore them to nitrogen and water.





## RVM Chatroom

Background: Smartphone WhatsApp messages between vehicle mechanics Ming Tsai and Lok Tsai

LT: I read in the Extra of RVM Bulletin (No. 7) that they would discontinue the qualification by 10-year experience for registered mechanic status by end 2016. I used my ten-year experience to qualify as registered mechanic, and my registered status will not be recognised after 2016! I will not be able to service vehicles on my own anymore, I don't know what I am going to do!

MT: I read that article, too. But it's not like what you said.

LT: Really? What is your reading?

MT: My understanding is that the mechanics validly registered before 2016 will not be affected, but you must remember to renew your registration.

LT: I see, that's not so bad.

MT: Well, if you know any folks who are not registered yet, please tell them to do so by applying as soon as possible.

LT: Many of my folks are not registered. Let me whatsapp them now.

## Prize Quiz

- Q1 The VMTAC plans to launch the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops by end \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ A 2014                      ☐ B 2015                      ☐ C 2016                      ☐ D 2017
- Q2 The VMTAC will conduct a review one year after the implementation of the voluntary registration scheme for vehicle maintenance workshops. If the participation rate of both the vehicle mechanics and maintenance workshops voluntary registration schemes reaches, e.g., \_\_\_\_\_, thus indicating that the two schemes have garnered industry support, the VMTAC will suggest to the Government that it should proceed with the legislation for mandatory registrations for vehicle mechanics and maintenance workshops.
- ☐ A 30%    ☐ C 70%  
☐ B 50%    ☐ D 90%
- Q3 Registered vehicle mechanics will each be given \_\_\_\_\_ by the end of July.
- ☐ A a T-shirt    ☐ C two sleeve badges  
☐ B a chop    ☐ D two lapel badges
- Q4 A mechanic enrolling in a recognised auto industry-related course under the Qualifications Framework (QF) will earn \_\_\_\_\_ CPD hour(s) by the completion of one QF credit.
- ☐ A 1    ☐ C 10  
☐ B 5    ☐ D 20
- Q5 In the after-treatment system of diesel engine, nitrogen oxides (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>) are restored to harmless \_\_\_\_\_ through chemical reaction with NH<sub>3</sub>.
- ☐ A oxygen and water                      ☐ B nitrogen and water                      ☐ C oxygen and carbon dioxide                      ☐ D nitrogen and carbon dioxide

## 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: 3521 1565 or email: [vmru@emsd.gov.hk](mailto:vmru@emsd.gov.hk)).  
Deadline: 30 August 2014.

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.: VM \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each winner will receive a souvenir. As there are ten souvenirs in all, the winners will be decided by lottery if more than 10 participants give correct answers to all the questions.**

- Only registered vehicle mechanics with valid registration may participate, each not more than once in each quiz.
- The decision of the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit on the quiz answers will be final.
- The correct answers and list of prize winners will be announced in the next issue of the RVM Newsletter. Prize winners will also be notified by the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit individually.

### Result of the prize quiz in RVM Newsletter Issue No. 8

The answers of the prize quiz in RVM Newsletter Issue No.8 are as follows:

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

The ten winners who gave correct answers to all the questions and drawn by lottery are:

TANG Kwong Ming	(VM 0045080)	CHOW Ping Tong	(VM 0089259)
MAK Cheung Pan	(VM 0020937)	CHENG Meng Sin	(VM 0029502)
WONG Wong Sang	(VM 0020528)	YEUNG Ka Lai	(VM 0102571)
HON Tat Shing	(VM 0029080)	KEUNG Yu Kuen	(VM 0000259)
LAW Wing Sau	(VM 0100211)	NG Kwan Wai	(VM 0065564)

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

Name of training institute	Website / Contents	Enquiry Tel. No.
Traffic Services Employees Association	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/tseahk">http://www.facebook.com/tseahk</a> Courses for August to October 2014 are now open for enrolment. Topics covered: operation of the power system of environment-friendly electric vehicles, operation of the full pneumatic brake system, evolution of gearbox and application of new maintenance techniques, basic operating principles of Euro-IV and Euro-V power systems, conducting research online for new information on vehicle maintenance techniques, and basic operating principles of the intelligent brake system. For details, please visit the above website or call the enquiry telephone number.	2575 5544
Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile)	<a href="http://www.pro-act.edu.hk/automobile">http://www.pro-act.edu.hk/automobile</a>	2441 1312
The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong	<a href="http://www.hkimi.org.hk">http://www.hkimi.org.hk</a> The Institute is organising a series of automotive e-Learning courses in conjunction with the Electude Company of the Netherlands. Enrolments will be called for every month. Online guidance and assessments are available during the learning period. Participants will receive a CPD certificate on completion of a course. For details, please visit the above website or call the enquiry telephone number.	2625 5903
Hong Kong Vehicle Repair Merchants Association Limited	<a href="http://www.hkvrma.com.hk/training/index.html">http://www.hkvrma.com.hk/training/index.html</a>	2399 7977
Hong Kong Vehicle Repairing Industry Employee General Union	<a href="http://www.VrUnion.hk">http://www.VrUnion.hk</a>	2393 9955
Occupational Safety and Health Council	<a href="https://eform.oshc.org.hk/course/tchi/course/CourseDetail.asp?CouID=463">https://eform.oshc.org.hk/course/tchi/course/CourseDetail.asp?CouID=463</a>	2311 3322
The Society of Operations Engineers (Hong Kong Region)	<a href="http://www.soe.org.hk/events.asp">http://www.soe.org.hk/events.asp</a>	2617 0311

### **Gentle Reminder**

Please watch out for each issue: it helps you catch up on the development of the registration scheme, acquire hours of continuing professional development, and enhance the quality of service.

Each issue can be downloaded from the EMSD website at:

[http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/vmrs\\_pub\\_news.shtml](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/sgi/vmrs_pub_news.shtml)

For enquiries, please contact the EMSD Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit

(Fax: 3521 1565; Email: [vmru@emsd.gov.hk](mailto:vmru@emsd.gov.hk); Tel: 2808 3867 or Citizen's Easy Link at 1823)

### **Editorial Board Members:**

Mr LI Tak-fat (Chief Editor), Mr FUNG Ming-kong, Mr LAI Chi-wah, Mr LIU Tat-ming, Mr WONG Yiu-kwong, Miss MAN Yuen-ling, Mr TAI Tak-chung and Mr LAW Ko-ming.