

Transport Department Amended the Statutory Construction of Vehicle Requirements to Improve Road Safety

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2-5. Transport Department Amended the Statutory Construction of Vehicle Requirements to Improve Road Safety

In RVM Newsletter Issue No. 41, we outlined the amendment proposal to update the construction of vehicle requirements to improve road safety. The proposal has been submitted to and passed by the Legislative Council, and will come into effect on 1 March 2025. In this issue, we will further explain the requirements after the amendment for reference and co-operation of the trade.

1) Requiring the installation of acoustic vehicle alerting system on electric/hybrid electric vehicles

Electric vehicles (EVs), including hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), are quieter vehicles when driving. The automotive industry has developed an acoustic vehicle alerting system (AVAS) exclusively for quiet vehicles in recent years. Such device will emit warning sounds to alert nearby pedestrians and other road users whenever the EVs are operating at a low speed.

To ensure road safety, the Transport Department (TD) has amended the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A), stipulating that EVs and HEVs manufactured on or after 1 January 2026 must be equipped with an AVAS that meet relevant international standards, whose operation cannot be manually paused or stopped, before their owners can register and obtain a license for them in Hong Kong. However, EVs and HEVs manufactured beforehand may be equipped with an old-type AVAS, allowing the drivers to manually pause it. The TD calls upon owners of EVs/HEVs equipped with an old-type AVAS to ensure that the AVAS is activated to guarantee the safety of road users. To this end, the TD hopes that the vehicle maintenance industry can convey the above message to owners of EVs/HEVs equipped with an old-type AVAS, i.e. do not pause the operation of the AVAS.

2) Requiring the installation of over-height warning system on vehicles with extendable aerial structures

In recent years, serious traffic accidents involving vehicles equipped with extendable aerial structures (EASs) such as lorry cranes, tippers, mobile cranes and aerial platforms occurred from time to time, because the EASs of these vehicles are not properly stowed. Currently, there are several over-height warning systems (OHWSs) in the market, which are especially designed for such vehicles. The system will emit sounds and trigger visual alarms in the cab to alert the driver if the EAS exceeds the height limit when the vehicle is in motion.

To enhance road safety, the TD has amended Cap. 374A, stipulating that all vehicles with an EAS must be equipped with an OHWS starting from 1 March 2025, if the overall heights of such vehicles after extension exceed the height limits as set out in Schedule 1 to Cap. 374A. To facilitate a smooth transition for the trade, lorry cranes first registered before 1 March 2025 must comply with the new requirements on the vehicle examination date for licence renewal on or after 1 September 2025, while those with an EAS other than lorry cranes, such as tippers, mobile cranes and aerial platforms, first registered before 1 March 2025, must install an OHWS on the vehicle examination date for licence renewal on or after 1 September 2026.

In addition, taking into consideration the Government's current policy of progressively phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and the trade's concern about the cost effectiveness of retrofitting the OHWS on these vehicles that will soon be weeded out, the amendment proposal allows vehicles with an EAS still using an Euro IV engine, which will be phased out within about two years from the effective date of the above new requirements, to be exempted from the requirement of installing an OHWS.

To ensure that the OHWS installed on a vehicle complies with the statutory requirements, the registered owner and/or his agent should arrange for the OHWS to be tested before the vehicle is sent to a vehicle examination centre of the TD for the annual examination. The test must be witnessed by a competent person, i.e. (i) a registered professional engineer (mechanical); (ii) a registered vehicle mechanic (RVM) (mechanical or body repair) who has completed a recognised OHWS testing course; or (iii) an authorised representative of the OHWS manufacturer, who will issue a certificate of the test results (the certificate). When the vehicle undergoes the annual examination, the owner or his agent must submit the certificate to the vehicle examiner.

The TD encourages relevant RVMs to complete a recognised OHWS testing course and become competent persons so that the regulations can be implemented smoothly.

3) Revising the statutory requirement for reflecting mirrors and introducing requirements for camera-monitor systems

Although the requirements for the number and positions of reflecting mirrors to be installed were stipulated by law, the performance of the reflecting mirrors and the required field of vision were not mentioned. Besides, as vehicle technologies continuously advance, camera-monitor systems (CMSs) such as the one shown in the picture below have appeared on the market. Some vehicle manufacturers even begin to replace traditional reflecting mirrors with CMSs.

In view of this, the TD has amended Cap. 374A to set out the specifications and performance requirements of reflecting mirrors and CMSs (such as image quality, reflecting mirror area and field of vision) to ensure that drivers have a clear field of vision to observe nearby traffic conditions and reduce the possibility of traffic accidents caused by vehicle blind spots. The amendment proposal requires that the technical and installation requirements for the reflecting mirrors on vehicles manufactured or first registered on or after 1 January 2028 meet relevant international standards, while allowing electronic rear-view mirrors to serve as a substitute for traditional reflecting mirrors.

The TD hopes that the vehicle maintenance industry can ensure that reflecting mirrors and CMSs comply with the new requirements when servicing vehicles.

4) Revising the statutory requirements for visual display units

Before the amendment of Cap. 374A, visual display units (VDUs) of a vehicle were only allowed to show four specific types of information to the driver by law, namely (a) status of the vehicle or its equipment; (b) closed-circuit view of the surrounding area at that time; (c) information on the current location; and (d) other information used for navigation. The above requirements apply regardless of whether the vehicle is in motion or not.

After the amendment, the restrictions on the types of information or views that can be shown by VDUs have been relaxed, allowing VDUs to show any type of information when the vehicle's parking brake is activated (i.e. the vehicle is parked). The new requirement will take effect on 1 March 2025.

The TD hopes that the vehicle maintenance industry can ensure that VDUs comply with the new requirement when servicing vehicles; otherwise, the VDUs must comply with the old requirement and can only show the above four types of information to drivers.

5) Introducing requirements for remote-control parking systems and revising the driving rules to enable drivers to use the remote-control parking function

Among various functions of the advanced driver assistance system (ADAS), the remote-control parking (RCP) function allows a driver to remotely control a vehicle using a mobile device (such as a mobile phone or key fob) to assist in safe parking. During operation, the driver must be close to the vehicle to monitor and control the vehicle throughout the process. In narrow parking spaces, the RCP function can not only help the driver to park the vehicle safely, but also reduce the occurrence of accidental contact with other vehicles or nearby structures/objects. However, Regulation 42(1)(g) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374G) prohibits drivers from holding a mobile phone in their hand and using it when driving a motor vehicle. Since controlling a vehicle with the RCP function is regarded as driving the vehicle, it will be an offence for a driver to use a mobile phone or other telecommunications equipment for remote parking.

To enable drivers to use the RCP function, the TD has amended the driving rules in Cap. 374G to allow drivers to use the RCP function with mobile devices when they are outside the vehicles and the vehicles are within their sight. The TD has also amended Chapter 374A and added Section 40C to regulate the construction and maintenance of RCP systems, stipulating that a vehicle may only be equipped with a system approved by the Commissioner for Transport, and that the RCP function may only be used under the following circumstances:

- i) the application for remotely parking the subject vehicle is continuously activated;
- ii) the signal between the remote-control device and the subject vehicle is maintained;
- iii) the distance between the remote-control device and the subject vehicle does not exceed 6 metres; and
- iv) the system can detect road users, other vehicles and obstacles in the area surrounding the subject vehicle when the subject vehicle is being remotely parked, and bring the subject vehicle to a stop immediately.

The new requirements will come into effect on 1 March 2025.

The TD hopes that the vehicle maintenance industry can properly maintain the RCP systems to ensure that they are in good and effective working condition

6) Updating miscellaneous requirements for vehicle construction

As vehicle technologies advance, some requirements originally stipulated in the legislation such as vehicle lighting equipment, reflectors and the allowable overall height of a single-deck bus may not be in line with prevalent international vehicle standards. The TD amended the following provisions of Cap. 374A, which will take effect on 1 March 2025:

- (i) relaxing the allowable overall height of a single-deck bus from 3.5 metres to 4.0 metres, which tallies with relevant standards in the Mainland and the European Union; and
- (ii) allowing the use of light emitting diodes (LEDs) for vehicle lights. The requirements for lighting and reflectors align with prevalent international standards.

The TD hopes that the vehicle maintenance industry can ensure that vehicle lights comply with the new requirements when servicing vehicles.

7) Extending the types of electric vehicles that can be used on expressways

Originally, according to the Road Traffic (Expressway) Regulations (Cap. 374Q), only electric private cars, motor cycles and motor tricycles that conform to certain specifications could be used on expressways, while other EVs require application for expressway permits from the TD. Considering the rapid development of commercial electric automotive technologies, the TD amended Cap. 374Q, which will take effect on 1 March 2025, to permit electric taxis, electric private light buses, electric buses (including private and public buses), electric goods vehicles (including light, medium and heavy goods vehicles) and electric recovery vehicles with a minimum rated power of 7 kilowatts to travel on expressways without the need to apply for an expressway permit.

The TD has launched a series of publicity and educational campaigns, and hosted briefings for the automotive trades concerned to introduce the legal requirements and relevant application procedures. It has also issued letters to the local agents for vehicle manufacturers and vehicle importers to remind them to take follow-up actions for compliance with the requirements of the amendment proposal. Vehicle owners can also consult the relevant vehicle agents or importers for details.

6-7. Introduction to the “E&M Trade” App

The targets of the “E&M Trade” App are registered electrical workers, registered lift/escalator engineers, registered lift/escalator workers, registered gas installers and registered vehicle mechanics (RVMs). The “E&M Trade” App provides information on safety tips, codes of practice and other relevant documents, training courses, etc. Users can sign up for their mobile accounts and save the information of their registrations to enrol for relevant courses directly via the app, record the number of training hours, present their Digital E&M Licences to the public and receive reminders of the expiry of registrations. The mobile also provides “Digital E&M Licence” service for RVMs, competent persons related to gas installations and approved competent persons for locating underground electricity cables.

Please visit the following website or scan the QR code below to experience the convenience brought by the “E&M Trade” App:
https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/about_us/mobile_apps/



Logo of the E&M Trade App

6-7. Introduction to the “E&M Trade” App

After signing for their “E&M Trade” App accounts, users can link them to the “iAM Smart+” mobile app, in order to use “iAM Smart+” to log in to the “E&M Trade” App in the future. After logging in to the “E&M Trade” App, RVMs can view the details of their bound registrations on the “Bound Registrations” page in “My Account” and the details of their enrolled courses on the “Enrolled Courses” page.

Users can view and manage their continuing professional development (CPD) training records in “My Records”. They can also access the VM Learning Station through internal links to acquire knowledge about vehicle maintenance anytime and anywhere, or read the RVM Newsletter.

Users can browse the latest training information in “Latest Courses” and enrol for suitable CPD courses to enrich themselves and keep pace with the times.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will continuously disseminate the latest information about the trade on the “Latest News” page, so that practitioners can learn more about the development of the trade as soon as possible.

The EMSD will continue to optimise the “E&M Trade” App to provide users with a more considerate and convenient experience. We welcome your valuable opinions, with a view to perfecting the “E&M Trade” App.

8. Latest Updates of Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit

To guarantee the safety of road users, since 1 April 2022, the Transport Department (TD) has required that all vehicles with an extendable aerial structure (EAS), whose overall height may exceed the statutory limits when in motion, be equipped with an over-height warning system (OHWS) that meets the specified requirements before Type Approval Applications and Pre-Registration Examinations (For details, please refer to the TD website or RVM Newsletter Issue No. 41).

To ensure that the OHWS installed on a vehicle complies with the statutory requirements, the registered owner and/or his agent must arrange for the OHWS to be tested before sending the vehicle to a vehicle examination centre of the TD for the annual examination. The test must be witnessed by a competent person, i.e. (i) a registered professional engineer (mechanical); (ii) a registered vehicle mechanic (RVM) (mechanical) who has completed a recognised OHWS testing course; or (iii) an authorised representative of the OHWS manufacturer, who will issue a certificate of the test results (the certificate). When the vehicle undergoes the annual examination, the certificate must be produced to the vehicle examiner for checking purposes.

Since the implementation of such measures, the TD has conducted reviews from time to time and listened to the voices of the trade. To further enhance the measures, in addition to the competent persons accepted earlier, the TD has also accepted RVMs (body repair) who have completed a recognised OHWS testing course for issuing the certificates since 5 November 2024.



Amendment to Annual Examination Arrangements for Vehicles with an EAS whose First Registration Date Falls on or after 1 April 2022 (Traditional Chinese Version Only)
https://www.td.gov.hk/filemanager/en/content_4808/item4.30.1%20b.pdf



Requirement for Installing an OHWS on Vehicles with an EAS before Type Approval Applications and Pre-Registration Examinations (Traditional Chinese Version Only)
https://www.td.gov.hk/filemanager/tc/content_4808/item4.30.3.pdf



Details of Recognised Courses
https://cpe.vtc.edu.hk/en/admission/programmes/認識過高警示系統_適用於貨車、巴士、小巴及特別用途車輛/AU3201122/3

9. Preview of Technical Webinar on Vehicle Maintenance (12)

The Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit (VMRU) will hold the twelfth technical seminar on vehicle maintenance, with the topic of “Latest Vehicle Emissions Monitoring - Pioneering a Cleaner Future”, on the evening of 12 April 2025 (Saturday). Each participant is eligible to earn three CPD hours. For details and the registration method, please refer to the information below.

10. Latest Developments of the Registration Schemes

- 1) Registered vehicle mechanics who have switched to work in another vehicle maintenance workshop should notify the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit (VMRU) **by e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk) or fax (3521 0243) the name, address and telephone number of the new workshop.**
- 2) If there is any change in the information of the vehicle maintenance workshop (such as name of the workshop, registration number of the workshop, address, contact number and business registration certificate, etc.) or alteration in the type of workshop being registered, the person-in-charge of the workshop must, **within 14 working days** of such change, notify the VMRU of the change in writing, and submit the relevant documents for processing.

Information on the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics:

Total number of vehicle mechanics	9 668 ^{Note 1}
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Number of registered vehicle mechanics (as at the end of January 2025)	7 380
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Information on the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops

Total number of vehicle maintenance workshops	2 668 ^{Note 2}
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Number of registered workshops (as at end of January 2025)	1 923
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Note1: 2019 Manpower Survey Report (updated in November 2023) by the Vocational Training Council and the Automobile Training Board

Note2: Database of the VMRU (updated in August 2023)

If you wish to help protect our environment by receiving electronic copies of the RVM Newsletter and other relevant leaflets, please send us the completed reply slip by e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk) or WhatsApp (9016 3185). We will contact you by e-mail or mobile communication as far as possible.

Reply Slip

I/My company would like to receive the RVM Newsletter and other information leaflets by ☐ e-mail/ ☐ WhatsApp.

Please provide the relevant contact details for the above selected means of communication:

Name: _____ Vehicle Mechanic Registration No.: VM _____

E-mail address: _____ WhatsApp: _____



The electronic copy of the RVM Newsletter is also available on the EMSD website:

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/supporting_government_initiatives/registration_scheme_for_vehicle_maintenance/publications_and_circulars/rvm_newsletter/index.html

Note

1. Starting from 15 July 2018, new application for registration as Type Four workshop (i.e. a workshop situated at a residential building or a composite building with domestic part) is no longer accepted. Furthermore, requests for conversion from a registered Type One, Type Two or Type Three workshop to a Type Four workshop will not be entertained.
2. Applicants should affix sufficient postage and provide a return address when posting renewal application forms with envelopes not provided by the EMSD. If the postage is insufficient, the EMSD will not pay for any outstanding postage or accept the mail item concerned, which will be returned to the sender (if a return address is provided) or disposed of by the Hongkong Post.

11. Prize Quiz Issue No. 48

- Q1.** To ensure road safety, the Transport Department (TD) has amended the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A), stipulating that electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid EVs manufactured since a specific date must be equipped with an acoustic vehicle alerting system that meet international standards, whose operation cannot be manually paused or stopped before their owners can register and obtain a license for them in Hong Kong. What is the specific date?
- A** On or after 1 January 2025 **C** On or after 1 January 2027
B On or after 1 January 2026 **D** On or after 1 January 2028
- Q2.** After the amendment, the restrictions on the types of information or views that can be shown by visual display units (VDUs) have been relaxed, allowing VDUs to show any type of information when the vehicle's parking brake is activated (i.e. the vehicle is parked). When will the new requirement take effect?
- A** 1 March 2025 **C** 1 March 2027
B 1 March 2026 **D** 1 March 2028
- Q3.** For which of the following persons does the “E&M Trade” App provide Digital E&M Licence service?
- A** Registered vehicle mechanics
B Competent persons related to gas installations
C Approved competent persons for locating underground electricity cables
D All of the above
- Q4.** To ensure that the over-height warning system (OHWS) installed on a vehicle complies with the statutory requirements, who should arrange for the OHWS to be tested before the vehicle is sent to a vehicle examination centre of the TD for the annual examination?
- A** Registered owner **C** All of the above
B Agent for the registered owner **D** None of the above
- Q5.** Apart from the competent persons accepted earlier, from when has the TD accepted registered vehicle mechanics (body repair) who have completed a recognised OHWS testing course for issuing the certificates of OHWS test results?
- A** 5 November 2024 **C** 7 November 2024
B 6 November 2024 **D** 8 November 2024

How to participate (Issue No.47)

Let's protect the environment and submit the answers online! Please scan the QR code or click on the link (<https://vmcpd.emsd.gov.hk>) to log into the VM Learning Station to submit the answers. Vehicle mechanics may also complete the form below, circle the correct answers, and send it to the VMRU by post, fax (3521 0243) or e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk).



Name: _____

Vehicle Mechanic Registration No.: VM _____

E-mail Address: _____

Contact Tel. No.: _____

- Participants who answer four of the questions correctly will earn one CPD hour and be notified by the VMRU individually.
- Only registered vehicle mechanics with valid registration may participate, each not more than once in each quiz. If you have already submitted your answers at the VM Learning Station, submission by post, fax or email is not necessary.
- If there are duplicate submissions, only the last answers submitted before the deadline will be accepted.
- The decision of the VMRU on the quiz will be final.
- The correct answers will be announced in the next issue of the RVM Newsletter.

Deadline: 30 April 2025












Question	Answer			
Q1	A	B	C	D
Q2	A	B	C	D
Q3	A	B	C	D
Q4	A	B	C	D
Q5	A	B	C	D

The answers for RVM Newsletter Issue No. 47 are as follows:

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

12. Training Institutes

Providing Continuing Professional Development Courses for Vehicle Mechanics (in random order)

Name of Training Institute	Website/Content	Enquiry Tel. No.	QR Code
Traffic Services Employees Association	http://www.facebook.com/tseahk	2575 5544	
Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile)	http://www.proact.edu.hk/automobile	2449 1310	
The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong	http://www.hkimi.org.hk	2625 5903	
Hong Kong Vehicle Repair Merchants Association Limited	https://www.facebook.com/HKVRMA/	2399 7977	
Hong Kong Vehicle Repairing Industry Employee General Union	http://www.vrunion.hk	2393 9955	
Occupational Safety and Health Council	http://www.oshc.org.hk	2311 3322	
The Society of Operation Engineers (Hong Kong Region)	http://www.soe.org.hk	2617 0311	
Qualifications Framework recognised courses	http://www.hkqr.gov.hk	2836 1700	
Association of Auto Batteries and Tyres Industry	https://www.facebook.com/autobatteriestyres	6263 2531	
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) In-service Training Office	EDIT.vtc.edu.hk	2435 9423 9081 5283	
KMB Academy	https://www.kmb.hk/	2786 6071	

Gentle Reminder

The content in each issue helps you catch up on the development of the registration schemes and enhance the quality of service. Please stay tuned!

Each issue is available for downloading on the EMSD website:

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/supporting_government_initiatives/registration_scheme_for_vehicle_maintenance/publications_and_circulars/rvm_newsletter/index.html



For enquiries on the content of the RVM Newsletter, please contact the VMRU of the EMSD.

 3521 0243  2808 3545  9016 3185  vmru@emsd.gov.hk

Members of the Editorial Working Group:

Mr WONG Lik-kuen (Chief Editor), Mr KUNG Wai-hung, Mr YIP Lai-hing, Mr WONG Chi-hang, Mr LIU Keung, Mr CHAN Lap-yan, Mr CHAN Kwok-tin, Mr SHUM Cheuk-hung and the VMRU.