

Technical Seminar on Electric Vehicle Maintenance Safety

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2-4. Technical Seminar on Electric Vehicle Maintenance Safety

The popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong has achieved remarkable results. Among the newly registered private cars in Hong Kong, the proportion of EVs has increased significantly, from 6.3% in 2019 to 63.9% in July 2023. This means that out of every three newly registered private cars, two were EVs. To enhance the awareness of registered vehicle mechanics (RVMs) about EV maintenance safety, the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit (VMRU) of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong jointly organised the first physical technical seminar after the epidemic, with the theme of EV maintenance safety.

Held in the lecture theatres on the fourth and seventh floors of the EMSD Headquarters Building on the evening of 28 July 2023, the seminar received a very enthusiastic response, with a full house of more than 260 RVMs and practitioners in the industry. Speakers included Mr Lee Hong-yip, Manager-in-charge of the ProAct Training and Development Centre (Automobile) of the Vocational Training Council (VTC), Mr Wong Tak-shing, Senior Technical Officer of the Inchcape Motor Services Limited, and Mr Lee Fu-wa, Senior Training Instructor of the Crown Motors Limited. Mr Lee Hong-yip first introduced the basic operating principles and important components of EVs, and shared the requirements of original manufacturers and authorised after-sales service general agents and points to note for EV maintenance, whereas Mr Wong Tak-shing and Mr Lee Fu-wa further explained the safety procedures and associated equipment required for repairing EVs. They specifically reminded RVMs to carefully read and fully understand the EV maintenance documents of original manufacturers, so as to ensure that the necessary safety measures are strictly implemented throughout the maintenance process.

Moreover, Mr Ng Kar-wai, Senior Engineer/Vehicle Maintenance Registration 1 of the EMSD, said at the seminar that the EMSD was actively discussing with the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC) to expand the scope of the existing Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics (VRSVM) and Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops (VRSVMW) to cover EV maintenance work, and hoped to put forward specific proposals for the training and skills required for vehicle mechanics to apply for registration, the facilities required for vehicle maintenance workshops to apply for registration, as well as other registration requirements, detailed arrangements and the implementation timetable.

To further enhance the professional standards of RVMs, four Level 3 qualifications of the Vocational Qualifications Pathway acquired through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism of the automotive industry have been accepted as the recognised qualifications for registration in the relevant service classes under the VRSVM since 3 July 2023. At the same time, RVMs of the four main service classes (Mechanical Services [M], Electrical Services [E], Body Repair [B1] and Body Painting [B2]) under the VRSVM can obtain the Statement of Attainment at Level 3 through this mechanism. Mr Ng Kar-wai and Dr Lee Yiu-pui, Chairperson of the Automotive Industry Training Advisory Committee under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework and Chairman of the Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong, explained the details of the new mechanism at the seminar and called on vehicle mechanics who had not yet registered to complete registration through the RPL mechanism as soon as possible.

To promote online registration and renewal services, the VMRU specially deployed staff to receive training in the “iAM Smart+” registration process at the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in advance, and set up an “iAM Smart+” registration counter before the seminar to help vehicle mechanics complete registration on the spot. In just one hour, dozens of vehicle mechanics successfully registered for “iAM Smart+” and experienced the brand-new government online services.

The VMRU will continue to work closely with the industry to organise technical seminars covering various topics, in both physical and online modes. We are committed to enhancing the vehicle maintenance expertise of the industry and fully preparing for the continued growth in demand for maintenance of new energy vehicles in the future.

The VMRU has uploaded the video clips of this seminar to the VM Learning Station, so that vehicle mechanics who were unable to attend the seminar can watch it. Vehicle mechanics can also obtain the latest training information for free, sign up for continuing education activities of different organisations, manage relevant training records, and acquire vehicle maintenance knowledge anytime and anywhere for self-enhancement at this one-stop virtual interactive training centre.

Link of the VM Learning Station:

<https://vmcpd.emsd.gov.hk>



5. Upcoming Technical Seminar on Vehicle Maintenance (7)

The VMRU will hold the seventh technical seminar on vehicle maintenance, which will cover new energy vehicles and their electric power systems, on the evening of 9 December 2023 (Saturday). Each participant is eligible to earn three continuing professional development (CPD) hours. For details and the registration method, please refer to the information below.

6-7. The Seminar on Recognition of Prior Learning Mechanism of the Automotive Industry

To further enhance the professional standards of RVMs and meet the development needs of the industry, the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework Level 3 qualifications in the main service classes (i.e. Mechanical Services [M], Electrical Services [E], Body Repair [B1] and Body Painting [B2]) that are acquired through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mechanism of the automotive industry (the Recognition Mechanism) and acknowledged by the Vocational Qualifications Pathway have been accepted as the recognised qualifications for registration in the relevant service classes under the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics (VRSVM) since 3 July 2023. RVMs of the four main service classes under the VRSVM can obtain the Statement of Attainment at Level 3 in the service classes they registered in through the Recognition Mechanism without taking any tests, while other vehicle mechanics can apply for registration as an RVM of a main service class by obtaining a Statement of Attainment at Level 3 in the relevant service class (Please refer to Issue No. 42 for details).

The Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit (VMRU), in conjunction with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Qualifications Framework Secretariat (QFS), held a seminar on the Recognition Mechanism at the EMSD Headquarters Building on the evening of 18 July 2023 and invited industry representatives to attend the seminar, with a view to enhancing the industry's understanding of the Recognition Mechanism and relevant details. At the seminar, Mr NG Kar-wai, Senior Engineer/Vehicle Maintenance Registration 1 of the EMSD, introduced the details of Route One to the attendees. Under the Recognition Mechanism, an RVM of a main service class can obtain a Statement of Attainment at Level 3 in the relevant service class by submitting the completed designated application form together with his application for renewal of registration without taking any assessment test or paying any assessment fee, which is convenient and fast.

As regards vehicle mechanics who have not yet registered and RVMs of Specific Services, Ms HAU Ka-man, Senior Manager of the QFS, and Ms HO Wai-yin, Manager of the VTC, explained the details of Route Two to the attendees. A relevant vehicle mechanic who wishes to apply for RPL is required to submit the application form, pay an assessment fee and produce proof of specific work experience by himself to the VTC for vetting of application, as well as passing an interview and a written test for assessment, in order to obtain a Statement of Attainment at Level 3 in a main service class. A vehicle mechanic who has successfully obtained a Statement of Attainment through Route Two will receive full reimbursement of the assessment fee. He can also apply to the VMRU for registering as an RVM of the relevant main service class after gaining sufficient work experience and CPD hours.

Industry representatives attending the seminar showed support for the Recognition Mechanism, expressed their views and made enquiries enthusiastically. They opined that the Recognition Mechanism had a far-reaching impact on the professional standards and future development of the industry, and that by providing an effective alternative (i.e. passing the assessment test) to pursuing craft certificates and passing the trade test for obtaining Level 3 qualifications in the main service classes, Route Two even offered industry veterans an opportunity to acquire higher qualifications and apply for registration as an RVM in the relevant service classes.

Enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the VRSVM or the Recognition Mechanism, please contact the VMRU on 2808 3545 (for matters related to the renewal of registration of RVMs) or the VTC on 3907 6868 (for the RPL arrangements).



Application form for renewal of registration of vehicle mechanics issued by the EMSD



RPL application form for automotive industry issued by the VTC



The RPL website of the VTC



The website on the VRSVM of the EMSD

8-9. Latest Updates of Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit

Get a Head Start in Improving Your Skills and Embracing the New EV Business

Following the Government's publication of the first Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (Roadmap) and the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 (Action Plan) in March and October 2021 respectively, EVs have gained popularity and gradually replaced private cars that run on gasoline or diesel. Among the newly registered private cars in Hong Kong, the proportion of EVs has also risen significantly, from 6% in 2019 to more than 60% now, representing an increase of more than 10 times. This means that out of every three newly registered private cars, two were EVs.

In this connection, the Government has actively communicated with stakeholders such as the industry, academia and training institutes, professional bodies, and vehicle owners' associations to jointly study the impact of the Roadmap, the Action Plan and the development of the EV industry on the vehicle maintenance industry. Among them, the VMTAC, established by the Government with the industry, suggested first adding classes of service pertaining to vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops for EVs under the existing voluntary registration schemes for vehicle maintenance.

The existing registration schemes only cover maintenance services for internal combustion engine vehicles, but different registered service classes may engage in work involving high-voltage or low-voltage system of EVs, which gives rise to different technical requirements. After much deliberation, the VMTAC has unanimously agreed to add three levels of EV maintenance service scopes to the existing VRSVM.

Existing RVMs who have completed courses recognised by the VMTAC can apply for addition of EV maintenance service scopes to their registered service classes in the future, with details shown in the table below:

Service Class and Code	Addable Electric Vehicle Maintenance Service Scope and Code
Mechanical (M)	Electric Vehicle (Low-voltage) (abbreviated as EVL) or Electric Vehicle (High-voltage) (abbreviated as EVH)
Electrical (E)	
Body Repair (B1)	
Body Painting (B2)	
Motorcycle Maintenance (S1)	
Tyre (S2)	Electric Vehicle (Elementary) (abbreviated as EVE)
Battery (S3)	
Lubrication (S4)	
Car Accessories (S5)	
Air-conditioning (S6)	
Body Building (S7)	

After carefully examining the information provided by course operators, the VMTAC decided to approve the operation of four EV-related courses (two EVE courses, one EVL course and one EVH course) in March and October 2023 by the “early and pilot implementation” approach, giving vehicle mechanics a head start in improving their skills and embracing the new EV business opportunities. The EVE courses also welcome applications from practitioners in industries related to the automotive industry and members of the public who are interested to learn about the potential dangers of EV maintenance work, relevant safety measures and procedures, with a view to promoting a culture of EV maintenance safety. For details, please visit the websites of the VTC and Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), or scan the QR code below:

EVE Courses:

Organised by the VTC:



Organised by the OSHC:



EVL Course:

Organised by the VTC:



EVH Course:

Organised by the VTC: To be announced, which will be held in the first quarter of 2024 at the earliest

Vehicle maintenance work must be carried out at suitable fixed premises

The Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit has recently noticed that there are individual vehicle mechanics providing vehicle maintenance services in public areas or car parks.

In fact, carrying out vehicle maintenance work in public areas may contravene the following legislation:

- (1) Section 4 of the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) - Obstruction on Roads by Motor Vehicles; and
- (2) Section 27 of the Road Traffic (Parking) Regulations (Cap. 374C) - Repair of Vehicles on Roads.

Meanwhile, carrying out vehicle maintenance work in a car park space may also contravene the relevant land lease conditions.

Generally speaking, persons-in-charge of vehicle maintenance workshops and vehicle mechanics are only allowed to carry out vehicle maintenance work at suitable fixed premises, except for emergencies. In other words, vehicle repair cannot be carried out in public areas or car parks.

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 (3968 7646) 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	10 303 ^{Note 1}
Number of registered vehicle mechanics (as at end-October 2023)	7 997

Information on the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops

Total number of vehicle maintenance workshops	2 668 ^{Note 2}
Number of registered workshops (as at end-October 2023)	1 986

Note1: 2019 Manpower Survey Report (updated on 13 January 2020) 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 version of RVM Newsletters 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. 43

- Q1.** The popularisation of EVs in Hong Kong has achieved remarkable results. Among the newly registered private cars in Hong Kong, the proportion of EVs has increased significantly, from 6.3% in 2019 to what percentage in July 2023?
- A** 43.9% **B** 53.9% **C** 63.9% **D** 73.9%
- Q2.** What procedures did the speakers remind RVMs to go through to ensure that the necessary safety measures are strictly implemented throughout the maintenance process?
- A** No preparation work is required **B** Seeking approval from supervisors
- C** Consulting experienced vehicle mechanics **D** Carefully reading and fully understanding the EV maintenance documents of original manufacturers
- Q3.** The existing registration schemes only cover maintenance services for internal combustion engine vehicles, but different registered service classes may engage in work involving high-voltage or low-voltage system of EVs, which gives rise to different technical requirements. After much deliberation, how many levels of EV maintenance service scopes has the VMTAC unanimously agreed to add to the existing VRSVM?
- A** Two **B** Three **C** Four **D** Five
- Q4.** After carefully examining the information provided by course operators, how many courses did the VMTAC decide to approve in March and October 2023 by the “early and pilot implementation” approach, giving vehicle mechanics a head start in improving their skills and embracing the new EV business opportunities?
- A** Two **B** Three **C** Four **D** Five
- Q5.** Generally speaking, persons-in-charge of vehicle maintenance workshops and vehicle mechanics are only allowed to carry out vehicle maintenance work at suitable fixed premises, except for emergencies. In other words, in what places vehicle repair cannot be carried out?
- A** Public areas **B** Car parks
- C** Both of the above **D** None of the above

How to participate (Issue No.43)

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 (3968 7646) or e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk).



Name: _____

Vehicle Mechanic Registration No.: VM _____

E-mail Address: _____

Contact Tel. No.: _____

- Participants who answer all 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.

The answers for RVM Newsletter Issue No. 42 are as follows:

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

Deadline: 31 January 2024

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

12. Training Institutes

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

Name of Training Institute	Website/Contents	Enquiry Tel. No.	QR Code
Traffic Services Employees Association	http://www.facebook.com/tseahk	2575 5544	
Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile)	<p>http://www.proact.edu.hk/automobile</p> <p>Certificate in Vehicle Mechanical Repair#, a programme run by the Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile) may serve as another means for qualifying as registered vehicle mechanics. Mechanics who are interested in enrolling in the above programme may visit the website of the Centre.</p> <p># For details and latest developments of the programme, the information issued by the Pro-Act Training and Development Centre shall prevail.</p>	2449 1310	
The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong	<p>http://www.hkimi.org.hk</p> <p>The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong (IMIHK), formerly known as the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) - Hong Kong Branch, brings the mission and vision of the IMI to the Hong Kong automobile industry. After the reunification in 1997, the IMI - Hong Kong Branch applied to be renamed the IMIHK in Hong Kong. Eligible members of the trade are welcome to join the IMIHK or enroll in its courses or talks.</p>	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 Operations Engineers (Hong Kong Region)	http://www.soe.org.hk	2617 0311	
Qualifications Framework recognised courses	http://www.hkqr.gov.hk	2836 1700	

Gentle Reminder

The contents in each issue help 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:

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



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

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