

Year	Number of Drivers Involved in Traffic Accidents who had Received Screening Tests	Number of Drivers Involved in Traffic Accidents with Alcohol Consumption Exceeding the Legal Limit	Percentage of Drivers Involved in Traffic Accidents with Alcohol Consumption Exceeding the Legal Limit
1997	18 754	861	4.6
1998	25 398	812	3.2
1999	40 822	919	2.3
2000	45 075	1 050	2.3
2001	43 675	991	2.3
2002	43 807	985	2.2

We shall continue to closely monitor the future trend of the number of traffic accidents involving drink driving so as to assess the effectiveness of the tightened drink driving legislation in the longer term.

#### Manpower Deployment of the Customs and Excise Department for Implementing CEPA

8. **MR KENNETH TING** (in Chinese): *Madam President, will the Government inform this Council how the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) will deploy its manpower to deal with the work required for implementing the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), such as the verification of places of origin and factory inspections?*

**SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY** (in Chinese): *Madam President, with the implementation of CEPA, products being imported into the Mainland and claiming zero import tariff under CEPA must be accompanied by a Certificate of Hong Kong Origin - CEPA (CO(CEPA)) issued by the Trade and Industry Department (TID) or any of the five Government Approved Certification Organizations in accordance with the CEPA rules of origin.*

Under the above arrangement, manufacturers must first register with the TID in respect of the products they produce before they are eligible to apply for CO(CEPA). Officers of the C&ED will conduct inspections on factories to verify all materials supporting their applications for registration.

C&ED officers will conduct physical checks on consignments covered by CO(CEPA) to verify the accuracy of material particulars declared on the certificates. Inspection on goods will also take place at boundary exit points. Suspected malpractice will be subject to full investigation.

Apart from consignment checks, C&ED officers may conduct costing checks on certain goods whose origin is determined on the basis of a value-added percentage threshold to ensure that they are eligible for zero tariff under CEPA.

At this stage, we are unable to estimate the concrete number of CO(CEPA) applications. The C&ED estimates that the control work relating to CO(CEPA) applications may be met in the initial period by internal redeployment of staff now engaged in other duties. However, after the actual implementation of CEPA, and in the light of other developments affecting manpower resources, the C&ED will be in a better position to assess the need for additional resources for CEPA-related duties.

#### Studies on Establishment of Border Industrial Zone

9. **MRS SOPHIE LEUNG** (in Chinese): *Madam President, in a motion debate at the Council meeting on 3 July this year, I urged the Government to expeditiously set up a border industrial zone. The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology responded at the meeting that he and his colleagues in the Special Administrative Region Government would seriously consider the issue further. It was reported that some members of the business community had recently proposed to the Chief Executive that a special border industrial zone should be set up. On 19 October, this year, the Chief Executive told the media that the proposal would be studied seriously with a new way of thinking. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *whether the Administration and public bodies have so far conducted studies or assessments on the utilization or development of the border areas; if they have, of the timetables and the progress of such*

*studies or assessments; if the studies or assessments have been completed, of the results; if no study or assessment has been conducted, the reasons for that;*

- (b) *whether the studies or assessments in (a) above include the study that the Chief Executive referred to; if not, of the details of the Chief Executive's study and the government department that is responsible for the study, as well as the timeframe for releasing the findings; and whether the authorities will consider setting up an inter-departmental task force to co-ordinate the study; if not, the reasons for that; and*
- (c) *whether the authorities, when conducting the studies or assessments mentioned in (a) and (b) above, have taken into account the views of the parties and organizations concerned, such as local and foreign investors, the Guangdong Provincial Government, the Shenzhen Municipal Government and the relevant departments; if so, how their views were collected and assessed; if not, the reasons for that?*

**SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY** (in Chinese): Madam President, the border area features a wide geographical spread and is in a unique location in view of its proximity to Shenzhen. In considering development of the border area, the Government will take into account the characteristics of the area and base its decision on the best overall interests of Hong Kong. As regards the specific issues raised, I would like to respond as follows:

- (a) The Planning Department is conducting a long-term planning study known as "Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy" (HK2030 Study). One of the issues examined in the study is the long-term development of the border area. The scope of the study includes the development constraints and potential of the area (including the natural environment, geographical location, supporting infrastructure, and so on) as well as the use of the area in the long run. The HK2030 Study comprises four stages. The Planning Department has now completed the third stage of the study and will consult the public on the findings at the end of this month. It is expected that the whole study will be completed in 2004-05.

- (b) The HK2030 Study will look into the long-term planning of the border area, and make preliminary assessment on the possible uses of the area, including proposals for industrial uses. The HK2030 Study and the associated public consultation are co-ordinated by the Planning Department. Views collected during the consultation period will be forwarded to the relevant bureaux and departments for further consideration. As the Chief Executive stated on 19 October this year, the Government welcomes any good proposals that can benefit the economy and provide more employment opportunities. Such proposals will be considered and studied seriously with a new mindset. The Government has an open mind on the use of the border area and will consult the public before formulating concrete proposals.
- (c) Extensive consultation was conducted by the Planning Department last year over the content of the HK2030 Stage Two Study, including the development of the border area. Relevant mainland authorities were also briefed on the latest progress of the Study through the Town Planning Special Panel set up under the Hong Kong/Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. Views collected during the consultation are set out in the HK2030 Stage Two Public Consultation Report, which was submitted to the Legislative Council last November. The report has also been uploaded onto the HK2030 Study website at <<http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030>>. In the forthcoming Stage Three consultation exercise of the HK2030 Study, the Planning Department will continue to collect public views through various organizations (including the Legislative Council and other professional bodies) and channels (including briefings, focus group meetings, roving exhibitions).

**Studies Commissioned and Exhibitions Organized by Trade Development Council**

10. **MISS CHAN YUEN-HAN** (in Chinese): *Madam President, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows, in respect of the past three years,*