

Tel No. : 2189 2182
ETWB(T) 3/9/43

BY FAX: 2121 0420
18 February 2004

Mr Andy Lau
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
Hong Kong

Dear

Supplementary Information on Fatigue Driving

At the meeting of the Panel on Transport on 19 December 2003 when the paper on “The Administration’s Response to the Report on Enhancement of Highway Safety” was discussed, the Hon Leung Fu-wah asked about fatigue driving of professional drivers, particularly green minibus drivers, and the Administration was asked to examine if fatigue driving was a major contributory factor of traffic accidents. Supplementary information on this issue is set out below.

The statistics of driver contributory factors of traffic accidents between 2001 and 2003 are at the **Annex**. The figures show that fatigue driving is not a major contributory factor of traffic accidents, and the number of drivers who were ‘asleep or drowsy’ only amounted to 0.4% of all drivers involved in accidents.

As regards the working hours of green minibus (GMB) bus drivers, the Transport Department (TD) had liaised with the trade and issued a set of guidelines to GMB trade associations and operators in 2000. The guidelines stipulate that –

- (a) the maximum duty (including all breaks) of GMB drivers should not exceed 14 hours per day; and
- (b) the driving duty of GMB drivers (i.e. maximum duty minus all breaks of 15 minutes or more) should not exceed 11 hours per day.

For the GMB trade, we understand the normal practice is that employers and employees would agree on the arrangements regarding working hours and breaks, taking into account the aforesaid guidelines and the specific needs of the routes in question. TD will continue to urge the GMB trade to avoid long working hours and provide sufficient rest time for the drivers.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Sharon Yip)
for Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works

Number of Drivers Involved in Road Traffic Accidents**Commercial Vehicles**

	2001	2002	2003	Average
Drivers involved in accidents who are asleep or drowsy	39	42	44	41
Total number of the drivers involved in traffic accidents	11 514	11 572	10 533	11 206

Non-commercial Vehicles

	2001	2002	2003	Average
Drivers involved in accidents who are asleep or drowsy	4	11	22	12
Total number of the drivers involved in traffic accidents	11 923	11 834	10 732	11 496