

**For discussion on
28 February 2005**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Euro IV Emission Standards for
New Light Duty Motor Vehicles**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on our proposal to implement the Euro IV emission standards for newly registered light duty vehicles in tandem with the European Union and upgrade the emission standards for diesel private cars to the latest California standards.

BACKGROUND

2. Motor vehicles are the major source of roadside air pollution in Hong Kong. To reduce vehicle emissions, we have a standing policy to introduce the most stringent motor vehicle fuel and emission standards when compliant fuels and vehicles can be made available to Hong Kong. With the approval of the Legislative Council, we have implemented the Euro III vehicle emission standards since 2001. We have also implemented the Euro IV standards for diesel since 1 April 2002 and for petrol since 1 January 2005.

3. From 1 January 2006, the European Union will start tightening in phases its vehicle emission standards for new light duty vehicles (vehicles of 3.5 tonnes and below) to the Euro IV level. For light petrol vehicles, a Euro IV model will emit about 45%, 50% and 55% less nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide respectively than a Euro III model. For light diesel vehicles (other than diesel private cars), the emission reduction will be about 50% less for both nitrogen oxides and particulates. We propose to introduce these more stringent emission standards in

parallel with the European Union to further reduce roadside air pollution.

4. As part of the strategy to reduce reliance on diesel vehicles, we have required newly registered diesel private cars to comply with the California emission standards since 1998. These emission standards were so stringent that very few diesel private car models could meet them. California upgraded the emission standards for diesel private cars in 2004. We thus propose to do likewise for the same purpose.

5. The European Union is still finalizing the Euro IV emission standards for vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. We shall seek Members' views for tightening the emission standards for these vehicles later.

PROPOSAL

6. The Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations (Cap. 311, sub. leg.) stipulate the emission standards for motor vehicles seeking first registration. We propose to amend the Regulations to require –

- (a) newly registered motor vehicles each of design weight up to 2.5 tonnes to comply with the Euro IV emission standards from 1 January 2006;
- (b) newly registered motor vehicles each of design weight over 2.5 tonnes but not more than 3.5 tonnes to comply with the Euro IV emission standards from 1 January 2007; and
- (c) newly registered diesel private cars to comply with the latest California emission standards from 1 January 2006.

Japan and US standards will be accepted whenever they are of equivalent stringency.

IMPLICATIONS FOR AND CONSULTATION WITH THE TRADE

7. We have consulted the Hong Kong Motor Traders Association, which comprises local representatives of major motor vehicle manufacturers, and the Right Hand Drive Motor Association (Hong Kong) Limited, which comprises representatives of parallel importers. Both organisations have no objection to the proposal. The proposed tightening of vehicle emission standards is not expected to have significant effects on vehicle prices.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8. We expect that the public will support the proposal because it will help further reduce the emissions of motor vehicles.

9. Implementation of the proposal will not require additional staff.

IMPLEMENTATION

10. We will proceed to prepare the necessary legislative amendments to the Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations for implementing the proposal and table them at the Legislative Council as soon as practicable.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members' views are sought on the proposed implementation of the more stringent vehicle emission standards for new light duty vehicles as explained above.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
February 2005