

For information

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Monitoring of Street Washing Service

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the current arrangements for street washing service and the monitoring system of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

Street Washing Service

2. To sustain the cleanliness of public places, FEHD provides street washing service in addition to street sweeping to public streets. At present, there are 98 Street Washing Gangs (SWGs) from both in-house staff and cleansing contractors. They conduct regular street washing service to pavements, service lanes, hawker concentrated areas, refuse collection points and blackspots. Street washing service is provided to busy areas at least once a week, to problematic areas / blackspots at least twice weekly and on a need basis. For trunk roads with heavy traffic where normal street washing is not practicable, street flushing during non-busy hours is provided instead.

3. At present, 63% of the street cleansing services which

include street washing service are provided by cleansing contractors.

4. For service provided by in-house staff, specific guidelines are set down covering: (a) the main duties of the SWGs; (b) the planning of street washing routes and programmes; and (c) the requirement for submission of daily work reports.

5. Street washing routes and programmes are subject to review by operational staff from time to time to meet the changing environment. Before a new street washing route is included into the regular programme, the section head concerned has to arrange a trial run of the new route for two to three weeks to ensure that the schedule would not cause major obstruction to vehicular traffic and pedestrian flow in the areas covered.

6. For street washing service provided by cleansing contractors, similar guidelines in the form of specific service requirements are incorporated in the tender documents. The tenderers have to specify the gang composition, type/model of street washing vehicles, planned street washing schedule and programme and mode of operation etc. in the tender submission. Similar to the practice of the in-house SWGs, the successful tenderer is required to conduct trial runs to new routes before incorporating them into the regular programme.

Monitoring of Performance

7. The district management is responsible for monitoring the performance of the SWGs to ensure that street washing service is carried out in accordance with the approved work schedules. After washing, the

surface of pavements and lanes should be free of dirt, dust, slippery substance, grease, litter and excess water, and is in a safe condition for use by pedestrians. When operating the street washing vehicle and equipment in the course of street washing, the drivers should observe relevant traffic legislation.

8. Cleansing Foremen are responsible for daily inspection to street washing routes to ensure the performance is up to standard and that the SWGs adhere to the street washing schedules. Health Inspectors (Cleansing) are responsible for endorsing daily work reports and make surprise checks twice a week. Section heads will carry out random checks. Any unsatisfactory performance detected will lead to sanction actions.

Recent Incident

9. On 3 May 2005, a member of the public lodged a complaint with a radio programme against the obstruction caused to the vehicular traffic by a street washing vehicle (SWV) at Morrison Hill Road, Wanchai.

10. Investigation by FEHD revealed that the SWV in question belonged to a contractor. On that day from 8:05 am to 8:25 am, the SWG concerned was performing weekly street washing service at the section of Morrison Hill Road between Shung Tak Street and Wanchai Road. This section of Morrison Hill Road is a street with normal traffic flow at the scheduled time for street washing. Prior to commencement of the street washing schedule in December 2004, the contractor

completed a trial run of the street washing route and found that the schedule of street washing at the location between 8:20 am and 8:45 am was satisfactory. No complaint on blockage to traffic flow was received until 3 May. There was a slight advancement of the street washing time for 15 minutes on 3 May.

11. Upon receipt of the complaint, FEHD has re-scheduled the time for street washing at the section of Morrison Hill Road between Shung Tak Street and Wanchai Road to 9:20 pm to 9:50 pm. FEHD will closely liaise with the Transport Department in the coming two weeks on the traffic condition on key routes to the Cross Harbour Tunnel during peak hours for the purpose of deployment of SWGs.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

6 May 2005