

**The Administration's Response to Issues raised at
the meeting of the Subcommittee on the
Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Loadshifting Machinery)
Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2006 on 6 June 2006**

Item (a): Estimated course fees for second phase loadshifting machinery courses charged by prospective course providers

The estimated course fees charged by prospective course providers, together with the course duration and other relevant information, are tabulated at the Annex.

Item (b): Relaxation of pre-requisite requirements for operators of loadshifting machines to attend refresher training

The matter was discussed at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Certification of Operators of Specified Plants and Equipment on 8 June 2006. After a thorough discussion, the Committee decided that the following should be accepted as meeting the said pre-requisite requirements:-

- (a) Current employer's certification showing that the operator has operated the type of loadshifting machinery in question for at least six working days; or
- (b) One and a half years' experience in operating the type of loadshifting machinery in question in the past 5 years; or
- (c) Six months' experience in operating the type of loadshifting machinery in question in the preceding year.

As for self-employed operators, because they would have difficulties in getting employers to certify their experience, a self-declaration of such experience made in front of a Commissioner for Oaths will be accepted as proof of their working experience.

The Administration will promulgate the above relaxation to course providers.

Item (c): Financial assistance for basic safety training courses for second phase loadshifting machines

The Administration has discussed the matter with the Occupational Safety and Health Council. The Council has kindly agreed to launch a Loadshifting Machinery Training Courses Subsidy Scheme for basic safety training courses for second phase loadshifting machines. Under the scheme, the Council will subsidise 70% of the course fees subject to a ceiling of \$2,000. Recognized course providers of basic safety courses for second phase loadshifting machinery operators can participate in the scheme which is expected to be rolled out upon the commencement of the second phase of the Factories and the Industrial Undertakings (Loadshifting Machinery) Regulation.

Item (d): Timetable for conducting the feasibility study of introducing a smart card to replace the various certificates relating to industrial safety training

The Administration will conduct a feasibility study on this issue. The tentative timetable is as follows:-

| Tasks | Target Completion Date |
|---|--|
| Preparation work for consultation | July to September 2006 (3 months) |
| Consultation with relevant government departments, course providers, employers' associations, workers' unions, other stakeholders and related organizations | October 2006 to March 2007 (6 months) |
| Preparation of tender documents and selection of a suitable consultant to conduct the feasibility study | April to June 2007 (3 months) |
| Conducting the feasibility study | July 2007 to June 2008 (12 months) |

Economic Development and Labour Bureau
Labour Department
June 2006

Estimated Course Fees for Second Phase Loadshifting Machinery Training Courses

| Type of Machines | Prospective Course Providers | Type of Courses | Duration of Courses | Estimated Course Fees (HK\$) | Remarks |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Compactor | Construction Industry Training Authority | New operators | 13 days | Free of charge and \$50 allowance/day | --- |
| | | Experienced operators | 2 days | \$900 | CITA charges the lowest course fees on a cost recovery basis, covering only the expenditure on trainers and overheads. |
| Dumper | Construction Machinery Technical Training Centre | New operators | 13 days | Not available | The Administration has requested course providers to reduce course fees as far as possible. |
| | | Experienced operators | 2 days | \$1,000 to \$2,000 | |
| | Safety Specialist Services Limited | New operators | 13 days | Not available | The Administration has requested course providers to reduce course fees as far as possible. |
| | | Experienced operators | 2 days | \$3,000 | |
| Grader/ Scraper | In-house training | New operators | 13 days | Free of charge | --- |
| | | Experienced operators | 2 days | | |
| Locomotive | In-house training | New operators | 6-10 days | Free of charge | --- |
| | | Experienced operators | 2 days | | |