

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374)

Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2006

Permitted Operating Areas for New Territories Taxis

INTRODUCTION

The Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2006 (“the Amendment Regulation”), at **Annex A**, is made and will be tabled at the Legislative Council on 15 March 2006 to amend Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374, sub. leg. E) (“the Regulations”). The amendments are introduced to revise the permitted areas for New Territories (“NT”) taxis. The Amendment Regulation is made by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works pursuant to section 6 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374).

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

2. At present, there are 2,838 NT taxis serving designated areas in the NT. Their permitted operating areas are specified in Schedule 7 to the Regulations. These permitted operating areas are kept under review and, where appropriate, adjusted to suit changing circumstances such as opening of new roads and major changes in land use, having regard to adequacy of public transport services and other factors affecting travel demand.

3. In the light of the recent and forthcoming opening of major public infrastructures within the NT including the MTR Tseung Kwan O Line, the Hong Kong Disneyland and new air passenger terminal (“the new Terminal”) at SkyPlaza of the Airport, Transport Department has

reviewed the permitted operating areas for NT taxis and proposed to revise them to enable NT taxis, under specified routes, to serve -

- (a) the Hong Kong Disneyland;
- (b) the new taxi stand at the public transport interchange at Hang Hau MTR Station; and
- (c) the departure area of the new Terminal at SkyPlaza of the Airport.

4. The Legislative Council Panel on Transport was consulted on 2 February 2005 and supported all of the three proposals above. Legislative amendments to permit NT taxis to serve (a) and (b) in paragraph 3 above were made in April 2005 and have taken effect in August and July 2005 respectively. Upon completion of the construction of new roads connecting the new Terminal, the names of the relevant roads were published by Lands Department in the Gazette in November 2005. Legislative amendments can therefore now be made to allow NT taxis to access the new Terminal.

5. The Amendment Regulation at **Annex A** amends the Regulations so that NT taxis are permitted to access the new Terminal under specified routes. The specified routes for NT taxis to access the new Terminal are at **Annex B** and the relevant road map is at **Annex C**.

THE AMENDMENT REGULATION

6. The Amendment Regulation, at **Annex A**, amends the existing Schedule 7 to the Regulations to extend the permitted area for NT taxis to include certain roads in the Islands District. The Amendment Regulation also removes the reference to the section of Cheong Lin Road between Cheong Wong Road and Airport South Interchange from the existing permitted areas for NT taxis because this section of Cheong Lin Road no longer exists after Cheong Wong Road has been realigned to become an elevated road connecting Airport Road instead of Cheong Lin Road.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

7. The Legislative timetable will be –

Publication in the Gazette	10 March 2006
Tabling in the Legislative Council	15 March 2006

IMPLEMENTATION

8. The tentative opening date for the new Terminal and the related roads is the third quarter of 2006. Since the opening date is subject to change, it is necessary to provide flexibility for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works to appoint the effective date of the amendments to the permitted areas for NT taxis to tie in with the opening date of the new Terminal and its connecting roads.

IMPLICATIONS

9. The Amendment Regulation is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no financial and staffing implication for the Government. The proposal has no major economic implications except that it will benefit the public by enabling them to use NT taxi services in the areas concerned. It has no productivity and environmental implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. The urban, NT and Lantau taxi trades were consulted on the proposal at the respective Taxi Conferences of Transport Department in November 2004. The NT taxi trade supported the proposal and the urban and Lantau taxi trades did not raise any objection.

11. The Transport Advisory Committee was consulted on this subject on 7 January 2005 and the Legislative Council Panel on Transport on 2 February 2005. They all supported the revision to the permitted area for NT taxis.

PUBLICITY

12. A press release will be issued and a spokesman will be available for answering enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

13. Any enquiries to this brief should be directed to Miss Angela Lee, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works, at 2189 2181.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
March 2006

**ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING
OF VEHICLES)(AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2006**

(Made by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works under
section 6 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374))

1. Commencement

This Regulation shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works by notice published in the Gazette.

**2. Permitted areas for New Territories and
Lantau taxis**

Paragraph 1(i) of Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. E) is amended –

- (a) by repealing sub-subparagraph (vi);
- (b) in sub-subparagraph (ix), by repealing “and”;
- (c) in sub-subparagraph (x), by repealing the full stop and substituting a semicolon;
- (d) by adding –
 - “(xi) Sky Plaza Road; and
 - (xii) Cheong Tat Road westbound between Airport North Interchange and Cheong Hing Road.”.



Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works

3 March 2006

Explanatory Note

The purpose of this Regulation is to amend Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. E) to amend the “permitted area” in the Islands District for taxis that are licensed to be available for hire or to carry passengers within the New Territories only.

**Specified Routes for NT Taxis
to and from the New Air Passenger Terminal at the Airport**

To the New Air Passenger Terminal

- (a) From North Lantau Highway to the new Air Passenger Terminal
via North Lantau Highway, Airport Road, Airport South Interchange,
Airport Road and Sky Plaza Road; or

via North Lantau Highway, Airport Road, Cheong Hong Road and Sky
Plaza Road.

- (b) From Airport (NT taxi stand) to the new Air Passenger Terminal
via Cheong Hing Road, Airport North Interchange, Airport Road,
Airport South Interchange, Airport Road and Sky Plaza Road.

From the New Air Passenger Terminal

- (a) From the new Air Passenger Terminal to North Lantau Highway
via Sky Plaza Road, Cheong Wong Road, Airport Road and North
Lantau Highway.

- (b) From the new Air Passenger Terminal to Airport (NT taxi stand)
via Sky Plaza Road, Airport Road, Airport North Interchange, Cheong
Tat Road and Cheong Hing Road.

NT Taxi Specified Route to and from the New Air Passenger Terminal at the Airport

