

Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill

The Administration's Response to Views and Questions raised at the Bills Committee meeting on 21 June 2007

Vehicle emission reduction schemes

To further improve roadside air quality, the Government launched on 1 April 2007 the following two new vehicle emission reduction schemes:

- (a) set aside \$3.2 billion to provide a one-off grant to encourage vehicle owners to replace their pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new commercial vehicles compliant with the statutory emission standards for newly registered vehicles (which is currently Euro IV emission standard) . The one-off grants range from \$10,000 to \$173,000, depending on vehicle classes; and
- (b) reduce by 30% (subject to a maximum of \$50,000 per car) the first registration tax of a petrol private car compliant with the qualifying standards of environment-friendly petrol private cars (i.e. emitting 50% less hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, and consuming 40% less fuel, as compared with Euro IV petrol private cars of the same vehicle class).

Up to mid June 2007, the progress of the above two schemes are as follows:

- (a) Incentivising Early Replacement of Pre-Euro and Euro I Diesel Commercial Vehicles with New Commercial Vehicles

A total of 607 applications for the grant were received for replacing eligible old diesel commercial vehicles by new Euro IV commercial vehicles and 419 applications were approved after vetting. Since the whole incentive scheme will last for 3 years, we expect more vehicle owners will be participating in the scheme later.

- (b) Tax Incentives for Environment-friendly Petrol Private Cars

A total of 957 environmental-friendly petrol private cars were first registered with the first registration tax concession. On the local market, 18

environmental-friendly petrol private car models are available for car buyers to consider. In response to market situation, vehicle importers will import more environmental-friendly cars.

Producer responsibility schemes

Subject to public support and consensus, the Government intends to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council within this year to provide a legal framework for implementing producer responsibility schemes (PRS). We will review the need for incorporating more products (including compact fluorescent lamps) under the PRS after the enactment of the Eco-responsibility Bill.

Public education and publicity on use of energy-efficient products

The Government has been publicizing the energy conservation benefits of using energy-efficient products through various media and channels, such as organizing different kinds of publicity campaigns and talks, and providing related information on the EMSD website. The Government will continue to educate the public on energy conservation through education and publicity programmes with a view to further promoting the use of energy-efficient products.

Building energy efficiency

The EMSD launched the Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings in 1998 to promote the voluntary compliance of the Building Energy Codes (BECs) in commercial and office buildings. As at mid May 2007, the EMSD issued 1 856 certificates to 760 buildings under the Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings. In view of the relatively low overall participation rate of the commercial buildings, we will continue to strengthen the promotion of voluntary compliance of the BECs through organising promotional activities and seminars. We will also consider the proposal of turning the existing voluntary Scheme into a mandatory one, and will consult the relevant stakeholders in the process.

Environmental Protection Department
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
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