

政府總部  
運輸及房屋局  
運輸科  
香港花園道美利大廈



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20 June 2008

Clerk to Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Mr Andy Lau)  
[Fax No. : 2121 0420]

Dear Mr Lau,

**Panel on Transport**  
**Update on Review of Recent Bus Fire Incidents**

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2008. This letter provides an update on the preventive measures to safeguard against bus fire incidents and to facilitate safe evacuation of passengers from a bus for Members' reference.

At present, all franchised buses that provide services to passengers must meet the safety requirements of the legislation and pass the Transport Department's ("TD") stringent inspections. One of the requirements is that all buses should be provided with emergency exits on both the upper and lower decks, and meet the height and width requirements of the passenger gangways to facilitate safe evacuation of passengers during emergency situations. Every new bus model has to undergo type approval by TD to ensure that its design and construction comply with the regulatory and safety requirements before it is put into service.

In addition, all bus operators have taken the following measures to safeguard against smoke/fire incidents -

New Bus:

- (a) To ensure hoseless design configuration in the engine compartment as far as practicable;
- (b) To include better fire retardancy standard in materials specification; and
- (c) To adopt proven designs against potential fire hazards as far as possible.

Existing Bus:

- (a) To re-route hoses, cables and other heat-susceptible components away from heat sources as far as practicable;
- (b) To replace critical components that might become potential fire hazards on failure according to the maintenance schedule;
- (c) To equip protective sleeve for oil hoses/electrical cable as and when required;
- (d) To review potential fire/smoke hazards and make modifications via internal feedback and modification trials; and
- (e) To issue maintenance notices advocating maintenance best practice and procedures that have contributed against fire hazards in an ongoing manner.

Every serving bus has to undergo annual examination by TD to ensure its safety and roadworthiness. Furthermore, TD conducts random spot checks to ensure that the buses are maintained properly. The fire-fighting equipments installed in the buses are examined during these annual and spot checks to ensure that they are in good condition and function properly. TD closely monitors the servicing and maintenance programmes of buses and holds regular meetings with the bus operators to discuss bus examination results and, where appropriate, to formulate measures to enhance bus safety.

On top of ensuring the standards of buses, all bus operators also provide different types of trainings to their new and serving bus captains to enhance their safety awareness. Procedures in handling emergency and evacuation of passengers from a bus are compulsory parts of the training programme which includes not only classroom training but also practical drills. The emergency handling procedures, such as steps for bus captains to facilitate safe evacuation of passengers from a bus on fire, are listed in the bus captains' handbooks/circulars. The bus operators review and enhance the handbooks/circulars from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Emily Mo)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Commissioner for Transport (Attn. : Mr Albert Yuen)

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