

For discussion
on 19 July 1999

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Services

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE IN CONTAINER TERMINALS

Y2K COMPLIANCE

The container terminals are responsible for ensuring Y2K compliance of their mission critical systems. Economic Services Bureau (ESB) received regular progress reports from the companies.

2. Hongkong International Terminals Ltd (HIT), COSCO-HIT and Modern Terminals Ltd (MTL) have completed the rectification work for their mission critical systems. Sea-land Orient Terminals (SLOT) have completed 99.7% of its rectification work; the hot line appointment system is the only outstanding rectification work, which will be complete around mid-July 1999.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

3. Each of the container terminal operators has formulated individual contingency plans for each of their mission critical terminal operations systems. They have been progressively undertaking exercises on testing each contingency plan and will conclude such exercise by August 1999.

4. ESB has formed a port industry wide Task Group comprising representatives from the four terminal operators, the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal Ltd, major mid-stream operators, shipping line representatives and concerned government departments. This team concluded an overall Container Terminal Sector Contingency Plan in June 1999 which is to be used if major disruption to a number of container terminals occurs simultaneously. The plan will be tested in August and further exercises are planned for later in the year.

5. The plan has evaluated the potential Y2K risks in respect of the mission critical systems, such as power supply. Emergency response strategies have been drawn up to deal with possible Y2K induced disruptions. These include diverting ships to harbour buoys and anchorages to handle their cargo using mid-stream facilities and opening emergency vehicle holding areas for container trucks.

Economic Services Bureau

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