

SBCR 1/1336/86 Pt.29
CB 2/PL/SE

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25 February 2000

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Security
3/FI. Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs Sharon TONG)

Dear Mrs TONG,

LegCo Panel on Security

Amendments to the Dangerous Goods Ordinance

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2000. I am writing to provide information on the progress of preparation being made by the Fire Services Department (FSD) for the provision of training to dangerous goods vehicle (DGV) drivers before the coming into effect of the legislation.

To prepare for the introduction of a proposed mandatory training scheme for DGV drivers, FSD is now working with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and the Vocational Training Council on the provision of necessary training courses and the syllabus. Provisionally, the training courses are to be run on a modular basis comprising a core module and three optional modules. DGV drivers will be required to complete the core module plus at least one optional module. The core module will

last for two days, and an optional module, one day. The core module will aim to impart to the trainees the knowledge of the risks associated with different classes of dangerous goods, the relevant legislative requirements, and the safety provisions on board DGV. As regards the optional modules, the trainees may select either Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4 to 9 dangerous goods modules dependent upon the types of DGV for which they wish to be qualified. These optional modules will seek to equip the trainees with the knowledge and skills on the proper practices and emergency procedures in the handling of different classes of dangerous goods. A practical session on the use of some basic emergency equipment, such as fire extinguishers, respirators and waste disposal drums may also be included.

For those drivers currently engaged in the conveyance of dangerous goods, FSD is considering the need to exempt them from certain modules subject to satisfactory assessment of their knowledge, skills and experience. FSD is also considering the need to accredit training courses currently organized by major dangerous goods suppliers (e.g. the oil industry, gas companies etc) for their drivers subject to satisfactory course contents and standards of delivery.

Hopefully, provision of training courses by the above non-profit making organisations and the proposed exemption and accreditation arrangements will minimise the training costs on DGV drivers. We shall ensure that adequate training courses and other appropriate arrangements will be provided to qualify a sufficient number of DGV drivers to tie in with the new legislative requirements.

Yours sincerely,

(David Wong)
for Secretary for Security

c.c.	Director of Fire Services	(Attn: Mr KWOK Jing-keung)	2723 2197
	Director of Marine	(Attn: Mr K L WONG)	2850 8810
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