

**Legislative Council
Panels on Environmental Affairs and Transport**

**Introduction of Emission Tests for
Petrol and LPG Vehicles**

Introduction

In the Policy Objectives 1999 for the Transport Bureau and the then Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau, we proposed to extend emission tests to petrol and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) vehicles as part of their annual inspection or road worthiness examination for such vehicles in 2000. This paper updates Members on the developments.

Background

2. At present, all diesel vehicles in Hong Kong are subject to a regular inspection programme on emission as part of their annual inspection and roadworthiness test, but not petrol vehicles.

3. The need for a regular inspection programme for petrol vehicles has become more pressing as the catalytic converters on many petrol vehicles registered since 1 January 1992 are reaching the end of their useful life. A regular emission inspection is needed to check that they are still functioning properly. It is a common practice overseas (e.g. in Japan, Singapore, Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany and Denmark) to enforce a regular emission inspection requirement to ensure that a certain degree of vehicle maintenance is upheld.

4. Proper maintenance of LPG vehicles are also required to ensure that the emission meets with our environmental standards. As the Administration is now implementing the LPG taxi scheme, a regular emission inspection programme for these LPG taxis is needed. Japan, which is our major supplier of LPG taxis, also subject their LPG taxis to an annual emission inspection.

Emission Standards for petrol and LPG vehicles

5. The Administration aims to extend the emission tests to cover petrol and LPG vehicles as part of their annual inspection and roadworthiness test. This is in line with international practice.

6. Section 25 of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap.374) empowers the Commissioner for Transport not to license a vehicle if it is found to be not roadworthy. The requirements for the roadworthiness of a vehicle are stipulated in the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations. To include an emission check for petrol and LPG vehicles in the roadworthiness inspection will require the emission limits to be set out in the Regulations.

7. The emission standards for diesel vehicles (smoke and diesel vapour) are stipulated in Regulation 31 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap.374, sub.leg.A). Our research of international practices reveals that the European Commission (EC) standards are commonly adopted as the emission standards for petrol vehicles, it is therefore proposed that Hong Kong adopts the same standards for petrol vehicles. For LPG vehicles, Japan adopts one of the most stringent standards for such vehicles. As most of the LPG vehicles used in Hong Kong are expected to be imported from Japan, it is proposed that Hong Kong adopts the same standards for LPG vehicles.

Consultation

8. The Motor Traders Association, the Service Managers Association and the operators of the car testing centres have been consulted and support the proposal to include an emission check for petrol vehicles and LPG vehicles in the roadworthiness inspection. The Administration has also consulted the Hong Kong Automobile Association, fleet operators, utility companies and classic car associations. They also support the proposal.

Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau