

Administration's Responses to the Submissions from the
Hong Kong & Kowloon Electrical Engineering & Appliances Trade Workers' Union
Hong Kong Air-Conditioning and Refrigerating Trades Workers General Union
Neonsign Advertising Employees' Association
Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Management and Professional Association
Union of Hong Kong Electrical Engineering Assistants
The Federation of Hong Kong Electrical & Mechanical Industries Trade Unions

The Trade Unions' Concerns on the Proposed Amendments	Administration's Responses
1. To request the Administration to refrain from reducing funding for E&M training and trade testing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the introduction of the levy, the Administration will continue to provide funds to the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to enable the current level of E&M training and trade testing to be maintained. The proposed levy on E&M works in the construction industry would be used by CITA to provide E&M training specific to the construction industry.
2. To control the costs of E&M trade testing and to maintain the trade test fees at a level not higher than the existing fees of \$150 charged by VTC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to CITA, the fees of the construction trade tests conducted are being heavily subsidised by charging only the material costs at present. The same fee-charging principle is likely to be applied for the E&M trade tests. However, CITA is unable to finalise the test fee for E&M trade tests at this stage as the actual test contents of the E&M trade tests have not yet been finalised.

The Trade Unions' Concerns on the Proposed Amendments	Administration's Responses
<p>3.(a) To establish clear guidelines on the engagement of "other bodies" and performance monitoring.</p> <p>(b) The bodies whose services are engaged by CITA should consult the industry in designing the training and trade testing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the commencement of the Bill, CITA will establish clear guidelines on the selection of these bodies to perform any of its functions. In selecting such bodies, consideration will be given to factors such as expertise, prior experience in the provision of similar services, facilities and costs. Once appointed, CITA will enforce a tight control over their performance. • CITA will be responsible for the design of the training and testing contents. To do so, CITA will consult the industry and the trade union before finalising the training and testing contents. The future training and trade testing agents will only be required to deliver the training and testing in compliance with CITA's design and specification. For E&M trades, CITA has already established four different working groups with representatives from respective E&M industry to formulate the training and testing contents.
<p>4. The inclusion of an E&M trade union representative in the CITA Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed. We will propose to make a Committee Stage Amendment to implement such a proposal.