

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港花園道美利大廈



Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
Murray Building, Garden Road,
Hong Kong.

本局檔號 OUR REF.: THB(T)L 2/4/96
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

電話 Tel. No.: 2189 2101
傳真 Fax No.: 2104 7274

1 November 2010

Clerk to Panel on Transport,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Panel on Transport
Meetings on 27 November 2009 and 28 June 2010

At the meetings of the Panel on Transport on 27 November 2009 and 28 June 2010, Members discussed the items on “Bus Accident in Tseung Kwan O and Safety of Franchised Bus Operation” and “Working Hour and Rest Time Arrangements of Franchised Bus Captains” respectively. At the meeting on 27 November 2009, Members requested the Government to provide supplementary information on (i) random on-board bus surveys conducted by the Transport Department (TD); and (ii) the wastage rate of bus captains employed on contract terms. At the meeting on 28 June 2010, Members asked for information on bus termini where toilets are not available and why they could not be provided. The requested information is provided below.

(i) *Random on-board bus surveys conducted by TD*

TD conducts annual surveys on franchised bus captains’ working hours with a view to assessing franchised bus companies’ level of compliance with the “Guidelines on Bus Captain Working Hours” (the “Guidelines”). A copy of the Guidelines (2007 version) is at **Annex 1**.

In 2009, similar to previous years, TD employed an independent contractor to carry out the survey between May and December to check the level of compliance with Guidelines A to C. Whole-day on-board and terminal surveys were conducted to collect information on the lay-over of buses to ascertain the bus captains' rest time. A total number of 770 bus captains (out of 12,000) from the five franchised bus operators were randomly selected for the survey. The survey covered about 40% of the bus routes on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

As regards Guideline D, which refers to the break between successive working days of a bus captain of no less than 9.5 hours, TD inspected about 20% (or around 2,500 in number) of the bus captains' sign-on/sign-off log sheets on a random sampling basis to check the level of compliance.

The results of the survey revealed that the Guidelines were generally well adhered to (97.8% for Guideline A, 100% for both Guidelines B and C, and 99.8% for Guideline D). According to the franchised bus operators, the very small number of non-compliance cases in respect of Guidelines A and D were mainly caused by traffic congestion. Nonetheless, the franchised bus operators were reminded by TD to review the journey time of the concerned bus routes having regard to changing road and traffic conditions to ensure that the rest time of bus captains would not be affected.

(ii) Wastage rate of bus captains employed on contract terms

According to Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited ("KMB"), Citybus Limited ("CTB"), New World First Bus Services Limited ("NWFB") and Long Win Bus Company Limited ("LW"), the wastage rates of bus captains employed on contract terms in 2008 and 2009 for individual bus operators are as follows:

Year	Wastage rate ¹ of bus captains employed on contract terms				
	KMB	CTB	NWFB	LW	Overall
2008	8.1%	13.9%	8.1%	8.3%	8.6%
2009	8.3%	15.5%	7.8%	8.5%	9.0%

¹ The employee wastage rate is the total number of contract bus captains left against the total number of contract bus captains serving the bus company during the year.

No bus captain of New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited is employed on contract terms.

(iii) Bus termini where toilets are not available

As at October 2010, about 70% of the bus termini were provided with toilet facilities. As regards the remaining 84 bus termini (listed at **Annex 2**), the breakdown is as follows:

- (a) toilet facilities available in the vicinity (about 3 minutes' walking distance): **21** bus termini;
- (b) applications for installation of portable toilet currently being processed: **40** bus termini;
- (c) applications for installation of portable toilet rejected because of local concerns: **19** bus termini; and
- (d) portable toilets cannot be provided due to site constraint: **4** bus termini.

Regarding (a) above, the franchised bus operators consider that the toilet facilities in the vicinity of the bus termini are generally convenient to bus captains, and will introduce improvement measures at the bus termini, if necessary. Regarding (b) above, TD is pursuing these applications in collaboration with the concerned Departments and parties. As regards (c), TD is working with the relevant Departments and parties to assess the extent to which public objection to the proposed toilet facilities may be overcome.

Yours faithfully,



(Miss Constance Choy)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Commissioner for Transport (Attn.: Miss LUI Ying)

Guidelines on Bus Captain Working Hours

(Revised in July 2007)

- Guideline A - Bus captains should have a break of at least 30 minutes after 6 hours of duty and within that 6-hour duty, the bus captains should have total service breaks of at least 20 minutes of which no less than 12 minutes should be within the first 4 hours of duty.
- Guideline B - Maximum duty (including all breaks) should not exceed 14 hours in a day.
- Guideline C - Driving duty (i.e. maximum duty less all breaks of 30 minutes or more) should not exceed 11 hours in a day.
- Guideline D - The break between successive working days should not be less than 9.5 hours.

List of Bus Terminus without Toilet Facility

(a) Bus terminus with toilet facilities available in the vicinity		
Item	District	Bus terminus
1.	Central & Western	Admiralty (East)
2.	Central & Western	Admiralty (Drake Street)
3.	Central & Western	Admiralty (Tamar Street)
4.	Central & Western	Admiralty (Rodney Street)
5.	Central & Western	Admiralty (West)
6.	Central & Western	The Peak
7.	Eastern	Braemar Hill
8.	Eastern	Heng Fa Chuen
9.	Eastern	Hing Wah Estate
10.	Eastern	Quarry Bay (Yau Man Street)
11.	Eastern	Siu Sai Wan Estate
12.	North	Ching Ho Estate
13.	Southern	Chi Fu Fa Yuen
14.	Southern	Cyberport
15.	Southern	Shek Pai Wan
16.	Southern	Stanley Plaza
17.	Sham Shui Po	Festival Walk
18.	Sha Tin	City One Shatin
19.	Sha Tin	Sha Tin Racecourse
20.	Tuen Mun	Chi Lok Fa Yuen
21.	Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun Town Centre
<i>Sub-total: 21 locations</i>		

(b) Applications for installation of portable toilet currently being processed		
Item	District	Bus terminus
22.	Central & Western	Hong Kong Station
23.	Kowloon City	Kowloon City (Shing Tak Street)
24.	Kowloon City	Oi Man Estate
25.	Kowloon City	Tung Tau Estate
26.	Kwun Tong	Kai Yip Estate
27.	Kwun Tong	Kwun Tong (Tsui Ping Road)
28.	Kwun Tong	Ping Shek Estate
29.	Kwun Tong	Shun Lee Estate
30.	Sham Shui Po	Hoi Lai Estate
31.	Sham Shui Po	Lai Kok Estate
32.	Wong Tai Sin	Choi Wan Estate
33.	Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill Station
34.	Wong Tai Sin	Fung Shing Street
35.	Yau Tsim Mong	China Ferry Terminal
36.	Yau Tsim Mong	Tsim Sha Tsui (Canton Road)
37.	North	Cheung Wah Estate
38.	North	Tin Ping Estate
39.	North	Wah Ming Estate
40.	Sai Kung	Clear Water Bay
41.	Sai Kung	Tiu Keng Leng Station
42.	Sha Tin	Chevalier Garden
43.	Sha Tin	Kwong Yuen Estate
44.	Sha Tin	Yiu On Estate
45.	Tai Po	Fu Heng Estate
46.	Tai Po	Fu Shin Estate
47.	Tai Po	Tai Po Central
48.	Tai Po	Tai Po Market Station
49.	Tai Po	Tai Wo Estate
50.	Kwai Tsing	Mayfair Garden
51.	Tsuen Wan	Allway Gardens

Item	District	Bus terminus
52.	Tuen Mun	Fu Tai Estate
53.	Tuen Mun	Kin Sang Estate
54.	Tuen Mun	Leung King Estate
55.	Tuen Mun	Lung Mun Oasis
56.	Tuen Mun	Tai Hing Estate
57.	Yuen Long	Long Ping Estate
58.	Yuen Long	Tin Fu Court
59.	Yuen Long	Tin Shui Estate
60.	Yuen Long	Tin Tsz Estate
61.	Yuen Long	Tin Yan Estate

Sub-total: 40 locations

(c) Applications for placement of portable toilet rejected because of local concerns

Item	District	Bus terminus
62.	Islands	Yat Tung Estate
63.	Kwai Tsing	Cho Yiu Estate
64.	Kwai Tsing	Lai Yiu Estate
65.	Kwun Tong	Telford Garden
66.	Kwun Tong	Lok Wah Estate
67.	Sha Tin	Chun Shek Estate
68.	Sha Tin	Hin Keng Estate
69.	Sha Tin	Kam Ying Court
70.	Sha Tin	Lek Yuen Estate
71.	Sha Tin	Ma On Shan (Lee On Estate)
72.	Sha Tin	Ma On Shan Town Centre
73.	Sha Tin	Mei Lam Estate
74.	Sha Tin	Sui Wo Court
75.	Sha Tin	Sun Chui Estate
76.	Sha Tin	Sun Tin Wai Estate
77.	Sha Tin	Wo Che Estate

Item	District	Bus terminus
78.	North	Choi Yuen Estate
79.	Tuen Mun	Po Tin Estate
80.	Yuen Long	Sheung Tsuen
<i>Sub-total: 19 locations</i>		
(d) Bus termini cannot be provided with portable toilet due to site constraint (e.g. on-street terminus with narrow footpath)		
Item	District	Bus terminus
81.	Central & Western	Kotewall Road
82.	Eastern	Whitfield Road
83.	Wan Chai	Happy Valley (Upper)
84.	Tsuen Wan	Sea Crest Villa
<i>Sub-total: 4 locations</i>		
Total: 84 locations		