

香港特別行政區政府  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部  
運輸及房屋局  
運輸科

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Transport and  
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14 January 2013

Ms Sophie Lau  
Clerk to Transport Panel  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Fax No.: 2978 7569)

Dear Ms Lau,

### **Taxi Safety**

We have received the letter from the Panel on Transport dated 20 December 2012 and our reply is as follows.

The current Road Traffic (Vehicle Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A) and Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 374F) stipulate the safety requirements for the structure and safety equipment of different classes of vehicles, including taxis. To ensure the vehicles satisfy the relevant requirements, the Transport Department has always adhered strictly to these requirements in examining and approving applications for new vehicle types and applications for modification. For taxis, except for the colour, signs and taximeter, the statutory requirements of their structure and safety equipment are the same as private cars. The bodywork and fittings of taxis have to be soundly and properly constructed of

suitable materials so that they can endure the loadings and stresses that will normally be encountered.

Besides, the current Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations require that seat belts should be fitted to the driver's seat as well as the passengers' seats of a taxi, and the driver and passengers must wear the seatbelts. This measure can reduce the casualties and severity of injuries in the event of a traffic accident.

According to traffic accident statistics, the accident rate of taxis is similar to the average of all motor vehicles. The number of taxi drivers and taxi passengers seriously injured and killed in traffic accidents is lower than those of public buses and private cars.

We hope the above information would enable the Hon. Tang Ka-piu to have a better understanding of the relevant issues. The Government attaches great importance to road safety and has all along been enforcing the statutory requirements strictly for the safety of road users.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew Ngan)  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing