

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

香港添馬添美道 2 號
政府總部東翼



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Transport and
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Government Secretariat

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5 July 2016

By Email and Fax

Ms Sophie Lau
Clerk to Transport Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2978 7569)

Dear Ms Lau,

Promotion of Electric Bike

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2016, relaying Dr Hon Kwok Ka-ki's views on promoting electric bikes. Our reply is as follows.

According to the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374), a "bicycle" means a vehicle with two wheels designed and constructed to be propelled by the use of pedals, a "motor cycle" means a two-wheeled motor vehicle with or without a sidecar, and a "motor vehicle" means any mechanically propelled (including electricity-propelled and fuel-propelled) vehicle. According to the above definition, a bicycle equipped with an electric motor is a mechanically propelled two wheeled vehicle, belonging to the class of "motor cycle", thus requiring vehicle examination and registration by the Transport Department ("TD").

With technological development, we note that various types of mobility devices emerge in the market. While following the developing technology, we need also to consider whether these mobility devices will

give rise to road safety and enforcement issues, or affect other road users. TD has been closely monitoring the development of mobility devices in other jurisdictions and in the market, and evaluating the impact of their use from the perspectives of road safety and traffic flow. As regards electric bikes, TD is aware that some areas such as Taiwan, the United Kingdom and Japan allow electric bikes meeting certain stipulated specifications to be used on roads without registration and licensing by amending the law, for example by stipulating a new class of vehicle for electric bikes. The Transport and Housing Bureau and TD are studying the use of electric bikes in Hong Kong, and will consider the aforementioned factors and overseas experiences, etc.

Yours sincerely,

(Alex Lau)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

cc:

Transport Department (Attn: Mr Walter Foo)

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