

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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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Doris Lo)
(Fax No: 2840 0269)

Dear Doris,

Warning Sound Generating Device on Electric Vehicles

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2017 to the Secretary for Transport and Housing. Regarding the proposal of the Hong Kong Blind Union to include the issue of warning sound generating device on electric vehicles (“EVs”) in the Transport Panel agenda, our reply is as follows.

The Government is very concerned about the safety of road users (including visually impaired persons). One of the features of electric vehicles is that they are relatively quiet whilst in motion. This has given rise to concerns about the potential danger such vehicles may pose to some road users when travelling at low speeds (especially to road users with special needs such as visually impaired persons and senior citizens, etc.). In this connection, the Government has on the one hand relayed the wishes of visually impaired persons to local suppliers of electric vehicles, requesting them to proactively introduce suitable sound alerting systems on their electric vehicle models to ensure the safety of road users. On the other hand, the Government is closely monitoring the development of relevant international standards.

Based on the understanding of Transport Department (“TD”), the United States of America will mandate the fitting of artificial sound alerting system on all new electric vehicles with effect from September 2019, and the European Union will mandate the fitting of such system on all new electric vehicle models and newly manufactured electric vehicles (including those of existing models) with effect from July 2019 and July 2021 respectively. By then, the standards for such sound alerting system should be unified. To cater for development on this front, the TD will proactively consider introducing such requirement into the vehicle type approval process to ensure that electric vehicles meet the relevant international standards before they can be registered for sale in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the Government and the Road Safety Council will continue to launch publicity and educational campaigns through various channels (e.g. announcements in the public interest on television and radio, the Road Safety Bulletin and other publications, etc.) to enhance and promote road safety. In the publicity and educational campaigns for 2017, motorists and road users will be reminded of road safety issues concerning electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles.

Yours sincerely,

(Alex LAU)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.
Commissioner for Transport (Attn.: Mr Walter Foo) (Fax No.: 2802 7533)