

LC Paper No. CB(4)1407/17-18(01)
Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Enhancing Taxi Service Quality
Comments

There are nine points under the new “Hong Kong Taxi Service Standard”. Point number 7 is “Provide a safe and smooth ride,”. In our opinion, safety should be the most important point for taxi service quality, irrespective of whether passengers or the public show an interest.

During the period 2015 to 2017, there were 2871 casualties of taxi occupants (drivers and passengers) each year. Among these there were 3.7 fatalities and 210 serious casualties. During the period 2013- 2015, 723 pedestrians were injured by taxis each year. Among these there were 8.3 fatalities and 159 serious casualties. Additionally, taxi related crashes also resulted in the casualties of other road-users.

Taxi safety is a real problem and therefore should be a core subject for the enhancement of taxi service quality. The following points should be considered:

- Taxi safety is about preventing any persons injured IN or BY a taxi.
- Taxi safety is a concern whether there are passengers or not.
- Better safety performance could increase the patronage of taxis.
- Speeding drivers actually deter potential passengers.
- In the past there have been various efforts to improve taxi safety, but taxi safety records remain a concern.
- New efforts are therefore needed to substantially reduce taxi related crashes and injuries, with the long-term objective of eliminating serious injuries and fatalities.

Background Information

Every year more than four thousand taxis are involved in a crash, representing almost one in four registered taxis. The per million vehicle-kilometres crash rate has decreased in recent year but the number of taxis involved rose due to increased mileage driven.

TREND OF CRASH RATES OF TAXIS

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number involved in accident	4 004	3 926	3 801	4 053	4 259	4 240	4 395	4 211	4 332	4 493	4 359
Number licensed (mid-year)	18 045	18 084	18 126	18 129	18 126	18 128	18 114	18 084	18 040	18 156	18 144
Annual vehicle-kilometres (millions)	2 102	2 135	2 130	2 200	2 336	2 395	2 475	2 466	2 534	2 564	2 617
Involvement rate : per 1,000 vehicles	221.9	217.1	209.7	223.6	235.0	233.9	242.6	232.9	240.1	247.5	240.2
per million vehicle-kilometres Taxi	1.91	1.84	1.78	1.84	1.82	1.77	1.78	1.71	1.71	1.75	1.67
per million vehicle-kilometres Private Cars	1.45	1.33	1.34	1.34	1.36	1.38	1.35	1.36	1.39	1.38	1.41

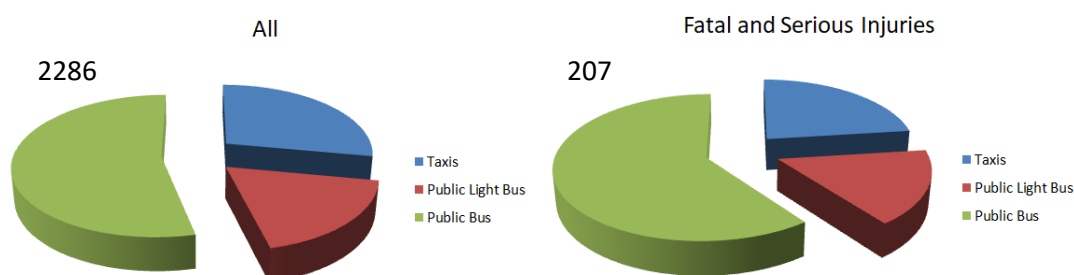
Source: Road Traffic Accident Statistics 2017, Transport Department

CRASH RATES OF KEY ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORTS IN 2016

Mode of Public Transport	Passenger Trips per day (Million)	No. involved in Crashes*	Annual Travel Mileage M Veh-km	Crash Involvement Rate per M Veh-km	Crash Involvement Rate per Million Passenger Trips	Crash Involvement Rate per M Passenger Trip per M Veh-km
Franchised Bus	4.1	1731	464	3.73	1.16	0.31
Public Light Buses	1.8	1080	420	2.57	1.64	0.64
Taxis	0.93	4493	2564	1.75	13.24	7.56

* Responsibility of crash not differentiated

PASSENGER CASUALTIES OF KEY ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORTS (2013 TO 2015)



CASUALTIES OF TAXI DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS

	3-year Casualties (2015, 2016, 2017)		
	Fatal	Serious	All Casualties
Taxi Drivers	10	434	5305
Taxi Passengers	1	196	3308
3-year Total	11	630	8613
Per year	3.7	210	2871

Source: Road Traffic Accident Statistics 2015, 2017, 2017, Transport Department

The safety of children passengers is also a subject to address for taxi service quality. Smaller children are effectively unrestrained and car seats are not available in taxis.

10-YEAR CASUALTIES OF CHILDREN TAXI PASSENGERS 2008-2017

Age	10-year Total		
	0-2	3-11	0-11
Fatal	0	0	0
Serious Casualties	3	11	14
All Casualties	228	465	693

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PEDESTRIAN CASUALTIES BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES PER YEAR (2013 TO 2015)

	All	Serious	Fatal	FSI*
Franchised Bus	99	33	4.7	37.7
Public Light Bus	203	58	12.0	70.0
Taxi	723	159	8.3	167.0
Private Car	1217	235	9.67	244.3
All vehicles**	3604	770	76	846

* Fatal and Serious Injuries

** Including trams and light railways which account for a very small proportion

PEDESTRIAN INJURY RATES BASED ON MILEAGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT (2013 TO 2015)

	Mileage Million veh-km	Pedestrian Injuries Rate per Million Veh-km	Pedestrian Fatalities per Billion Veh-km	Pedestrian FSI per Million Veh-km
Franchised Bus	464	0.21	10.05	0.08
Public Light Bus	412	0.49	29.13	0.17
Taxi	2491	0.29	3.35	0.07
Private Car	5392	0.23	1.79	0.045
All Vehicles	12989	0.28	5.85	0.065

Note: Figures are not precise due to the matching of year but any difference is considered insignificant

PEDESTRIAN INJURY RATES BASED ON PASSENGER TRIPS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT (2013 TO 2015)

	Million Passenger Trips*	Pedestrian Injuries per Million Passenger Trips	Pedestrian Fatality per Billion Passenger Trips	Pedestrian FSI per Billion Passenger Trips
Franchised Bus	4.1	24	1.14	9
Public Light Bus	1.8	113	6.67	39
Taxi	0.93	777	8.96	180

Note: Figures are not precise due to the matching of year but any difference is considered insignificant