

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)

Tsing Ma Control Area Ordinance (Cap. 498)

ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2017 (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE 2020

ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2020 (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE 2020

TSING MA CONTROL AREA (TOLLS, FEES AND CHARGES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2020 (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE

TSING MA CONTROL AREA (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2020 (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Connection of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (“TM-CLKL”), part of which being the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel (“TM-CLKT”), is scheduled for commissioning on 27 December 2020. The Secretary for Transport and Housing (“STH”) has made the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (Commencement) Notice 2020 (at **Annex A**) for appointing 27 December 2020 as the date from which the permitted operating area for the New Territories (“NT”) taxis will cover the Northern Connection of TM-CLKL.

2. In addition, STH has made the following commencement notices for appointing 27 December 2020 as the date from which the tolls

of the Lantau Link, as well as the additional fare for every hiring of taxis involving the use of the Lantau Link, will be waived -

- (a) the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice 2020 (at **Annex B**);
- (b) the Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice (at **Annex C**); and
- (c) the Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice (at **Annex D**).

BACKGROUND

3. TM-CLKL provides a strategic link connecting the Northwest NT with North Lantau, the Hong Kong International Airport (“HKIA”) as well as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (“HZMB”) Hong Kong Port, and serves as an alternative land-based route to and from HKIA. It comprises the Southern Connection (i.e. Shun Long Road) and the Northern Connection. The Southern Connection of TM-CLKL was commissioned on 24 October 2018 to dovetail with the commissioning of HZMB. The Northern Connection connecting the HZMB Hong Kong Port to Pillar Point in Tuen Mun South is scheduled for commissioning on 27 December 2020.

THE COMMENCEMENT NOTICES

Expanding the Permitted Operating Area of NT Taxis

4. NT and Lantau taxis are licensed to operate within designated areas specified in Schedule 7 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374E). In view of the HZMB project, the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (“Amendment Regulation 2017”) was made by STH for amending Schedule 7 to Cap. 374E to revise the permitted operating areas for NT and Lantau taxis, with a view to facilitating the travelling of passengers between the respective operating areas of the NT and Lantau taxis and the Hong Kong Port upon the commissioning of HZMB.

5. Since the works of the Southern and Northern Connections of TM-CLKL were on-going when the Amendment Regulation 2017 was made, those provisions concerning TM-CLKL for NT taxis specified in section 1(2) of the Amendment Regulation 2017¹ shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by STH by notice published in the Gazette. Shortly prior to the commissioning of the Southern Connection of TM-CLKL on 24 October 2018, STH made the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (Commencement) Notice 2018 for appointing 24 October 2018 as the date from which the permitted operating area for NT taxis would cover the Southern Connection of TM-CLKL.

6. Now that the Northern Connection of TM-CLKL is scheduled for commissioning on 27 December 2020, it is necessary for STH to specify the commencement date of section 3(4) of the Amendment Regulation 2017 correspondingly by making the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (Commencement) Notice 2020, such that the permitted operating area for NT taxis will also cover the Northern Connection of TM-CLKL and, hence, NT taxis will be able to make use of the Northern Connection of TM-CLKL to enter the HZMB Hong Kong Port.

Waiving Tolls of Lantau Link

7. As announced in the 2019 Policy Address, the Government will waive the tolls of the Lantau Link upon the commissioning of TM-CLKL, which serves as an alternative land-based route to and from HKIA, thus providing the necessary condition for toll-free arrangement for both strategic roads. To this end, the Government has made the Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 and the Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 for repealing provisions relating to the imposition and collection of tolls,

¹ Section 1(2) of the Amendment Regulation 2017 reads that “*section 3(3) (in so far as it relates to the new paragraph 1(i)(xxvi)) and (4) comes into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Transport and Housing by notice published in the Gazette*”. The new paragraph 1(i)(xxvi) of Schedule 7 to Cap. 374E (as specified in section 3(3) of the Amendment Regulation 2017) seeks to include Shun Long Road, i.e. the Southern Connection of TM-CLKL, as a permitted operating area for NT taxis, while section 3(4) of the Amendment Regulation 2017 concerns the specification of the Northern Connection of TM-CLKL as a permitted operating area for NT taxis.

surcharges and administrative fees under the Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) Regulation (Cap. 498A), as well as those relating to toll collection and toll collection facilities under the Tsing Ma Control Area (General) Regulation (Cap. 498B). Further, the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020² has been made for waiving the additional fare for every hiring of taxis involving the use of the Lantau Link. When the three Amendment Regulations were made and tabled at the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in April 2020, their commencement dates were not specified, pending the exact commissioning date of TM-CLKT.

8. As the commissioning date of TM-CLKT is now confirmed to be 27 December 2020, STH has made the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice 2020, the Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice and the Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice for appointing 27 December 2020 as the day on which the three Amendment Regulations and hence the legislative amendments relating to the toll waiver of the Lantau Link come into operation.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

9. The legislative timetable is as follows -

Publication of the commencement notices in the Gazette	20 November 2020
Tabling of the commencement notices at LegCo for negative vetting	25 November 2020
Commencement	27 December 2020

² Apart from waiving the additional fare for every hiring of taxis involving the use of the Lantau Link, the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 also provides for the waiving of the additional fare for every hiring of taxis involving the use of the Tseung Kwan O Tunnel (“TKOT”). As announced in the 2019 Policy Address, the toll waiver for TKOT will be implemented upon the commissioning of the Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel (“TKO-LTT”). The legislative amendment relating to TKOT under the aforesaid Amendment Regulation will hence come into operation on a day to be appointed by STH by way of a separate commencement notice when the exact commissioning date of TKO-LTT is confirmed.

ENQUIRIES

10. Any enquiries on this brief can be addressed to Ms Shirley Kwan, Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport), at 3509 8192.


Transport and Housing Bureau
18 November 2020

Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017
(Commencement) Notice 2020

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**Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles)
(Amendment) Regulation 2017 (Commencement) Notice
2020**

Under section 1(2) of the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2017 (L.N. 62 of 2017), I appoint 27 December 2020 as the day on which section 3(4) of the Regulation comes into operation.


Secretary for Transport and Housing

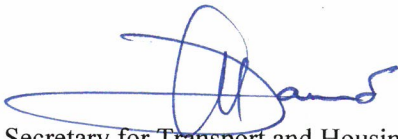
18 November 2020

Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020
(Commencement) Notice 2020

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**Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment)
Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice 2020**

Under section 1 of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 36 of 2020), I appoint 27 December 2020 as the day on which the Regulation (except section 3(1)) comes into operation.



Secretary for Transport and Housing


18 November 2020

Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2020
(Commencement) Notice

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**Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges)
(Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice**

Under section 1 of the Tsing Ma Control Area (Tolls, Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 37 of 2020), I appoint 27 December 2020 as the day on which the Regulation comes into operation.


Secretary for Transport and Housing

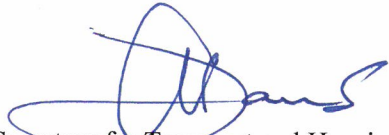
18 November 2020

Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (Commencement)
Notice

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**Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment)
Regulation 2020 (Commencement) Notice**

Under section 1 of the Tsing Ma Control Area (General) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 38 of 2020), I appoint 27 December 2020 as the day on which the Regulation comes into operation.



Secretary for Transport and Housing

18 November 2020