

Bills Committee on Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill 2025

Responses to the discussion at the meeting on 2 June 2025

In response to Members' discussions and suggestions at the meeting, the Administration's response to the "List of follow-up actions required arising from the discussion at the meeting on 2 June 2025" are set out as follows:

(a): Proposed new definition of "regulated hydrogen" under clause 3(36) - whether a footnote will be added to the revised proposed new definition of "regulated hydrogen" to specify the international standard on which the definition is based

2. In proposing the new definition of "regulated hydrogen", while the Government has made reference mainly to the international standard ISO 14687:2025, other applicable standards and the actual situation in Hong Kong have also been taken into account. To avoid causing misunderstanding on the part of the readers, and to maintain sufficient flexibility to accommodate technological advancements in hydrogen application, the Government considers that a footnote should not be added to the revised provisions of the proposed new definition.

(b): Proposed revised definition of "service riser" under clause 3(23) - whether the formulation "(other than regulated hydrogen) to more than one floor of a building" covers a service pipe used, or capable of being used, to supply gas to half a floor (e.g. a garret) of a building

3. The definition of "service riser" already covers scenarios where a service pipe is used, or is capable of being used, to supply gas to a garret of a building. In the proposed amendment to "service riser", the amendment to repeal "超過樓宇的一層" and substitute it with "超過一個樓層" is purely a refinement of the Chinese wording for clarity and readability while keeping the original meaning of the definition.

(c): Proposed new definition of "指明實體" ("specified entity") under clause 3(36) of the Bill -

(i) explain the reason why the term "指明實體" ("specified entity") is defined in the Chinese text using two conditions, namely "該車輛的" and "《道路交通條例》(第374章)所指的擁有", while "specified entity" is defined in the English text using only one condition; and clarify whether

the condition “該車輛的” in the Chinese text would narrow the scope of the proposed new definition of “指明實體” (“specified entity”)

4. Paragraph (a) of the proposed new definition of “specified entity (指明實體)” states that in relation to a hydrogen system, if the hydrogen system is installed in a vehicle, the owner of that vehicle is a specified entity. The meaning of “owner” has incorporated the definition of “owner” in the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374). In the English text, “the owner within the meaning of the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)” corresponds to “《道路交通條例》(第374章)所指的擁有人” in the Chinese text, while “of the vehicle” corresponds to “該車輛的” in the Chinese text. Both texts carry the same meaning, and hence the reference to “該車輛” in the Chinese text would not narrow the scope of the proposed new definition of “specified entity (指明實體)”.

(ii) explain the reason why the term “擁有人” is used as the Chinese equivalent of “owner”, while the term “車主” is used as the Chinese equivalent of “owner” in the definition of “owner” in section 2 of the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), which is proposed to be amended under clause 3(18) of the Bill

5. The Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) refers to vehicles, both “擁有人” and “車主” appropriately correspond to the term “owner” within this definition without semantic discrepancy.

6. In the Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill 2025, the proposed new definition of “specified entity (指明實體)” is a definition in relation to “hydrogen system (氫氣系統)”. Apart from systems that are used, or intended to be used, for propulsion of a vehicle or a train, it also includes systems that are used, or intended to be used, for operation of specific machinery. Regarding the former, the existing definition of “(owner) 車主” in the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap.51) is only applicable to a gas vehicle or a hydrogen conveyance vehicle (e.g. a tube trailer that uses diesel as fuel for propulsion and conveys hydrogen). It is different from the owner of a vehicle or a train propelled by hydrogen system(s) (e.g. the hydrogen fuel cell double deck bus put into public service in February 2024 by Citybus Limited) under the proposed new definition of “specified entity (指明實體)”. Therefore, in the proposed new definition of “specified entity (指明實體)”, using “擁有人” (instead of “車主”) as the Chinese equivalent of “owner” can help clearly differentiate the two. As regards the latter which concerns the owner of specific machinery, the term “車主” is not applicable. It is also more appropriate to adopt the term “擁有人”.

(d): Review whether the word “alternations” in the English text of the proposed amendment to section 13AA(4) of Cap. 51 (ancillary provisions in

relation to improvement notices) under clause 6(13) of the Bill is correct or requires modification

7. Upon review, “alternations” in the English text will be repealed and substituted by “alterations” in the committee stage amendments to be moved by the Government in due course.

**Environment and Ecology Bureau
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
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