



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1991

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REGULATIONS 1991 ENACTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS) (EMISSION) REGULATIONS 1991 HAVE BEEN ENACTED AND WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

NEW VEHICLES WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH STRINGENT EMISSION DESIGN STANDARDS.

THE FIRST PHASE OF CONTROL WILL APPLY TO PRIVATE CARS, TAXIS, AND OTHER LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES, INCLUDING LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND LIGHT BUSES UP TO 2.5 TONNES IN GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT.

ALL THESE VEHICLES, IF REGISTERED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, SHALL MEET THE APPROPRIATE AMERICAN AND JAPANESE DESIGN STANDARDS.

BOTH PETROL AND DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES WILL BE CONTROLLED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT HAS THE POWER TO REFUSE TO REGISTER A VEHICLE IF IT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH VEHICLE DESIGN STANDARDS. EXEMPTION MAY BE GIVEN TO SPECIFIC VEHICLES ON AN INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS.

THE NEW REQUIREMENT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON VEHICLES REGISTERED BEFORE JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL ON APRIL 1, ALL PETROL-ENGINED VEHICLES OTHER THAN MOTORCYCLES AND MOTOR TRICYCLES REGISTERED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE UNLEADED PETROL EXCLUSIVELY.

EXEMPTION MAY ALSO BE GIVEN, ON INDIVIDUAL MERITS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

THESE PROPOSALS WILL NOT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON POTENTIAL CAR OWNERS OR OPERATORS AS MOST VEHICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEAS ARE ALREADY DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEW EMISSION STANDARDS AND ARE ABLE TO USE UNLEADED PETROL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THERE IS NO PROBLEM REGARDING THE SUPPLY OF VEHICLES OF THE SPECIFIED STANDARDS, HE ADDED.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSALS AS THERE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN VEHICLE EMISSIONS.

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CHING MING FESTIVAL AS STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT CHING MING FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON APRIL 5 (FRIDAY), IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

ALL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYERS FOR THREE MONTHS OR LONGER IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OR AT THE DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE ON TEL. 815 5066.

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REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHERS

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FIVE FULL-TIME REFRESHER COURSES TO FAMILIARISE TEACHERS WITH UPDATED TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING WILL BE OFFERED TO NON-GRADUATE AND GRADUATE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH DURING THE 1991-92 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE COURSES ARE ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSTITUTE EXPLAINED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO NEW PERSPECTIVES IN LANGUAGE LEARNING SO THAT THEIR REPERTORY OF TEACHING TECHNIQUES WILL BE INCREASED.

"THEY WILL BE HELPED TO IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO CREATE TEACHING MATERIALS AND TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS IN THE CLASSROOM AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY," HE SAID.

/THE CHINESE .....

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THE CHINESE COURSES WILL EACH LAST 16 WEEKS WHILE ENGLISH COURSES WILL EACH LAST 23 WEEKS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED AND A TEACHER REFRESHER COURSE CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR COURSES.

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GROUP DISCUSSIONS ARE VALUABLE CONSULTATION CHANNEL  
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TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES OF AIDED SCHOOLS WILL BE TALKING WITH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE NEXT SERIES OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD IN MAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD PROVED TO BE A VALUABLE CHANNEL OF CONSULTATION, WITH TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING FREELY THE VIEWS OF COLLEAGUES ON VARIOUS TOPICS OF CONCERN.

"IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY WERE GIVEN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT EDUCATION POLICIES AND THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN VARIOUS WHITE PAPERS AND IN THE REPORTS OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE SAID THE DISCUSSIONS IN MAY WILL INCLUDE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEACHERS AND PARENTS, TEACHERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND BETWEEN SCHOOLS.

ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS, HE SAID THESE WILL INCLUDE CONTRACTS, LEAVE, OUTSIDE WORK AND PROMOTION.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ANOTHER SEMINAR WITH TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES ON PROFESSIONALISM WILL BE HELD IN JUNE.

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