HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, June 22, 1973

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Friday, June 22, 1973

COMPULSORY WEARING OF SAFETY HELMETS BEING INTRODUCED

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The Executive Council has approved new regulations dealing with the compulsory wearing, sale and hiring out of crash helmets to motorcyclists.

The new rules, laid down in the Road Traffic (Protective Equipment) Regulations 1973, are published in today's gazette but will not come into effect until later.

A spokesman for the Transport Department explained that there would be a delay of about six months in order to give motorcyclists and suppliers of protective helmets adequate time to acquire helmets of an approved design.

Once the regulations are in force, all motor cycle riders and their pillion passengers will be required to wear approved helmets, but it will not affect passengers sitting in a side car.

Certain groups of people, such as turbanned Sikhs, may also be exempted on application.

Failure to wear a crash helmet when riding a motorcycle will be an offence. The maximum penalty will be a fine of $500 and imprisonment for three months on first conviction, and a fine of $1,000 and six months' jail for any subsequent conviction.

Approved protective helmets will be those bearing a mark applied by the manufacturer indicating compliance with the specifications in British standards 2001, 1869 or 2495; Japanese industrial standard JIS 8133-1970; Australian standard E33-1968; and American National Standard Institute Z90.1-1971.

/The Commissioner .....

The Commissioner for Transport also has discretion to approve other helmets provided they afford a degree of protection from injury equal to or greater than those which comply with the quoted standards.

The term "motor cycle" includes motorcycles, motor scooters and all two wheeled motor vehicles with an unladen weight of not more than six hundredweight (cwt).

The regulations stipulate that only approved helemts may be sold, hired out, or displayed for sale or hiring.

Anyone who contravenes this regulation by possessing either for sale or hire an unapproved type of helmet, will be liable on conviction to a fine of $1,000 and six months' imprisonment.

In the event of a conviction for the possession of a non-approved helmet, the courts may order the forfeiture and disposal of the helmets.

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BETTER CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS

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All manual workers and non-manual workers earning not more than $1,500 a month will be entitled to sickness allowance and holidays with pay, under new provisions in the Employment Ordinance.

They will become operative on July 1, 1973 and January 1, 1974 respectively.

Mr. Y.N. Yiu, acting Senior Labour Officer of the Labour Department, said today that many employees such as restaurant workers and shop assistants will, for the first time, enjoy statutory rights to sickness allowance and paid holidays.

The old ordinance - the Industrial Employment (holidays with pay and sickness allowance) Ordinance - applied only to manual workers and non-manual workers with a monthly earning not exceeding $700 working in industrial establishments.

Mr. Yiu, who was speaking at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Kowloon North, said an employee will qualify to receive sickness allowance of half his wages (excluding overtime) if he has worked for his employer for not less than three months.

He can accumulate his entitlement at the rate of one sickness day for each completed month of service, with a maximum accumulation of 24 days.

If an employee's sickness lasted shorter than his accumulation, the balance could be brought forward.

/Mr. Yiu .....

Mr. Yiu explained that generally speaking, those who were qualified to receive sickness allowance were also entitled to be granted six paid holidays a year.

These six holidays are : the first two days of the Chinese New Year, the Ching Ming Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the day following the Mid-Autumn Festival, and the first day of January.

"To allow an employer the flexibility of operating his business," he said, "these statutory holidays may be changed under certain conditions."

Mr. Yiu said that the revised legislation would benefit many more workers because it covers all sectors of employment; increases the maximum sickness allowance from 12 days to 24 days; and allows employers more flexibility in fixing holidays.

He also pointed out that the law only prescribed the minimum standards to be observed and by no way precluded an employer from offering their employees better terms of employment.

Leaflets explaining the provisions of the sickness allowance and holidays with pay are being prepared by the Labour Department and will be distributed to the public free of charge as soon as they are ready.

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NEW POLICE STATION FOR NORTH POINT

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A new police station which is also to serve as divisional headquarters will soon be built in North Point.

It will be the first of five new stations whose construction work is to start within this year. The other four are located in Kwai Chung, Stanley, Hang Hau and Ping Che.

The North Point Police Station, situated at the end of Java Road near the North Point Fire Station, consists of a 17-storey block and a single-storey ancillary building.

The high block incorporates a podium of two floors, housing the report room, cells, offices and lecture rooms.

The remaining floors are to be taken up by barracks, emergency accommodation, canteen and kitchen, recreation room, changing room, and quarters for the families of four senior officers.

Space for parking, dog kennels and general storage is provided in the ancillary building.

Piling for the new complex has been completed, and construction is expected to start in early August, taking about 21 months to finish.

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, opened the Tsz Wan Shan and Ngau Tau Kok Police Stations last week.

Two other new ones at Chai Wan and Happy Valley will also be completed and opened later this year.

/While .....

While opening the Tsz Wan Shan station, Sir Murray said it was evident that most centres of population wanted a police station within easy reach. This, he said, was a striking testimony of the confidence of the community in the police.

He pointed out that the new stations were designed to meet the community's "very reasonable wishes" that procedures in stations should be shortened, and that report rooms should be separated from charge rooms.

The Governor described this as an example of some of the practical steps taken by the police in response to the wishes of the community. He stressed that it is on this partnership of police and public that "we must depend to defeat violent crime."

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WARNING ON OVERLOADING OF SHIPS

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A spokesman for the Marine Department today warned masters of cargo vessels that they were liable to heavy fines if their ships were found to be overloaded.

He gave the warning after the master of a Panamanian freighter was fined $15,000 by Magistrate, Mr. P.M. Corfe, in Central Magistracy yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

The spokesman said that the Marine Department maintained a strict watch to ensure that vessels entering or leaving port were not overloaded and so endanger the lives of those on board.

The vessel involved in yesterday's court proceedings arrived in port on Monday (June 18) with a cargo of cement.

Several hours after her arrival, a marine department harbour services patrol reported that the vessel appeared to be overloaded and two surveyors of ships were subsequently sent to investigate.

It was learned that the vessel had taken in 100 tons of fresh water shortly after her arrival, and investigations showed that she was overloaded by 14½ inches.

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MAIL DESTROYED IN SHIP FIRE

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The Post Office announced today that as a result of a fire on board a freighter -- the M.S. Tsedek -- surface mail posted in Hong Kong between April 9 and 14 to Cameroon, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Zaire and certain other countries in Africa, may have been lost.

A spokesman said reports had been received that a fire had broken out in the mail storage areas of the Tsedek, which sailed from Hong Kong on April 17.

Exact details were not yet known, he said, but it was feared that most of the mail had been destroyed.

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SOPHISTICATED MAIL HANDLING SYSTEM FOR NEW POST OFFICES

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A $15 million handling system will be installed at the new General Post Office on Hong Kong Island and at the International Mail Centre in Hung Hom.

International contractors are invited in today's gazette to apply for inclusion in a selective tendering list for the two mechanisation projects.

The new handling system will incorporate sophisticated postal equipment including special conveyors and mail sorting machines.

It will greatly assist the Post Office in its work, which involves the handling of nearly one million letters and parcels each day, and exchanging mail with over 130 countries.

Piling work for the new General Post Office on the Central reclamation will start next month and the building is scheduled for completion at the end of 1975 for occupation the following year.

Construction of the International Mail Centre in Hung Hom is expected to begin next year and it should be completed in 1976.

Tenders for providing and installing the mechanisation equipment for the new building projects will be invited within the next five months.

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APPEAL TO EMPLOYERS TO TAKE ON BLIND TELEPHONE OPERATORS

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In spite of repeated appeals, employers are still showing reluctance to employ blind telephone operators, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today.

He said that while more employers were beginning to accept blind workers in other jobs, many still did not recognise that they can work as telephone operators just as well.

"It is hard to understand this apathy. Blind people who choose to become telephone operators are trained for the work at the Rotary Training Centre of the Society for the Blind," he said.

"Those blind people who are holding jobs as telephone operators have been praised by their employers, and in some instances, are considered to be better than their more fortunate counterparts."

At the moment, there are five trained blind workers waiting for jobs as telephone operators.

The spokesman again called on employers to consider offering jobs to these people. This can be done through Mr. Joseph Ho of the Social Welfare Department's Job Placement Unit at telephone 3-419221.

The unit is responsible for finding jobs for handicapped people.

During May it placed 27 disabled people in jobs. These included seven blind, 11 crippled, two deaf or dumb, three former mental patients, one mentally retarded person and three former TB patients.

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CLOSURE OF ROADS FOR OCEANARIUM PROJECT

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All 'streets' within the boundary of the Oceanarium project at Brick Hill in Aberdeen are to be closed to enable the project to proceed.

There are no major roads in the area, but there is a proliferation of footpaths and tracks which will have to be closed.

The closure is also expected to affect the main access to a villa nearby and plans are in hand to provide alternative access for the residents.

Anyone objecting to the proposed order must send his objection in writing to the Director of Public Works to reach his office not later than July 22. Claims for compensation must also reach his office not later than August 22.

The claims must specify the property which will be affected and the interest of the person making the claim in the property.

They must also specify the manner in which the property will be affected and an estimate of the pecuniary loss or damage to the property.

A plan of the area affected by the closure can be seen at the City District Office (Central) Enquiry Branch, Central Government Offices, West Wing entrance; at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, and at the City District Office, Aberdeen Sub-Office, 200 Aberdeen Main Road, 1st floor.

The Oceanarium to be built within this area is being developed by Ocean Park Limited, a non-profit making organisation incorporated and financed by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

On completion, it will provide educational and recreational facilities for the people of Hong Kong.

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NEW REST GARDEN FOR CAUSEWAY BAY

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A new centrally located rest garden will be built for the residents of Causeway Bay and Wan Chai districts.

Located within the loop of the Canal Road flyovers, the rest garden will have an area of about 36,000 square feet.

Flower beds, paving, tables and garden chairs will be installed so that residents can have an additional green belt area near their homes.

The garden was planned as one of the amenities in the multi-million dollar cross harbour tunnel road connections project.

Construction work is expected to begin next month, and take about three months to complete.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FLYOVER

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The Princess Margaret Road flyover in Homantin will be closed for a short period this weekend to enable maintenance work to be carried out.

From midnight tomorrow (Saturday) to 5 a.m. the next day (Sunday), the flyover will not be accessible to motorists.

During the five-hour period, northbound and southbound traffic will be diverted to the lower roads.

Appropriate traffic signs will be erected to guide motorists.

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NEW FORMS FOR 'RENT FREEZE' LEGISLATION

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The Commissioner of Rating and Valuation announced today that he has specified four forms for use under the newly enacted Domestic Premises (Tenure and Rent) (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance 1973, which put a temporary standstill on rents for all post-war domestic premises not already covered by existing legislation.

Three of the forms are for use by the public and are available free of charge from the Rating and Valuation Department's offices at 1 Garden Road or 99 Queensway.

Form TR1 is an application for a certificate of primary user. This form may be used by a landlord, tenant, principal tenant or sub-tenant where there is a dispute as to whether a tenancy or sub-tenancy is domestic.

Form TR2 is a notice to quit, to be served by a landlord or principal tenant who requires possession of premises for use as a dwelling by himself or his family, or if he intends to rebuild the premises.

Form TR3 is a counter-notice, for use by a tenant or sub-tenant who has been served a notice to quit.

The Commissioner emphasised that it was important for those concerned to use the correct forms. "When in doubt, advice should be sought at the offices of the Rating and Valuation Department," he said.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.