



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Citybus and CMB fare increases approved by ExCo

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The Governor-in-Council today (Tuesday) approved fare increases for Citybus and China Motor Bus (CMB).

A 9.5 per cent fare increase for Citybus's Hong Kong Island routes, and a 10 per cent fare increase for its cross harbour routes were approved to take effect on March 3.

A government spokesman said: "The fare increase is well below the anticipated inflation since Citybus's last fare adjustment.

"The accumulated inflation is forecast to increase by 12.8 per cent between the last fare increase on Citybus's Hong Kong Island routes in September 1994 and March 1996, when the new fares are to take effect; and by 17 per cent between the last fare increase on its cross harbour routes in April 1994 and March 1996.

"Without a fare increase, Citybus will suffer sizable losses in 1996 and 1997. The fare increase will give Citybus a reasonable level of return in the next two years and provide incentive for the company to improve its services.

"With the new fares, 78 per cent of Citybus's passengers will pay no more than 40 cents more per trip."

Meanwhile, a 10.7 per cent fare increase was approved for CMB's Hong Kong Island routes, and a 10 per cent fare increase was approved for its cross harbour routes. The new fares will also take effect on March 3.

The spokesman said the increase was well below the anticipated inflation since CMB's last fare increase.

"The accumulated inflation is expected to increase by 14.5 per cent between CMB's previous fare increase on its Hong Kong Island routes in July 1994 and March 1996, when the new fares are to be implemented; and by 17 per cent since the last increase in CMB's cross harbour fares in April 1994," he said.

"As most cross harbour routes are jointly operated by CMB, Citybus and KMB, it is necessary to maintain a common fare scale so as to avoid confusion to the commuters.

"For this reason, a 10 per cent fare increase will also be applied to the cross harbour routes operated by KMB on March 3.

"Without a fare increase, CMB will suffer sizable losses in 1996 and 1997. With the fare increase, the company will earn a small profit in 1996 but incur a loss in 1997.

"The increase will also provide some incentive for the company to improve its services. With the new fares, about 67 per cent of CMB's passengers will pay only 30 to 40 cents more per trip."

The spokesman noted that CMB will also extend its elderly concessionary fare scheme to cover all its cross harbour routes at the same time when the new fares come into effect.

End

#### Findings on parking demand released

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A study on the parking demand in Hong Kong reveals that facilities for private cars are in general meeting current and future demand.

However, the study finds that a serious territory-wide shortfall of goods vehicle parking spaces exists and the situation will deteriorate if the problem is not immediately addressed.

This was said by the Deputy Commissioner for Transport, Mrs Dorothy Chan Yuen Tak-fai, at a press conference today (Tuesday) to announce the findings of the Parking Demand Study (PDS) and the Government's remedial actions.

The study, commenced in November 1993 and completed in December last year, aimed to prepare a detailed inventory of existing parking spaces, to assess the existing and future demand/supply situation, to identify problems and make recommendations to resolve them.

The study covered all districts, except Lantau and the Outlying Islands, and all types of vehicles with particular emphasis on goods vehicles and private cars.

On private cars, Mrs Chan noted that there were about 406,000 designated parking spaces for cars in the first quarter of 1994 - about 221,000 were domestic (residential) spaces, 167,000 were non-domestic (usage related, within commercial developments for example) and about 18,000 were on-street spaces.

In the same period, there were some 265,000 licensed private cars in the territory and the deficit in domestic parking spaces for private cars was about 26,000 spaces.

On a district basis, most of the demand in the 17 districts were met except Eastern, Yau Tsim Mong, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong where the problem was more apparent.

On goods vehicles, Mrs Chan said the findings showed there was a serious territory-wide shortfall of parking spaces for this type of vehicles which is expected to deteriorate in the future if the problem is not addressed immediately.

In 1994, there was an overall shortfall of 76,000 overnight parking spaces and 37,000 daytime parking spaces for goods vehicles.

The night time parking problem was mainly found in Tuen Mun, Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and Kwun Tong while Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing, Kwun Tong and Central and Western districts experienced problems in parking at day time.

Mrs Chan noted that the number of goods vehicles had almost doubled in the 10 year period between 1984 and 1994 from 68,000 to 124,000.

"This growth is very high and reflects the growth in Hong Kong's economy over that period.

"Certainly the Government would not want to restrict the growth of the economy. Inevitably therefore the demand for goods vehicle parking outstripped supply.

"The Government recognises the problem and that it cannot be satisfactorily solved on a piecemeal basis. The PDS was therefore commissioned to identify clearly the size of the problem and to examine ways of containing it.

"The deteriorating situation in terms of supply/demand assumes that no remedial measures are implemented.

"It is our intention to address this problem to prevent further deterioration and to implement appropriate remedial measures," she said.

To address the problem on goods vehicle parking, Mrs Chan said the Transport Branch had already set up a working group to look at this problem and would develop an action plan for implementation.

Other recommendations of the Study will also be examined by this working group.

On means to address the parking problem in general, the Assistant Commissioner for Transport (Technical Services and Planning), Mr Lee Shu-chee, said the consultants, Ove Arup and Partners, had recommended a number of measures to address the situation.

These measures included the revision of the Hong Kong Planning and Standards Guidelines (HKPSG), and the provision of additional facilities such as multi-storey vehicle parks, short-term tenancy sites and on-street overnight parking, he added.

"Although these remedial measures are not new, the PDS has successfully identified the size and location of the problems so that we now know where and in what time frame they are needed.

"It is the Government's intention to carry forward the general recommendations of the PDS and to examine how these can be implemented on a district basis," Mr Lee said.

A three-month public consultation exercise will be carried out following the release of PDS on the consultants' recommended remedial measures.

End

Video-on-Demand regulatory proposals published

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The Government proposes to introduce a new category of licence under the Television Ordinance for Video-on-Demand (VOD) programme services, and has published a consultation paper outlining the suggested regulatory approach for public comments.

"We shall be inviting the comments of interested parties including the general public over the next four weeks, so that we can frame appropriate amendments to the Television Ordinance," the Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr T H Chau, said today (Tuesday).

"We believe that it is important to put the regulatory framework in place as soon as possible, and so we aim to introduce legislation to the Legislative Council before the end of this session."

It is the Government's position that VOD will be one of several types of multimedia service which is transmitted over broadband telecommunication networks.

Those who are connected to such a digital network will be able to call up films and television programmes on to their television screens at times of their own choice.

In addition, it will also be technically possible for multimedia service providers to offer a number of other services, such as home banking, home shopping, and a wide variety of information services.

As VOD programme services will be available to a majority of households within a few years, Mr Chau stressed that the content of such widely available services should be regulated to ensure that it met the basic standards of taste and public decency which the community expect.

"Since we believe that VOD programme services will compete for much the same audiences as pay TV, we consider that the conditions applicable to VOD programme service providers should be similar to those which apply to pay TV licensees.

"It is inevitable, given the various competing interests, that not everyone will like all aspects of our approach.

"But we believe that our proposals represent a fair balance between the interests of consumers, broadcasters and prospective VOD programme service providers," Mr Chau said.

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) will be invited to draw up Codes of Practice similar to those which apply to pay TV, and the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority will be responsible for the performance of programme service licensees to ensure compliance with the Television Ordinance and the terms of their licences.

However, the Government does not wish to broaden the controls to cover other services transmitted by multimedia service providers, that is, home banking and home shopping, which should be treated as forms of electronic publishing.

"Just as we do not regulate other published matter in printed form, such as newspapers and magazines, we do not think that it would be necessary or desirable to regulate the content of multimedia services which do not constitute television programming," Mr Chau said.

"The Government will continue to monitor the development of multimedia services, so that if there appears to be a need to regulate any aspect of them, we can consider what action should be taken."

On the eligibility conditions for a programme service licence, the Secretary said they would be substantially the same as those applying to all licensees under the Television Ordinance.

For example, licensees under the ordinance will be disqualified from holding more than 15 per cent of a programme service licence; unqualified voting controllers (that is, persons who are not ordinarily resident in Hong Kong) will not be able to exercise more than 49 per cent of the voting control over a licensee; and BA's approval will also be required for unqualified voting controllers to hold two per cent or more of the voting shares in the licensee.

The existing ban on certain categories of persons, including companies transmitting sound or television material, from holding more than 15 per cent of a programme service licensee might be waived or removed from the Television Ordinance, Mr Chau said.

He added that the question of whether licences should be available to any eligible applicant or should be limited in number would be looked into during the pay TV review, the outcome of which was expected to be published next month.

The consultation paper is obtainable from the Recreation and Culture Branch, 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong. Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Branch either by mail or by fax (2827 0119) on or before March 15.

End

New security company licensing scheme in good progress

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The Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority (SGSIA) has received over 60 applications for security company licence since the commencement of the application period in November last year.

The Authority's Chairman, Mrs Miriam Lau, said today (Tuesday) that the response was encouraging.

Under the new Security and Guarding Services Ordinance, a licence would be required for companies providing services such as guarding, armoured transportation, and installation and design of security devices with effect from June 1 this year.

Mrs Lau said she understood many companies were actively studying the licensing requirements and introducing improvements to their operations in preparation for the application.

"To allow sufficient time for the Police and the SGSIA to complete the processing of applications before June 1, it would be in their interest to apply as soon as possible," she said.

Mrs Lau said in determining an application for a security company licence, SGSIA would examine the company's background, its equipment and facilities, and its supervisory methods with reference to an investigation made by the Police.

"Each application will be considered at a public hearing session attended by representatives from the applicant company and the Police.

"So far the processing work for licence applications has progressed smoothly. The first public hearing was conducted last week to consider nine applications, and the first batch of licences will be issued within this month," she said.

Mrs Lau also reminded employees engaged in security work of the need to apply for security personnel permits under the Ordinance.

With effect from June 1, watchmen of residential buildings, armed or unarmed security guards, and technicians responsible for installation or design of security devices will need to possess a permit issued by the Commissioner of Police.

Mrs Lau said the Police had received over 2,000 applications and issued 1,083 permits so far.

In addition to appealing to security companies, she said, SGSIA had sent letters to all Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) and Owners Corporations (OCs) inviting their attention to the new ordinance.

"The key objective of the ordinance is to promote the quality of security service in residential and commercial premises, thereby aiding the fight against crime.

"The support and co-operation of MACs and OCs are essential in achieving this objective," Mrs Lau said.

Enquiries about permit applications should be directed to the Police Licensing Office on 2866 0300. As for licence applications, enquiries should be made to SGSIA on 2801 6181.

End

#### Territorial development review to complete in mid-1996

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The Territorial Development Strategy Review is now scheduled for completion in mid-1996, the Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, said today (Tuesday).

Speaking at his annual meet-the-media session, Dr Pun said the recommended strategy would comprise long-term (2011) development options under two scenarios and a medium-term (2006) strategy.

"A consultative report with a bilingual digest summarising all the key issues and principal findings of the review will be prepared for easy reference of the public," he said.

In the Metro area, the development statements for West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing and South East Kowloon has been completed, while those for Hong Kong Island West and for Central and East Kowloon are nearing completion.

A review of the Metroplan was being planned, said Dr Pun.

"The review is required to take account of altered demographic and socio-economic assumptions/data as well as decisions made on major infrastructure and development projects in recent years.

"In addition, the Development Statements completed/under preparation for the Metro districts have revealed that current development/redevelopment pressures have resulted in levels of development far exceeding the quantum recommended by the Selected Strategy."

Significant progress has also been made on the review of development strategies for various sub-regions in the New Territories (NT).

The Northeast NT Development Strategy Review has been approved in principle by the Committee on Planning and Land Development and an executive summary of the Review will soon be published for public inspection.

"Both the Northwest NT and Southwest NT Development Strategy reviews have reached their final stages of work and are expected to be completed by mid-1996," Dr Pun said.

During the past year, the department had been making substantial efforts in actions against unauthorised development (UD) in the NT, said Dr Pun.

He noted that a resolution to increase substantially the level of fines to a maximum of \$1 million for repeated offences under the Town Planning Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council last June.

In 1995, 379 cases of suspected UD were established for enforcement action, mainly in Yuen Long and North East NT.

A total of 374 enforcement notices, 38 reinstatement notices and 179 compliance notices were issued.

Meanwhile, a total of 67 planning applications in respect of UD were submitted to the Town Planning Board (TPB). Of these, 22 were approved, 34 rejected and 11 being processed.

"The increasing number of planning applications shows that people are becoming more familiar with the statutory planning requirements and are aware of Government's determination to clear the black spots in the NT," Dr Pun said.

By the end of 1995, 255 UD involving 83 hectares of land had discontinued and 81 cases involving 47 hectares of land were regularised.

Of the 47 summonses issued last year, a total of 45 defendants in 35 cases were convicted by the courts.

Dr Pun also disclosed that the department was co-ordinating a crosslinks study to assess the impact of the proposed Lingdingyang Bridge and Shenzhen Western Corridor on transport infrastructure, land use, environment and other related aspects of Hong Kong.

"The study, already commenced in September 1995, is expected to complete by May 1996," he said.

Meanwhile, action is in hand to introduce a Town Planning (Amendment) Bill which aims at making the planning system more open and accountable to the public, streamlining procedures and adopting a planning certificate system.

Several legislative amendments have been proposed in an interim amendment bill to overcome some of the imminent problems in the existing system and to further improve the efficiency in the operation of TPB.

"These include the setting up of committees to hear objections, provision for the appointment of more than one Deputy Chairman for the Town Planning Appeal Board (TPAB), definition of 'public officer' to put it beyond doubt that a judge may be appointed to the Appeal Board, and clarification on the nature of a continuing offence.

"This interim amendment bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on November 15, 1995, and is currently being considered by the Bills Committee," Dr Pun said.

Turning to the work achieved by TPB and its planning committees and TPAB, Dr Pun said two new outline zoning plans (OZPs) and 14 amended OZPs were formulated by the Board during the year. It also gave preliminary consideration to over 1,500 objections and heard about 160 objections.

Last year, the planning committees and TPB had considered about 750 planning applications and 130 reviews respectively. Of these, about 500 cases were approved upon first consideration while 63 approved upon review.

Since the introduction of the Town Planning (Appeals) Regulation in November 1991, a total of 90 appeals were received by TPAB as at the end of last year.

"In 1995, the TPAB received 31 appeals and heard 10 cases. By the end of the year, four out of the 90 appeals have been allowed, 33 have been dismissed, 29 have been abandoned or found invalid and 24 were awaiting to be heard," he said.

Reviewing other major planning studies commissioned by the department, Dr Pun said a consultancy study would be commissioned to help formulating a comprehensive urban renewal strategy and programme.

The study will take nine to 12 months to complete.

End

#### Teachers involve in hill fire commended

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In response to media enquiries on measures to commend the teachers involved in the Pat Sin Leng hill fire incident, the Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, said today (Tuesday):

"Government commends the four teachers in the Pat Sin Leng hill fire incident who so bravely and fully demonstrated their professionalism and determination to protect their students against all odds.

"We have received a number of proposals from several organisations for commemorating them.

"I have had initial discussions with some departments including the Agriculture and Fisheries and Radio Television Hong Kong. We are now considering the best way forward. We will co-ordinate and confer to follow up with departments and other appropriate bodies.

"On extra-curricular activities, I must emphasise their value in grooming young Hong Kong. They must continue."

End

Relief fund for teachers killed in hill fire approved

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The Social Welfare Department has approved a total of \$105,750 from the Emergency Relief Fund to the families of the two teachers who were killed in a hill fire at Pat Sin Leng Country Park last Saturday.

The family of Miss Wong Sau-mei will receive \$56,250 (\$9,000 as burial grant and \$47,250 as death grant) while the family of Mr Chau Chi-chai will get \$49,500 (\$9,000 as burial grant and \$40,500 as death grant).

Arrangements of burial grants to the families of the two deceased students are being processed.

Meanwhile, social workers and clinical psychologists of the department will continue their counselling and support services to the students and teachers of the Fung Yiu King Memorial Secondary School as well as family members of those hospitalised students at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

End

Trade involving outward processing in China statistics

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In the third quarter of 1995, 49% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 75% for domestic exports, and 45% for re-exports while on the other hand 76% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing.

According to statistics released today (Tuesday) by the Census and Statistics Department, over the same period, 80% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China.

The corresponding proportions in the third quarter of 1994 were 51% for total exports to China, 74% for domestic exports to China, 47% for re-exports to China, 80% for imports from China and 82% for re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

In January - September 1995, 49% of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing; the figure was 71% for domestic exports, and 45% for re-exports. On the other hand, 75% of Hong Kong's imports from China were related to outward processing.

Over the same period, 82% of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China.

The corresponding proportions in January - September of 1994 were 47% for total exports to China, 73% for domestic exports to China, 43% for re-exports to China, 78% for imports from China and 81% for re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

To provide a better understanding of the nature and importance of outward processing in China initiated by Hong Kong firms, the Census & Statistics Department has been conducting a sample survey as from the third quarter of 1988 to distinguish Hong Kong's exports to China into those which are for outward processing and those which are not.

The scope of the survey has been extended as from the first quarter of 1989 to segregate Hong Kong's imports from China into those which are related to outward processing and those which are not.

Starting from the first quarter of 1991, the scope of the survey has further been extended to cover Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China.

The results for the third quarter and January - September 1995 are now available.

In value terms, \$56,154 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China in the third quarter of 1995 were for outward processing, representing an increase of 10% over the third quarter of 1994.

The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing increased by 6% to \$12,244 million whilst the value of re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 11% to \$43,909 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 9% to \$113,756 million. On the other hand, \$138,581 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 13%.

In January - September 1995, \$160,588 million of Hong Kong's total exports to China were for outward processing, representing an increase of 22% over January - September 1994.

The value of domestic exports to China for outward processing increased by 5% to \$32,778 million while that for re-exports to China for outward processing grew by 27% to \$127,810 million.

Over the same period of comparison, the value of imports from China related to outward processing increased by 14% to \$298,271 million.

On the other hand, \$361,960 million of Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China were produced through outward processing in China, representing an increase of 19%.

For the purpose of the survey, exports to China for outward processing refer to raw materials or semi-manufactures exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

Imports from China related to outward processing refer to processed goods imported from China of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been under contractual arrangement exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing.

Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to processed goods re-exported through Hong Kong of which all or part of the raw materials or semi-manufactures have been exported from or through Hong Kong to China for processing with a contractual arrangement for subsequent re-importation of the processed goods into Hong Kong.

In interpreting the statistics, it should be noted that the value and proportion of imports from China and re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China involving outward processing in China refer to those of the entire goods instead of just the value added contributed by outward processing in China.

A sample of trade declarations in respect of Hong Kong's trade with China (domestic exports and re-exports to China, and imports from China) as well as Hong Kong's re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China is selected for enumeration to obtain the required information from the establishments concerned.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department explained that under the internationally accepted system of recording trade flows, all movements of goods (except transshipments and goods-in-transit) across the border, whether for outward processing or not, are recorded as external trade. Thus the movements of goods associated with outward processing are correctly included in the regular trade statistics.

The findings of the survey, however, facilitate a more informed analysis of the nature of Hong Kong-China trade. In this respect, the survey results are a useful supplement to the regular trade statistics.

The results of the survey will be included in the December 1995 issue of the report Hong Kong External Trade.

The report will be on sale by the end of this month at the Government Publications Sales Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, and at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai at \$122 a copy.

Enquiries on the survey results may be directed to the Trade Surveys and Research Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2582 5037.

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ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, 3RD QUARTER AND JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 1995

	3rd qtr. <u>1995</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over 3rd qtr. 1994 (%)	Jan.- Sep. <u>1995</u> (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over Jan. - Sep. 1994 (%)
<u>Total trade value * :</u>				
Total exports to China	114,290	+14.2	327,668	+17.8
Domestic exports to China	16,433	+ 4.5	46,051	+ 6.6
Re-exports to China	97,857	+16.0	281,616	+19.8
Imports from China	150,383	+14.8	398,323	+17.7
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	173,051	+16.7	442,427	+18.0

Estimated value involving outward processing in China :

Total exports to China	56,154	+ 9.8	160,588	+21.9
Domestic exports to China	12,244	+ 5.6	32,778	+ 4.5
Re-exports to China	43,909	+11.0	127,810	+27.3
Imports from China	113,756	+ 8.9	298,271	+13.6
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	138,581	+13.4	361,960	+18.6

Estimated proportion involving outward processing in China :

	3rd qtr. <u>1995</u> (%)	3rd qtr. <u>1994</u> (%)	Jan.- Sep. <u>1995</u> (%)	Jan.- Sep. <u>1994</u> (%)
Total exports to China	49.1	51.1	49.0	47.4
Domestic exports to China	74.5	73.7	71.2	72.6
Re-exports to China	44.9	46.9	45.4	42.7
Imports from China	75.6	79.8	74.9	77.6
Re-exports of China origin to all countries other than China	80.1	82.4	81.8	81.4

\* The value excludes commodities and transactions not classified according to kind.

End

Governor to visit counselling centre for substance abusers

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will visit a counselling centre for psychotropic substance abusers, PS33 (Psychotropic Substance 33), on Thursday (February 15) afternoon to look at the operation of the centre.

This is the seventh in a series of visits to agencies contributing to the reduction of drug abuse following the summit meeting chaired by the Governor in March last year.

Set up in March 1988, PS33 is the first centre for psychotropic substance abusers in Hong Kong. It is funded by government subventions and run by the Hong Kong Christian Service.

Major services provided by PS33 include casework counselling, telephone enquiry services and drop-in enquiries, case assessment and referrals for medical treatment.

The centre also conducts preventive-educational programmes to the general public and professional training to other helping professionals.

End

Injured employees must be protected

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Employers must protect their employees who are injured at work in accordance with the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO) otherwise they will face severe punishment.

A Senior Labour Officer of the Labour Department's Employees' Compensation Division, Mrs Jenny Chan, gave the warning today (Tuesday) following a recent court case in which the Wan Fa Design and Decoration Engineering Company Limited in Chai Wan was heavily fined in the Eastern Magistracy for violating the ECO.

The offence came to light as a result of investigations by Labour Department officers into a complaint made by an injured employee of the company in late January 1995.

Wan Fa was subsequently charged under ECO with three counts of failing to pay to the injured employee periodical payment within seven days after the date on which the compensation was due; one count each of failing to give notice to the Commissioner for Labour in the prescribed form within 14 days of the accident involving the injured employee and failing to take out insurance policy issued by an insurer for the full amount of liability of the employer.

The company was convicted of the offences in early January and was fined a total of \$70,000, of which \$20,000 was imposed on failing to provide insurance cover for the worker it employed.

Mrs Chan pointed out that the maximum penalty for failure to take out an insurance policy for an employee under Section 40 (1) of ECO is a \$25,000 fine plus one year's imprisonment on summary conviction.

"In 1995, we secured 513 convicted summonses under this Section of the ECO, an increase of 182 successful cases or 55 per cent when compared with the figures in 1994. The total amount of fines had also increased substantially from \$930,700 in 1994 to \$1,561,262 in 1995," she said.

Mrs Chan said the objective for employers to provide their employees with insurance cover was to ensure that an employer could fulfil his legal obligation to compensate his employees who were injured or die in a work-related accident.

This statutory requirement applies to employers hiring full-time and part-time employees as well as domestic helpers, she said.

"An employer must observe this legal requirement even though he employs only one employee," Mrs Chan stressed.

End

### Employers reminded of statutory holidays entitlement

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The Labour Department today (Tuesday) reminded employers that the first three days of the Lunar New Year (February 19 to 21) are statutory holidays for employees.

Under the Employment Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, are entitled to statutory holidays and must be paid for the day off if they have worked continuously for the same employer for three months or longer before 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 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 the holiday.

Enquiries about statutory holidays may be made at the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1771.

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### Enquiry Hotline for Trade Department comes into operation tomorrow

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The Trade Department's new Enquiry Hotline - 2392 2922 - will come into operation tomorrow (Wednesday) to provide the public with a convenient source of trade data and to handle requests for the department's application forms and information leaflets during and outside office hours.

The new service, an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), will offer a 24-hour enquiry service in either English, Cantonese or Putonghua as part of the department's on-going efforts to enhance the level of its services to meet increasing customer demands.

A department spokesman said today (Tuesday): "Members of the public can obtain such trade information as fees and charges, certification, licensing and application requirements and procedures and the validity of different kinds of certificates and licences by just calling the hotline number, 2392 2922.

"They can also obtain application forms and information leaflets on various services offered by the department through the IVRS and request for these to be sent to their fax machines."

Explaining the mode of its operation, the spokesman said IVRS would be operating on two major functions: audiotext and fax transmission.

"It will automatically receive all incoming telephone calls, prompting the callers by a digitised human voice to choose from a selection of pre-recorded messages or forms by pressing the specified numbers on a touch-tone telephone.

"The callers can either listen to standard voice messages or request for a form or information leaflet to be sent to their fax machines. The system also allows callers to talk to the operator who will transfer their calls to the relevant unit for further consultations," the spokesman said.

The following categories of trade information are obtainable from IVRS:

- \* Business hours;
- \* Fees and charges;
- \* Location of Trade Department and its counters;
- \* Procession time required and validity period of various applications;
- \* Registration procedures;
- \* Application and subscription procedures; and
- \* Other enquiries.

End

Second nomination for Siu Hei constituency by-election

\* \* \* \* \*

One more nomination was received today (Tuesday) for the Tuen Mun District Board by-election in respect of Siu Hei constituency to be held on March 24.

This is the second nomination received since the nomination period started last Friday.

The nomination was submitted by Miss Wong Yin-ping. She is a 34-year-old administrator.

Miss Wong can be contacted on 2476 5555.

Nomination will last until February 23.

End

63 pollution cases in January

\* \* \* \* \*

A total of 63 convictions were recorded in courts last month for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 20 were made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 17 under the Noise Control Ordinance, 12 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, another 12 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and two under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance.

The fines imposed on the offenders ranged from \$2,000 to \$40,000. Liu Kam-chuen, who operated the Yuet Heung Yuen Soy Factory, was fined \$40,000 for discharging polluting matter in the Deep Bay Water Control Zone.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

\* \* \* \* \*

Tender date	13 Feb 1996	13 Feb 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q607	H658
Issue date	14 Feb 1996	14 Feb 1996
Maturity date	15 May 1996	14 Aug 1996
Coupon	---	---
Amount applied	HK\$9,790 MN	HK\$6,780 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	4.84 PCT	4.85 PCT
Highest yield accepted	4.85 PCT	4.86 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 45 PCT	About 12 PCT
Average tender yield	4.87 PCT	4.88 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 22 Feb 1996

Tender date	22 Feb 1996	22 Feb 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q608	Y686
Issue date	23 Feb 1996	23 Feb 1996
Maturity date	22 May 1996	19 Feb 1997
Tenor	89 days	362 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$500+150 MN

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,775	0930	+26
Closing balance in the account	2,417	1000	+26
Change attributable to :		1100	+26
Money market activity	+25	1200	+25
LAF today	-383	1500	+25
		1600	+25

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.5 \*-0.1\* 13.2.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.73	2 years	2802	5.16	100.40	5.01
1 month	4.78	3 years	3901	5.57	101.20	5.19
3 months	4.86	5 years	5012	6.38	102.94	5.76
6 months	4.87	7 years	7211	6.82	104.52	6.09
12 months	4.87	5 years	M502	7.30	105.40	6.06

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$17,353 million

Closed February 13, 1996

End