

Road Traffic (Toll Tags) Regulation to be gazetted on Friday

The Road Traffic (Toll Tags) Regulation (the Regulation), which seeks to provide legal backing for the issuance and regulation of toll tags for implementation of a free-flow tolling system (FFTS) at government tolled tunnels and the Tsing Sha Control Area, will be gazetted on Friday (August 27).

With the aid of technology, an FFTS detects the use of a government tolled tunnel or the Tsing Sha Control Area by a vehicle through the reading of a toll tag, which is a self-adhesive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) sticker, affixed to the windscreen of the vehicle.

A spokesman for the Transport and Housing Bureau said today (August 25), "To suit individual motorists' needs, there will be two types of toll payment facility made available, namely 'vehicle tag' and 'class tag', for them to choose from. A 'vehicle tag' is for use in connection with a particular vehicle and the first 'vehicle tag' issued to a vehicle is free of charge. On the other hand, a 'class tag' is specific to a class of motor vehicles and for use on vehicles in the related vehicle class."

The Regulation will provide for the issuance of "vehicle tags" and "class tags" and stipulate requirements with respect to the use of toll tags, including using only one appropriate toll tag in connection with the vehicle and affixing the toll tag in a proper way as prescribed in the Regulation. The Government plans to issue "vehicle tags" to vehicle owners starting from mid-2022, and will make available "class tags" for procurement through designated channels. In addition, the Regulation will empower the Commissioner for Transport to specify a date from which the use of toll tags for all licensed motor vehicles is mandated in future.

The Secretary for Transport and Housing has also made a commencement notice for Part 9 of the Free-Flow Tolling (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2021 (the Commencement Notice) to enable the Transport Department to start collecting email addresses or mobile phone numbers from responsible persons of vehicles when they submit vehicle-related applications from November 1, 2021, onwards. This arrangement will facilitate the issuance of toll payment notification through electronic means.

The Regulation and the Commencement Notice will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on September 1.