

Refined arrangements for issuing Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle

The Transport Department (TD) said today (January 5) that the Government has completed the review on the process of issuing the Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle (the Certificate). The TD will implement the following refined arrangements from January 8 onwards:

(A) The TD will state the purposes of establishing the register of vehicles (the Register), which are:

- (1) regulating the use of vehicles;
- (2) enabling the law enforcement agencies to discharge their responsibilities; and
- (3) providing relevant information to persons directly affected by the ownership or use of a vehicle who as a result need to ascertain the particulars of that vehicle.

(B) In accordance with the purposes for which the Register is established, the TD will specify the conditions under which it will only issue the Certificate as follows:

- (1) The applicant is the registered owner of the vehicle; or
- (2) The applicant declares that he has obtained the written consent of the registered vehicle owner concerned to acquire the relevant Certificate, and that such information would only be used for purpose(s) as specified in the written consent of the registered vehicle owner concerned. The applicant must also state to the TD the identity document number/Certificate of Incorporation Number/Company Registration Number of the vehicle owner, and such information provided should conform with the records maintained by the TD; or
- (3) The applicant declares that his (or his principal's) interests are directly affected by the ownership or use of the vehicle, and therefore needs to ascertain the particulars of that vehicle, and that such information would only be used for the following specified purpose(s), including:
 - (a) sale and purchase of vehicle;
 - (b) insurance claims;
 - (c) compensation/claims;
 - (d) rectification of improper presence of the vehicle;
 - (e) recover of fees/fines/charges and payment of loan involving a vehicle;
 - (f) legal proceedings involving the vehicle; and
 - (g) safety recalls.

(C) With respect to the application procedures, the TD will continue to accept both existing means of application by way of paper-based application forms or online submissions. At the same time, the TD will issue the "Guidance Notes on the Applications for a Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle" (the Guidance Notes) concerning the arrangements for the application

for a Certificate, to provide details on the application procedures, the interpretation and examples of the specified purposes for which a Certificate could be issued, points to note, etc., for applicants' reference.

(D) In case the applicant considers that his application does not meet the aforementioned specified conditions but there is a need to ascertain the registered particulars of a vehicle due to other circumstances that involve the ownership or uses of the vehicle and significant public interest, and wishes the Commissioner for Transport to give special consideration for issuance of a Certificate, the applicant may make an application under exceptional circumstances through a written submission. The details of making an application under exceptional circumstances are also available in the Guidance Notes. Paper-based application forms and online applications are not applicable to applications under exceptional circumstances.

(E) The TD or the law enforcement agencies may conduct checks on applications as necessary. The TD may also conduct random checks on applications within two years from the dates of issuance of the Certificates. Applicants are required to retain all relevant supporting documents/information during the aforementioned period, which may be subject to checking in the future.

(F) Starting from January 2021, the TD launched the email notification service for "the issue of the Certificate of Particulars of Vehicle" that allows individual registered vehicle owners to be notified when an applicant has obtained their personal data from the Certificate. Under the refined arrangements, the TD will extend the above service to all registered vehicle owners, including those registered in the name of companies. In cases where the TD has issued a Certificate of a vehicle registered in the name of a vehicle owner who has subscribed to the service, the TD will notify him by email that a Certificate has been issued for an application concerning a vehicle registered in his name and set out the details of the application concerned.

Upon implementation of the refined arrangements, the application process for a Certificate will be enhanced. The TD will be able to further minimise the risk of potential misuse or abuse of the information kept in the Register, and step up the protection of registered vehicle owners' privacy.

The details of the refined arrangements, the revised Form TD318 (Rev. 01/2024) and the Guidance Notes have been uploaded to the TD's webpage (www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/licences_and_permits/rovaiocovp/index.html). The revised Form TD318 (Rev. 01/2024), as well as the Guidance Notes, will also be available from the TD's four Licensing Offices starting from January 8.

To accommodate the implementation of the refined arrangements, the arrangements for submission of applications for a Certificate are as follows:

(A) The online service for the application for a Certificate will be suspended from 5pm on January 5 to 8.59am on January 8 for system updates. The service will resume from 9am on January 8, accepting online applications; and

(B) The revised Form TD318 (Rev. 01/2024) will be in use starting from the implementation date of the refined arrangements, i.e. January 8. From January 8, the TD will only accept applications using the revised Form TD318 (Rev. 01/2024) (except for applications under exceptional circumstances). From January 8, if the existing version of the Form TD318 (Rev. 10/2019) is used for an application, the TD will not process the application and will return it to the applicant.

Phishing email and fraudulent website related to Alipay Financial Services (HK) Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a [press release](#) issued by Alipay Financial Services (HK) Limited relating to a phishing email and a fraudulent website. The relevant stored value facility (SVF) licensee has reported the case to the HKMA.

The phishing email and the fraudulent website reported by the SVF licensee known at the time are as follows:

admin@ainolserhos[.]live
https[:]//un[.]mx/zebi/

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that anyone who has provided his or her personal information or account credentials, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the email and the website concerned, should contact the relevant SVF licensee, and report to the Police or contact the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre of the Police at 18222.

Hong Kong's latest foreign currency reserve assets figures released

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (January 5) that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$425.5 billion as at the end of December 2023 (end-November 2023: US\$424.6

billion) (Annex).

There were no unsettled foreign exchange contracts at end-December 2023 (end-November 2023: US\$0.2 billion).

The total foreign currency reserve assets of US\$425.5 billion represent over five times the currency in circulation or about 40 per cent of Hong Kong dollar M3.

At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of January 2024, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

January 5	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
January 12	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
January 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
January 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account

[Effective Exchange Rate Index](#)

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, January 5, 2024 is 104.4 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

[Grading of beach water quality released](#)

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (January 5) released the latest grading of water quality for four gazetted beaches that are open

all year round for swimming.

Three beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and one as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Clear Water Bay Second Beach Golden Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach

Grade 2 beach is:

Silverstrand Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, there was no change in the grading for these beaches.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, an EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a tropical cyclone or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666. Members of the public can also obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches that are open for swimming through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast) on the EPD's beach thematic website.