

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB057

(Question Serial No. 0919)

Head: (100) Marine Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (3) Local Services
Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Mr S.F. WONG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

Please provide the following information:

- (1) the changes in the annual number of port calls by river barges visiting Hong Kong in the past 3 years;
- (2) the items and corresponding amounts of all fees payable by river barges visiting Hong Kong; and
- (3) whether the Government has set aside sufficient funds to support local ports in attracting the transshipment of cargo via barges from the Pearl River Delta to Hong Kong; if yes, of the details.

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong, Erik (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) The number of river trade cargo vessels visiting Hong Kong and the corresponding changes in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of visits to Hong Kong	Annual change
2023	43 467	-10.8%
2024	44 020	+1.3%
2025	42 255	-4.0%

- (2) River trade vessels visiting Hong Kong are required to pay the following fees in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 548J):

A) Arrival Clearance	\$58
B) Port Clearance	\$58
C) Single-Trip Permit to Remain	<p>The fee payable by a vessel is calculated based on its area in square metres. For a vessel where the area is less than 400 square metres, the fee payable is \$820; for a vessel where the area is 400 square metres or more, the fee payable is \$820 plus \$2.2 for each square metre of the difference between the area of the vessel and 400 square metres (rounded up to the next whole number if the difference is not a whole number).</p> <p>Note: If a vessel remains in the waters of Hong Kong for 8 or more consecutive days, the same fees as those specified above shall be payable for the following periods, including (a) each period of 7 consecutive days during that occasion; and (b) the remaining days during that occasion.</p>
<u>or</u>	
A permit that may be used for not more than 10 occasions within one monthly period (commonly referred to as a “Multiple Entry Permit”)	<p>The fee payable by a vessel is calculated based on its area in square metres. For a vessel where the area is less than 400 square metres, the fee payable is \$4,100; for a vessel where the area is 400 square metres or more, the fee payable is \$4,100 plus \$11 for each square metre of the difference between the area of the vessel and 400 square metres (rounded up to the next whole number if the difference is not a whole number).</p>

- (3) The Transport and Logistics Bureau formulated the Action Plan on Maritime and Port Development Strategy in December 2023 to support the development of the maritime and port industry. The Action Plan outlines various action measures to consolidate Hong Kong’s status as a regional transshipment hub and international maritime centre, including conducting a review on the permit fees imposed on river trade vessels, with a view to maintaining the port’s competitiveness and attractiveness to the industry. We are conducting a review in this regard and will continue to closely monitor the operating situation of the industry, with a view to introducing timely measures to support its development.

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