

Annex II

Requirements on drivers' physical health and health check arrangements by public transport operators

Regarding road-based public transport modes including franchised buses, non-franchised buses and trams, all drivers must be holders of driving licences and must therefore meet the statutory requirements regarding physical health of the licence holders on new application, reissue or renewal of a driving licence under the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B) (“the Regulations”).

Franchised buses

All bus captains are required to declare their health conditions and pass a health check before joining the service. Since 2007, all franchised bus companies have required, as requested by the Transport Department, bus captains aged 50 years or more to undergo health checks every year, with items including chest examination, eyesight, hearing, diabetes, blood pressure, blood and urine tests. For bus captains aged 60 or more, an electrocardiogram is also required. In addition, the franchised bus companies also require their bus captains to declare any disease or physical disability specified in the First Schedule to the Regulations to ensure that the captains are medically fit to drive buses. Guidelines have also been issued to remind their bus captains not to continue driving if feeling unwell while on duty and to seek medical consultation promptly.

Non-franchised buses

We understand that some operators require newly recruited drivers to provide health check certificates. Although the operators generally do not require their drivers to undergo health checks annually, drivers found to be unwell or in abnormal mental condition when coming to work will not be assigned driving duties and they will be asked to see a doctor for treatment or medical examination.

Trams

All newly recruited drivers are required to declare their medical history and pass a health check. All drivers are required to undergo an eyesight test annually; drivers aged between 55 and 59 are required to undergo eyesight and blood pressure tests annually; and drivers aged 60 or above are required to undergo a general check-up annually.

Peak trams

All newly recruited peak tram operators are required to pass a health check. Regardless of age, all serving operators are required to undergo a health check annually with items including an electrocardiogram as well as tests on pulmonary and liver functions. Operators not feeling well are required to report to the management for appropriate arrangements by the company.

MTR

Train captains are required to pass a health check before joining the MTR Corporation Limited (“the MTRCL”). The MTRCL requires all MTR train/bus captains to undergo health check annually with items including chest examination, eyesight, diabetes and blood pressure tests. An electrocardiogram is also required for train/bus captains aged 45 and above. The MTRCL has issued clear guidelines that due to safety considerations, both the staff members and their supervisors are responsible for ensuring that the former are physically fit to perform duties. The MTRCL encourages voluntary declaration of physical health by the staff members to facilitate appropriate work arrangements. If the MTRCL is in doubt about the health conditions of any employees, health checks will be arranged accordingly.

Ferries

Major ferry operators require their crew members to pass a health check performed by medical practitioners specified by the companies before employment. Although the operators generally do not require their crew members to undergo medical examination annually, they encourage voluntary reporting of health conditions by the crew members who feel unwell in order to make appropriate work arrangement.