

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(31.1.94)

(ACE 4/94)
(For information)

**Increase of Fees under
Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance - Cap. 403
Road Traffic Ordinance - Cap. 374**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the proposed increase in various fees payable under legislation intended to protect the environment. This is a regular exercise and is designed to take into account inflation since the fees were introduced or last revised. A separate paper (ACE /94-95) seeking Members' advice for fee revisions under environmental protection legislation should be read in conjunction with this paper.

BACKGROUND

2. It is Government policy that fees should, in general, be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services. The fees payable to the Director of Environmental Protection under The Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance and the Road Traffic Ordinance have not been revised for some time. The fees payable for the registration and issue of licences set out in the Ozone Layer Protection (Fees) Regulations were introduced in 1989. To cover the increase in costs since 1989, these fees should be increased by about 50%. The fees related to the designation as vehicle emission testing centres and the testing of motor vehicles Under the Road Traffic Ordinance have not been revised since they were introduced in 1991. It is proposed that these fees should be increased by about 20% to cover the increased costs since their introduction.

3. In accordance with the Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Ordinance 1993, which came into operation on 28 May 1993, the Financial Secretary (including the Secretary for the Treasury) has the power to vary fees which have previously been fixed by subsidiary legislation made by the Governor-in-Council. The Secretary for the Treasury, following discussion with Environmental Protection Department and Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, intends to revise the fees specified in the Ozone Layer Protection (Fees) Regulations made pursuant to the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403).

4. It is intended that the Governor, by order, shall revise the fees related to the designation as vehicle emission testing centres and the testing of motor vehicles prescribed under Schedule 10 to the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374).

THE PROPOSAL

5. It is proposed to revise fees under the specified Ordinances as follows -

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	\$	\$
I. Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance - Cap. 403		
(a) For registration	1,000.00	1,505.00
(b) For a licence	500.00	755.00
II. Road Traffic Ordinance - Cap. 374		
(a) Fee payable for designation or renewal of designation of a place as a vehicle emission testing centre	1,000.00	1,205.00
(b) Fee to be charged in respect of a test of a motor vehicle (\$/examination)	140.00	170.00
(c) Fee payable for supply of Form of Certificate of Compliance (\$/Cert.)	14.00	17.00

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5. Additional revenue to be generated by the fee increases is estimated to be \$251,000.00 per annum. There is no staffing implication.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

6. The revised fees represent an insignificant portion of the operating costs borne by the affected sectors. The general public will not be affected.

PUBLIC REACTION

7. It is unlikely that the proposed fee revisions will attract much public attention. We do not envisage organisations and individuals requiring these documents to raise any strong objection as the increases are in line with inflation.

CONCLUSION

8. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

Environmental Protection Department
January, 1994