



環境保護署

Environmental Protection Department

# A small change makes great improvement. Work together to build a better environment

Please use a fully-enclosed refuse collection vehicle

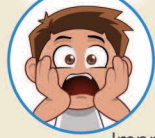


Government

Waste disposal trade

Property owners, property management companies and relevant parties

## Background



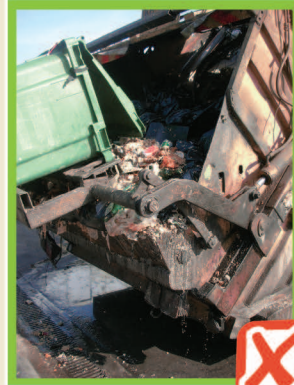
Every day, hundreds of Refuse Collection Vehicles# (RCVs) collect waste from domestic, commercial, industrial and institutional establishments all over Hong Kong.

Improper operation and maintenance of RCVs may create odour, overflowing and dripping leachate problems, which not only pollute the environment and affect environmental hygiene, but also pose a nuisance to nearby residents and the community.

### Open-type refuse collection vehicle



▲ Exposed refuse giving off odour and causing public nuisance



▲ Overflowing and dripping leachate dirtying the streets and affecting environmental hygiene



### Replacement Programme for Government RCVs

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has taken the lead in replacing government RCVs with fully enclosed ones since 2002, i.e. equipped with a metal tailgate cover, a waste water tank installed underneath the vehicle body and a sump tank located between the rear axle and hopper unit.

Currently, there are about 140 governments RCVs operated by FEHD and they are either fitted with a packer plate to cover the rear refuse hopper or are of an enclosed type design. About 130 are of an enclosed type design, and it is expected that the remaining ones will be replaced with those of an enclosed type design in or before 2013.

### FEHD's Refuse Collection Service Contracts



It is stipulated in FEHD's refuse collection service contracts that the contractors' RCVs must be equipped with sump tank(s) at the bottom of the vehicles. Furthermore, all RCVs of contractors must be fitted with tailgate cover to prevent the emission of odour, and contractors are required to use fully-enclosed RCVs as provided in the refuse collection service contracts commencing after May 2011. It is expected that all RCVs of its contractors will be replaced by those of fully-enclosed type design by 2015.

# RCVs with a rear compactor for compaction of collected refuse

### Fully-enclosed refuse collection vehicle



Metal tailgate cover



Sump tank

Waste water tank



### Replacement/Retrofitting Programme for Private RCVs

Similarly, the waste disposal trade should upgrade as soon as possible the standard of the existing open-type RCVs by retrofitting them with a metal tailgate cover and waste water tank/sump tank or replacing them with fully-enclosed RCVs to avoid causing nuisance to the public and enhance environmental hygiene and the trade's image.



▲ RCV before retrofitting



▲ RCV after retrofitting

### Proper Management • Code of Practice



Even when RCVs are well equipped, they should also be managed and operated properly. Therefore, a Code of Practice on the Operation of Refuse Collection Vehicles has been prepared by the EPD in collaboration with relevant government departments and the trade. The Code of Practice aims to provide general guidelines in respect of environmental hygiene and safety for the waste disposal sector to observe, with a view to avoiding nuisance caused by RCVs to the environment and community during their operation. The Code of Practice also raises environmental hygiene and safety awareness among the employees in operating RCVs, thus enhancing the overall performance of the waste disposal trade.



### Review of Current Private Refuse Collection Service Contracts

Property owners, property management companies and relevant parties should consider requiring their outsourced waste collection contractors to provide fully-enclosed RCVs in their current or future refuse collection service contracts to enter their premises to collect waste.



The Way Forward



As generators of waste, we all have a responsibility to protect our environment and ensure that the waste disposed of is properly collected for treatment or disposal.



The waste disposal trade should follow the Government's approach to upgrade their fleet of RCVs by replacing open-type RCVs with fully-enclosed ones or retrofitting them. The clients (e.g. property owners, property management companies) of waste collection contractors should demand their outsourced contractors to deploy fully-enclosed RCVs to collect waste from their premises.



The Government will continue to work closely with the trade in following the Code of Practice to upgrade themselves and enhance their overall performance. On the other hand, relevant government departments would also undertake enforcement actions against the trade for non-compliance with the relevant legislations to safeguard public hygiene and safety. In the longer term, the need to regulate RCVs to ensure that they are totally enclosed with metal tailgate cover and equipped with waste water tank/sump tank may be considered.

Joint efforts of the Government, the trade and the public will make Hong Kong a greener and cleaner world city.