

**Adoption of the latest version of ‘PATH’ or ‘EMFAC-HK’
for air quality assessment of projects under the
Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (‘EIAO’) (Cap. 499)**

The Environmental Protection Department (‘EPD’) develops and provides computer modelling tools for projecting future regional background air quality (‘PATH’) and calculating vehicle emissions (‘EMFAC-HK’) for use by project proponents in air quality assessment as part of the EIA studies under the EIAO. From time to time, EPD reviews the ‘PATH’ and ‘EMFAC-HK’ computer models to keep pace with the advancement in air quality sciences and computer technology, and releases updated versions as and when necessary. These models are accepted by EPD for air quality assessment in EIA studies. Where necessary, EPD may set out in EIA study brief special requirements and require further justifications on the use of these models. Any alternatives to these models as proposed by the project proponents have to be justified to the satisfaction of EPD.

2. When a new version of ‘PATH’ or ‘EMFAC-HK’ is ready for use, EPD will make available the new version on its website. EPD will provide user guides, installation manuals and updated input data files, including trial, if appropriate, of the new version at the following EPD web links:-

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/guide_ref/guide_aqa_model.html

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/guide_ref/emfac-hk.html

3. All EIA study briefs to be issued after the availability date will include a requirement to use the new version of ‘PATH’ or ‘EMFAC-HK’ for the air quality assessment. Project proponents who are planning to initiate a new EIA process for their projects should note and get prepared.

4. As for EIA studies being conducted, a 6-month period after the availability date will be allowed for project proponents and their study teams to adapt to the new models and to reduce abortive work. During this transition period, EIA reports submitted under Section 6 of the EIAO may continue to use the previous old model version for the air quality assessment.

5. Project proponents or their consultants who have questions in relation to the EIA process may contact Ms. Mable Chan of EPD at 2835 1837 for further information or clarification.

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2 March 2018