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(ACE 17/95)
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 the increase in costs since the fees were last revised. A separate paper (ACE 16/95) 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 fee rates were last reviewed in December 1993 and revised in June 1994. It is now proposed to amend the fees to account for the increase in administrative costs on the basis of inflation from 1993-95, i.e. 17.8%

3. Section 29A of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) empowers the Financial Secretary (which means also Secretary for the Treasury) 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 of 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 (S.5)	1,505.00	1,775.00
(b) For a licence (S.6)	755.00	890.00
II Road Traffic Ordinance - Cap.374		
(a) Fee payable for designation or renewal of designation of a place as a vehicle emission testing centre (S.77C)	1,205.00	1,420.00
(b) Fee to be charged in respect of a test of a motor vehicle (\$/examination) (S.77C)	170.00	200.00
(c) Fee payable for supply of Form of Certificate of Compliance (\$/Cert.) (S.77C)	17.00	20.00

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6. Additional revenue to be generated by the fee increases is estimated to be \$317,000 per annum. There is no staffing implication.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

7. 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

8. 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

9. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper. The revised fees are expected to be implemented in mid-1995.