什麼是汽油氣體回收系統？
汽油含有揮發性有機化合物，會在車輛油缸內揮發。車輛加油時，油缸內的揮發性有機化合物會被注入的汽油攜出，並散逸於大氣中。汽油氣體回收系統是一個工程系統，用以收集加油時被攜出的揮發性有機化合物到加油站的地下油缸內和予以貯存。

為甚麼要使用氫體回收系統控制加油時揮發性有機化合物的排放？
揮發性有機化合物會在大氣中形成臭氧和微粒，所產生的煙囪令能見度下降，會影響旅遊業及我們的健康，例如會刺激眼睛、鼻和咽喉，甚至會令患有心葉和呼吸疾病(如哮喘)的人士病情惡化。此外，汽油氣體會致癌物質苯，會威脅人體健康。它的氣味，亦會對附近居民造成滋擾。

為控制加油時揮發性有機化合物的排放，政府自2005年3月起，規定所有新加油站必須安裝汽油回收系統，而現有的加油站亦須於2008年3月30日或之前安裝該系統。

如何得知哪個加油站已安裝氫體回收系統？
在裝有氫體回收系統的加油站內，你可看到大證書和新型的油槍(如圖所示)。在加油時亦只會嗅到很輕微或完全沒有汽油味。
What is Vapour Recovery System for refuelling?
Petrol contains volatile organic compounds (VOC) that evaporate inside the fuel tank of your vehicle. When you refuel your vehicle, the VOC will be displaced by the incoming petrol and dispersed into the atmosphere. The Vapour Recovery System is an engineered system for collecting the VOC displaced during refuelling and storing it in the underground storage tank of a petrol filling station.

Why do we need Vapour Recovery System to control VOC emissions when refuelling?
VOC is responsible for the formation of ozone and fine particulates in the atmosphere. They result in smog which impairs visibility and has a negative impact on tourism. Smog can also affect our health - it may irritate our eyes, nose and throat, and may worsen existing heart and respiratory problems such as asthma. Besides, petrol vapour contains benzene, a carcinogen, which increases potential threat to our health. Its smell is also a nuisance to people nearby.

To control VOC emissions when refuelling, the Government has required all new petrol filling stations to have Vapour Recovery Systems built in since March 2005 and all existing stations to add in the system by 30 March 2008.

How do I know which petrol filling station has Vapour Recovery System?
At a petrol filling station with the Vapour Recovery System, you will see a large certificate and new type of fuel dispensing nozzle like the one shown. Also, you will only smell very faint petrol odour or even none at all when refuelling.

Why do some vehicles have difficulties in refuelling at a petrol filling station with Vapour Recovery System?
The new fuel dispensing nozzle requires the nozzle spout to be fully inserted into the filler pipe of your vehicle for recovering the most vapour. A small number of older, parallel imported vehicles, which might not be specifically made for the Hong Kong market, may however have difficulties because the filler inlet’s diameter may be too small for the nozzle spout or the filler flap may be too deep down the filler pipe for the nozzle spout to push open.

If my vehicle is incompatible with the new fuel dispensing nozzle, what should I do?
Oil companies will provide refuelling service to all vehicles as far as practicable. However, for safeness and benefit of our environment and your health, you should modify the filler pipe of your vehicle if it cannot be refuelled satisfactorily. Only a simple conversion is needed for the filler pipe and associated parts to make your vehicle compatible with the Vapour Recovery System. The changes are easy and can be done in most vehicle repair shops.

As all petrol filling stations will have Vapour Recovery Systems and use the new fuel dispensing nozzles by 30 March 2008, please act now and perform the conversion as earliest as possible to avoid any inconvenience.

Where can I obtain further information about how and where to perform the conversion?
You may contact the Hong Kong Vehicle Repair Merchants Association Ltd. (Tel. No.: 2399 7977) or the Right Hand Drive Motors Association (Hong Kong) Ltd. (Tel. No.: 2383 8787) to obtain further information.

For further information about Vapour Recovery System, please contact:
Environmental Protection Department
33/F, Revenue Tower, Gloucester Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel. No.: 2838 3111
Or visit our website at : http://www.epd.gov.hk

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