

PORT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Updates on the Latest Development of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Purpose

Members are invited to refer to the **Annex** for the Updates on the Latest Development of Municipal Solid Waste Charging, and submit comments, if any, by replying to the Secretariat on or before 7th October 2022.

Marine Department
21 September 2022

Updates on the Latest Development of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Purpose

This paper aims to brief members on the latest development of Municipal Solid Waste Charging (MSW charging) as well as the corresponding updates of the refuse collection modes for local vessels and ocean-going vessels and invite their comments to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Marine Department (MD).

Background

2. Following the passage of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in August 2021, a preparatory period of 18 months has commenced. The Government is now proactively taking forward relevant preparatory work to enable the Government, various stakeholders and members of the public to get prepared for the implementation of MSW charging. As mentioned in the paper to LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs in April 2022, depending on the work progress and the latest epidemic situation, our target is to implement MSW charging in the second half of 2023.

Charging Modes

3. In line with the “polluter-pays” principle, MSW charges are levied through the dual modes of (a) charging by pre-paid designated garbage bags (D-bags) / designated labels (D-labels) (charging by D-bags) and (b) charging by weight-based “gate-fee” (charging by weight). The charging mode applicable to a waste producer would depend on the waste collection service used by him/her. For details, please refer to **Appendix** or browse the dedicated website for MSW charging: <https://www.mswcharging.gov.hk/how.php?lang=en>.

4. For the sales of D-bags and D-labels, EPD will establish a retail network comprising of few thousand retail outlets covering supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and online platforms.

Refuse Collection Modes for Local Vessels

5. Currently, the marine cleansing services contractor of MD provides free of charge daily domestic refuse collection services to local vessels in typhoon shelters, anchorages and small boat anchorages. At the same time, the cleansing contractor distributes yellow plastic garbage bags to local vessels. After the implementation of MSW charging, with a view to tying in with the government policy, the MD's cleansing contractor will only collect the domestic refuse wrapped in the D-bags or oversized domestic refuse affixed with the D-labels in line with the statutory requirements, from local vessels.

Refuse Collection Modes for Ocean-going Vessels

6. Currently, the marine cleansing contractor of MD provides free of charge daily domestic refuse collection services to ocean-going vessels in the Victoria Harbour, Junk Bay and the Western Anchorages. Starting from 1 October 2022, MD will only arrange the marine cleansing services contractor to provide refuse collection services upon receiving the relevant service application. For those ocean-going vessels that would like to apply for the refuse collection services, they may call +852 2534 7227 or +852 2534 7228 during office hours, or send an email (email address: admpcu@mardep.gov.hk) to the Pollution Control Unit of MD at any time. The applicant shall provide the necessary information, such as the quantity of domestic refuse to be collected (calculated in cubic metres), the name and location of the ship, etc., in the application. Furthermore, after the implementation of MSW charging, with a view to tying in with the government policy, MD's cleansing contractor will only collect domestic refuse wrapped in D-bags or oversized domestic refuse affixed with D-labels in line with the statutory requirements, from ocean-going vessels which have applied for refuse collection services.

Preparatory Work by Local Vessels

7. With a view to preparing for the implementation of MSW charging, person-in-charge of local vessels or related organisations can take the following actions during the preparatory period:

- (i) Understand the legislation requirements: Members of the public can understand the legislation requirements and implementation arrangements, with reference to the dedicated website of MSW

charging.

- (ii) Understand the charging mode of the places where vessels are located: As mentioned above, the applicable charging mode would depend on the waste collection mode of the relevant places. Members of the public can proactively approach their service contractors / property management companies (if applicable) to understand the waste collection mode of their premises during the preparatory period, so as to ascertain the collection and charging arrangements of the domestic waste of their vessels upon implementation of MSW charging.
- (iii) Cultivate the habit of waste reduction and recycling: Members of the public can reduce expenditure on MSW charging through proactively reducing waste at source and practicing clean recycling. If there are recycling facilities nearby, person-in-charge of local vessels and institutions can dispose of the sorted recyclables in the facilities according to the instructions.

Members of the public can also make good use of EPD's community recycling network "GREEN@COMMUNITY", which comprises 11 Recycling Stations, 32 Recycling Stores and over 120 Recycling Spots with services covering all 18 districts across the territory as well as Reverse Vending Machines (RVM), and deliver the sorted recyclables to these recycling points and practice recycling proactively in our daily lives. For details, please refer to the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website: <https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en/index.htm>.

Support from EPD

8. EPD has launched a dedicated website for MSW charging (<https://www.mswcharging.gov.hk/?lang=en>) and educational videos to explain the charging arrangements. Please refer to the following link for the promotional videos related to the charging mechanism: <https://www.mswcharging.gov.hk/page.php?lang=en&id=150>.

9. EPD will partner and collaborate with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups and schools, etc. in launching activities promoting MSW charging.

10. In case of any enquiries related to MSW charging, please contact EPD Customer Service Centre hotline at +852 2838 3111, or email to mwcharging@epd.gov.hk.

Way Forward

11. EPD will report progress of the preparatory work to the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs in a timely manner and seek their views on the actual commencement date for implementing MSW charging.

Advice Sought

12. Members are invited to note the latest development of MSW charging and are welcomed to provide comments to the departments concerned.

Enquiry

13. In case of any enquiry related to MSW charging, please contact Mr Muller Tang of EPD by phone at +852 3521 1413, or by email: mullerhwtang@epd.gov.hk. For enquires related to the refuse collection services for local vessels and ocean-going vessels, please call Government Hotline +852 1823 or contact MD by email: admpecu@mardep.gov.hk.

Environmental Protection Department
Marine Department

September 2022

MSW Charging – Charging Modes

In line with the “polluter-pays” principle, MSW charges are levied through the dual modes -

- (a) charging by pre-paid **designated garbage bags (D-bags) / designated labels (D-labels)**; or
- (b) charging by **weight-based “gate-fee”**. The charging mode applicable to a waste producer would depend on the waste collection service used by him/her.

(a) Charging by pre-paid D-bags & D-labels

- Applicable to most **residential buildings, commercial and industrial buildings, village houses, street-level shops and institutional premises**.
- The premise is using **any one of the waste collection services** below -
 - (i) Waste collected by the refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) or its contractors;
 - (ii) Waste collected by private waste collectors using RCVs with rear compactors; and
 - (iii) Waste disposed of by waste generators themselves / waste collection staff at the FEHD Refuse Collection Points.
- The mode of using D-bags / D-labels is also applicable to the domestic refuse collection services provided by MD to local vessels, which are moored in the typhoon shelters, anchorages and small boat anchorages; and ships in the Victoria Harbour, Junk Bay and the Western Anchorages.

Example: Disposal of domestic refuse by D-bags / D-labels

- Local vessels are required to wrap their domestic refuse into D-bags before disposing them to the MD’s marine cleansing services contractor for collection. For oversized refuse which cannot be wrapped into the D-bags, local vessels are required to affix a D-label on the items before disposing.

(b) “Gate-fee”

- Mainly applicable to oversized waste or waste which is irregular in shape generated from commercial and industrial premises. When such waste is disposed of at the landfills and refuse transfer stations, a gate-fee will be charged based on its weight.
- Waste in the premise is collected by private waste collectors using refuse collection vehicles without rear compactors.
- The above mode is also applicable to the handling of oversized or large amounts of non-domestic waste.

Charging Details of D-bags & D-labels

The price of the D-bags is \$0.11 per litre, with nine different sizes for general use by the public, including t-shirt (3L-15L) and flat-top (20L-100L) designs.

3L	5 L	10 L	15 L	20 L	35 L	50 L	75 L	100 L
\$0.3	\$0.6	\$1.1	\$1.7	\$2.2	\$3.9	\$5.5	\$8.5	\$11

D-labels are charged with a uniform rate of \$11 each.

Charging Details of “Gate-fee”

Facilities	Waste Vehicle Type	Charge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All landfills• North Lantau Transfer Station• Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities (OITFs)	Waste Vehicle in Private Use (With Compactor) (Please refer to the photo below for reference)	Free of charge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four urban transfer stations• North West New Territories Transfer Station		\$30 per tonne

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All landfills • North Lantau Transfer Station • OITF at Ma Wan 	<p>Waste Vehicle in Private Use (Without Compactor) (Please refer to the photo below for reference)</p>	<p>\$365 per tonne</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except OITF at Ma Wan, other OITFs 		<p>\$3.65 per 0.01 tonne subject to a minimum charge of \$3.65</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four urban transfer stations • North West New Territories Transfer Station 		<p>\$395 per tonne</p>

Waste Vehicle in Private Use (With Compactor)



Waste Vehicle in Private Use (Without Compactor)

