

DETAILS OF MEASURES TO ENHANCE SAFETY OF WORKERS

From 1 September 2009, the following measures will be introduced:

i. **Lower maximum allowable height of a seated worker**

Currently, no part of the worker, when he is in a sitting position, shall be at a height exceeding 3.2 metres from the surface upon which the vehicle rests. To further lower the risk of a worker falling off from the back of a lorry, this regulation will be enhanced so that no part of the worker when he is in a sitting position shall be more than 1.1 metres¹ from the carriage deck.

Drivers who do not comply with the height requirement of 1.1 metres from the carriage deck for a seated worker may face a penalty of \$200.

ii. **Passenger seat(s) in the lorry's cabin must be filled up before workers can be carried at the rear carriage compartment of lorries**

All the passenger seat(s) in the lorries' cabin must be filled up before workers can be carried on the carriage deck. Besides from the benefit of having more passengers seated in a safer environment, the front seat passenger(s) can also assist the driver by ensuring that workers carried on the carriage deck area, if any, are properly seated, and remind the driver to abide by the speed limit.

Drivers who do not comply with the new regulation may face a penalty of \$200.

iii. **Enhanced penalties for non-compliance with safety regulations**

To achieve a greater level of deterrence to drivers who fail to comply with safety regulations, penalties for non-compliance with safety regulations will be enhanced. Details are summarised as follows:

Offence	Existing Penalty	Revised Penalty
Carrying excess workers (not exceeding 25% of the allowable number)	1st offence: \$200 2nd offence: \$500 Subsequent offences: Court Action	1st offence: \$500 Subsequent offences: Court Action
Carrying excess workers (exceeding 25% of the allowable number)	Prosecution in court*	

¹ The average height of a person, when seated cross-legged on the carriage deck, should not exceed 1.1 metres from the deck.

Offence	Existing Penalty	Revised Penalty
Exceeding speed limit	Up to 24 demerit points + Fine Or prosecution in court (depending on excess speed)	
Carrying passengers on a goods vehicle in a dangerous manner	Light Goods Vehicles: 6 demerit points + \$150 fine^ Heavy Goods Vehicles: 6 demerit points + \$180 fine^	
Failure to display MPC label	\$50 composition fine	\$100 composition fine
Displaying incorrect MPC label	\$50 composition fine	\$100 composition fine

* First-time offenders: A fine not exceeding \$1,000 or a jail term not exceeding 3 months Repeat offenders: A fine not exceeding \$2,000 or a jail term not exceeding 6 months

^The existing penalty for carrying passengers on a goods vehicle in a dangerous manner already commensurate with similar offences such as careless driving, and driving 21 to 30 km/h above the speed limit

iv. **Enforcement operations stepped-up**

Targeted enforcement against drivers and owners who fail to comply with the safety regulations in place has been stepped-up since early 2008 and will be further intensified.

v. **Hotline opened for public to report non-compliance with safety regulations**

The public can help by calling the LTA Hotline (1800-CALL LTA) to report any instances of non-compliance spotted on the road, such as lorries carrying excess workers or in a dangerous/precarious manner.

vi. **Outreach programmes extended**

The Workgroup recognises that ensuring safety is the joint responsibility of the Government, employers, drivers, workers and other road users. Government agencies such as LTA, MOM, Traffic Police and the various associations will continue in outreach programmes to educate employers and workers on their responsibilities and showcase safety best practices.

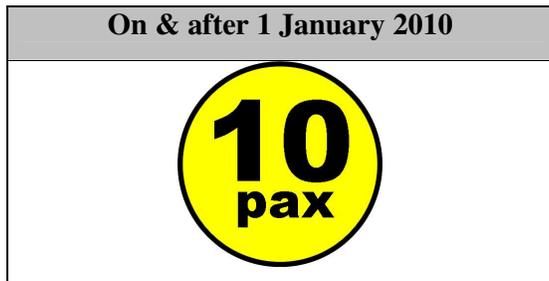
From 1 January 2010:

i. **Higher protective side railings and canopies required for newly-registered lorries transporting workers**

- a) The requirement for higher protective side railings will apply to all lorries² (including heavy lorries) registered from 1 January 2010 and used to carry workers. The side-railings should be fitted up to a height of not less than 700 millimetres from the carriage deck (up from 550 mm), and not less than 300 millimetres (up from 150 mm) from the top of the side-boards³, and
- b) Canopies, which are able to effectively shelter workers from the inclement weather, will have to be installed⁴ on the lorry.

Owners of lorries who fail to comply may face the following penalties: 1st offence - \$200, 2nd offence - \$500, 3rd offence - Court Action.

For identification purposes, owners of lorries registered on or after 1 January 2010 will be required to affix an MPC label with the different colour scheme (black characters on a yellow background) on the rear of these lorries, as shown below:



From 1 September 2012:

i. **Higher protective side railings and canopies required on all existing lorries transporting workers**

Owners of lorries registered prior to 1 January 2010 will be given a lead time of 3 years to install higher protective side railings and canopies on their lorries if

² Currently, only lorries with MLW not exceeding 3,500 kg are required to be fitted with protective railings along the whole length of the side-boards on both sides of the vehicle. The side-railing requirement currently does not apply to lorries with MLW exceeding 3,500 kg.

³ Estimated cost to install higher side protective railings is about \$400 to \$800, depending on the size of lorry.

⁴ The estimated cost to install a metal-hood is about \$500 to \$2,500, depending on the size of the lorry. To install a metal hood with canvas on the sides, the estimated cost is in the range of \$1,500 to \$3,500.

they wish to continue using the lorries to transport their workers. From 1 September 2012 onwards, only lorries with canopies and higher protective side railings of no less than 700 millimetres from the carriage deck and no less than 300 millimetres from the top of the side-boards may be used to carry workers.

ii **Minimum deck area required per seated passenger to be doubled**

To reduce the use of lorries to transport workers en-masse and lower risk exposure, the minimum deck area required per seated passenger will be doubled from the current 0.372 square metres (4 square feet) to 0.744 square metres (8 square feet)