

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development
Alternative berthing arrangements for cruise vessels

Purpose

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on 23 July 2009, a Member requested written information on the alternative berthing and reception arrangements for cruise vessels and cruise passengers.

Alternative Berthing Arrangements for Cruise Vessels

2. For cruise vessels which cannot berth at Ocean Terminal due to size or conflicting schedule, the Tourism Commission (TC) will assist the cruise operators in making alternative berthing arrangements. Vessels with a displacement tonnage of less than 30,000 tonnes and with a length overall of not more than 180 metres may berth at the China Merchants Wharf at Kennedy Town. If the cruise vessels are beyond the berthing capacity of China Merchants Wharf, TC will assist the cruise operators to make alternative berthing at the container terminals in Kwai Tsing District. Depending on their needs, cruise vessels may also anchor mid-stream at the buoys, anchorage areas and Junk Bay as designated by the Marine Department.

3. Apart from size consideration, the choice of alternative berthing also hinges on the preferences of the cruise operators and their shipping agents. Therefore, TC works closely with the relevant departments, cruise operators, shipping agents and travel agents on the berthing arrangements to devise the most appropriate arrangement for each vessel call. For berthings at container or cargo terminals, the terminal operators concerned have to apply to the Lands Department for a temporary waiver. In considering the application, the Government departments will fully consider the impact of the proposed berthing on the nearby environment and traffic conditions.

Reception Arrangements for Cruise Passengers

4. To ensure the safety of cruise passengers during embarkation and disembarkation at the container or cargo terminals, the Marine Department will require the terminal operators to conduct a Port Facility Security Assessment (the Assessment) to gauge the security risk of berthing a cruise vessel at these locations. On the recommendation of the Assessment, the terminal operators are required to implement measures, including carving out a designated area in the terminals for cruise passengers. The shipping agents will also arrange feeder buses and implement temporary reception measures to welcome passengers, such as red carpets, erecting marquees for handling the baggages if necessary, etc. In cases of mid-stream anchorage, we will assist the shipping agents and travel agents to identify suitable boarding locations (including the Central Ferry Pier) and to make the related transportation arrangements. Upon cruise passengers' arrival in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Tourism Board would also arrange cultural performances, set up temporary visitor enquiry and service counters, and distribute information kits and souvenirs to enhance passengers' experience in Hong Kong.

Tourism Commission

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

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