

An Introduction to the Railways Branch of EMSD



Railways  EMSD

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Railway Systems in Hong Kong

The major railway operator in Hong Kong is the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) who operates 10 heavy rail lines, 1 light rail line and 1 high speed rail line, and the average daily patronage exceeds 4 million. The entire system comprises 97 stations, 68 light rail stops and 1 high speed rail station with total route length and track length¹ of about 266.3 km and 772.6 km respectively.



The railway systems in Hong Kong also include trams (total route length 16.7 km, track length 32.3km and 120 stops), the Peak Tramway (total route length 1.286 km, track length 1.448 km and 2 terminals plus 4 intermediate stops) as well as the Automated People Mover at the Hong Kong International Airport (total route length 7.3 km, track length 8.45 km and 4 stations).

Roles and Duties of Railways

The Railways Branch (“RB”) under EMSD is the regulatory authority on railway safety in Hong Kong. The RB regulates and monitors the safe operation of the railway systems operated by the MTRCL. The main functions of the RB include:

Railway incident investigation



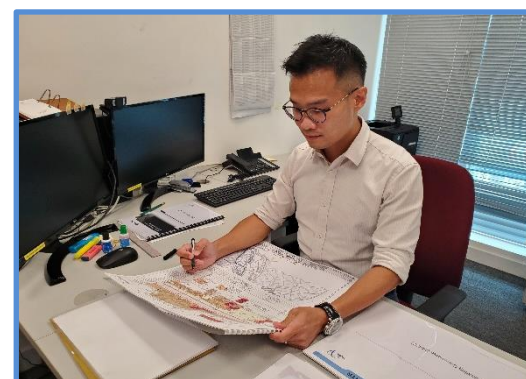
Safety inspection

- ensuring the adoption of appropriate safety practices by the railway operator;
- investigating into safety-related railway incidents and following

¹ All tracks (two-way) including running lines, sidings, overruns and depots

up the railway operator’s improvement measures;

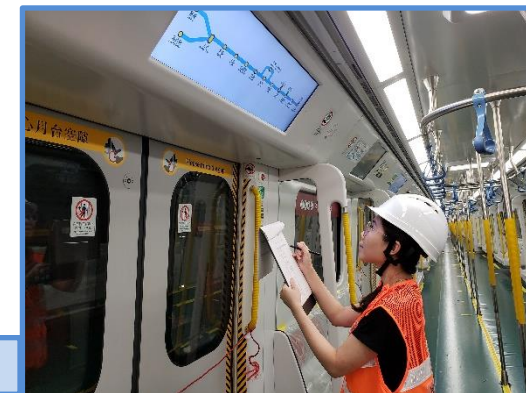
- assessing and approving new railway projects and modifications to the existing major railway facilities;
- providing professional support on railway safety to government bureaux and other government departments;



Assessing and approving of modifications to major railway facilities

- handling complaints and enquiries on matters related to railway safety; and
- promoting public railway safety.

Inspection of new rolling



Publicity video for promoting railway safety

Apart from the above, the RB is also responsible for regulating and monitoring the safe operation of trams, the Peak Tramway and the Automated People Mover at the Hong Kong International Airport.



For details, please visit the RB homepage at www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/railway.shtml