

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: March 18, 2025
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2512
Issue date	: March 19, 2025
Maturity date	: June 18, 2025
Amount applied	: HK\$163,552 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$61,686 MN
Average yield accepted	: 3.33 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 3.36 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 61 PCT
Average tender yield	: 3.42 PCT

Tender date	: March 18, 2025
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2541
Issue date	: March 19, 2025
Maturity date	: September 17, 2025
Amount applied	: HK\$54,100 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$14,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 3.34 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 3.36 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 69 PCT
Average tender yield	: 3.44 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning March 24, 2025:

Tender date	: March 25, 2025
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2513

Issue date : March 26, 2025
Maturity date : June 25, 2025
Tenor : 91 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$63,485 MN

Tender date : March 25, 2025
Paper on offer : EF Bills
Issue number : H2542
Issue date : March 26, 2025
Maturity date : September 24, 2025
Tenor : 182 Days
Amount on offer : HK\$15,000 MN

Fraudulent websites and internet banking login screens related to China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited relating to fraudulent websites and internet banking login screens, which have been reported to the HKMA. A hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#).

The HKMA wishes to remind the public that banks will not send SMS or emails with embedded hyperlinks which direct them to the banks' websites to carry out transactions. They will not ask customers for sensitive personal information, such as login passwords or one-time password, by phone, email or SMS (including via embedded hyperlinks).

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information, or who has conducted any financial transactions, through or in response to the websites or login screens concerned, should contact the bank using the contact information provided in the press release, and report the matter to the Police by contacting the Crime Wing Information Centre of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Buildings Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Bill 2025 to be gazetted

A spokesperson for the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) said today (March 18) that the Buildings Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Bill 2025 will be published in the Gazette on Friday (March 21).

The spokesperson said, "The Amendment Bill seeks to enhance the buildings energy efficiency management regime of Hong Kong. It improves the energy efficiency of buildings to reduce the demand for power consumption and generation, which will not only reduce carbon emissions but also lessen the financial burden on the public for the increased use of clean fuels for electricity generation, thereby assisting Hong Kong to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050."

The Amendment Bill contains five parts, namely regulating the energy efficiency standards of building services installations for all data centres in Hong Kong; requiring more types of buildings to conduct regular energy audits; shortening the intervals of energy audits; disclosing certain technical information in energy audit reports; and including more qualifications eligible for registration as Registered Energy Assessors. If the Amendment Bill is passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) and implemented in full, it is estimated that an additional 500 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of about 150 000 three-person households, could be saved in 2035.

The spokesperson added, "The proposed amendments to the Ordinance aims to achieve a win-win scenario of saving electricity cost for buildings, reducing carbon emission, and boosting the development of green economy."

The EEB has extensively consulted relevant stakeholders on the legislative amendment proposals, which include trade associations, the property management sector, the construction industry, professional bodies, public services bodies, and the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs. The views received have been incorporated into the Amendment Bill as appropriate. Stakeholders generally support the proposals.

The Amendment Bill will be introduced into the LegCo for first reading and commencement of the second reading debate on March 26. The Government will fully support the work of the LegCo in scrutinising the Amendment Bill and looks forward to the LegCo's support and passage of the Amendment Bill.

10th round of Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme approves six projects

The Secretariat of the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) announced today (March 18) that the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC) had approved six CCFS projects in the latest round of applications, including Nature Conservation Management Agreement projects and Cultural Rehabilitation projects, involving a total grant of around \$51 million.

The newly approved projects seek to subsidise local non-profit-making organisations to carry out diversified ecological and cultural conservation work in remote countryside areas, such as Lai Chi Wo, Mui Tsz Lam, Kap Tong, Kuk Po, Kat O and the Deep Bay wetlands. These include adopting ecologically friendly means to conduct farming and fishpond habitat management, thereby revitalising farmland and fish ponds, and increasing their ecological value. The projects will also revitalise traditional Hakka culture, thereby showcasing unique and precious cultural assets in remote countryside in Hong Kong, enhancing the ecotour experience for citizens and tourists, and increasing the public's awareness of conserving natural ecology and cultural and historic assets.

A total of 56 projects involving a total subsidy amount of over \$325 million have been approved under the 10 rounds of CCFS applications conducted so far, supporting local non-profit-making organisations' work in promoting different aspects of conservation and revitalisation, including natural ecology, non-graded built heritage, and cultural and historic assets. All CCFS applications are examined and considered by the ACCC, which is chaired by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology. Details of the approved projects are available on the CCFS webpage (www.eeb.gov.hk/en/conservation/ccfs/ccfs_approved_projects.html).

Employers and employees should make prior work arrangements in times of adverse weather and extreme conditions

The Labour Department (LD) today (March 18) reminded employers to make prior work arrangements for employees during and after tropical cyclone warnings, rainstorm warnings, extreme conditions and other adverse weather events as early as possible to ensure the safety of employees and smooth operation of establishments as well as to maintain good labour-management

relations.

"Employers should make prior work arrangements and contingency measures for staff which are reasonable and practicable. In drawing up and implementing the work arrangements, employers should give prime consideration to employees' safety and the feasibility of employees travelling to and from their workplaces. Employers should also give consideration as much as possible to the different situations faced by individual employees, such as their place of residence and the road and traffic conditions in the vicinity, and adopt a sympathetic and flexible approach with regard to their actual difficulties and needs," an LD spokesman said.

To avoid misunderstandings, disputes and confusion, employers should consult and engage employees when drawing up the arrangements and make appropriate updates or amendments based on the experience of each occasion and the needs of both employers and employees as well as the actual situations. The work arrangements should cover the following matters:

- * arrangements in respect of reporting for duty;
- * arrangements in respect of early release from work;
- * arrangements in respect of resumption of work (e.g. the number of hours within which employees should resume duty after the warning concerned is cancelled or the extreme conditions come to an end, when safety and traffic conditions allow);
- * arrangements in respect of remote work such as work from home (if applicable) (e.g. duty and work arrangements during and after tropical cyclone warnings, rainstorm warnings or extreme conditions);
- * arrangements regarding working hours, wages and allowances (e.g. calculation of wages and allowances in respect of reporting for duty and absence); and
- * special arrangements in respect of staff required to report for duty in times of adverse weather and extreme conditions.

"Employers should conduct a timely and realistic assessment of whether there is any need for requiring staff to report for duty at workplaces when a tropical cyclone warning, rainstorm warning or extreme conditions are in force. In making the assessment, employers should take into account the safety of employees, the business nature, operational needs and urgency of service, with due regard to the manpower requirements, staffing establishment and individual situations of employees, and keep the number of staff at workplaces to the minimum as far as possible," the spokesman added.

When a Pre-No. 8 Special Announcement is issued during working hours, within two hours before the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 is expected to take effect, employers should release employees from the workplaces or from work in stages, or arrange for them to work remotely according to the agreed work arrangements. To ensure the safety of employees and to enable them to arrive home before suspension of public transport services, employees who have mobility problems (for example, pregnant employees or those with a disability), employees who rely on transport services which are prone to being affected by adverse weather conditions (for example, ferry services) to

get home, and those who work in or are living in remote areas (for example, outlying islands) should be given priority to leave. Other employees should be released from workplaces or from work in stages according to their travelling distance or the time required for returning home.

If an Amber, Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued during working hours, employees working indoors should continue to work as usual unless it is dangerous to do so. Supervisors of employees working outdoors or in exposed areas should suspend outdoor duties as soon as practicable. They should arrange for their employees to take shelter temporarily and resume duty only when weather conditions permit. If the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is still in force by the end of working hours, employees should stay in a safe place until the heavy rain has passed. A suitable area in the workplace should be made available by employers as temporary shelter for employees.

If the Government makes an extreme conditions announcement, apart from those required by employers to report for duty at workplaces, employees are advised to stay in the place they are currently in or in safe places when extreme conditions are in force, instead of heading for work. Employees who have already reported for duty at workplaces could continue to work as usual in a safe manner. If the workplaces are in danger, employers should release staff from work early under feasible conditions and in a safe manner, or make available a safe place as a temporary shelter for employees. If the working time ends while extreme conditions are still in force, employers can release employees from workplaces in a safe manner or provide a suitable area as temporary shelter for those still at workplaces.

If it is necessary for employees to report for duty at workplaces under adverse weather or extreme conditions, employers should discuss and agree with them in advance on the duty arrangements and contingency measures. If public transport services are suspended or limited during Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 (T8) or higher, the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or extreme conditions are in force, employers should provide safe transport services for employees travelling to and from workplaces, or grant them an extra travelling allowance.

The spokesman reminded employers to observe the statutory liabilities and requirements under the Employment Ordinance, Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, Employees' Compensation Ordinance and Minimum Wage Ordinance.

"As natural calamities cannot be avoided, for employees who are not able to report for duty or resume work on time due to adverse weather or extreme conditions, employers should neither deduct their wages, good attendance bonuses or allowances, nor reduce employees' entitlement to annual leave, statutory holidays or rest days under the Employment Ordinance, or ask for additional hours of work from employees to compensate for the loss of working hours when they are unable to report for duty," he said.

Employers should note that they have an obligation to provide and

maintain a safe working environment for their employees under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance. If employees are required to work in times of tropical cyclone warnings, rainstorm warnings or extreme conditions, employers should ensure that the risks at work are reduced as far as reasonably practicable. Moreover, under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, employers are liable to pay compensation for injuries or deaths incurred when employees are travelling by a direct route from their residence to their workplace, or from their workplace back to their residence after work, four hours before or after working hours on a day when Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 8 or higher, a Red or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal or extreme conditions are in force.

The LD has published the "Code of Practice in Times of Adverse Weather and 'Extreme Conditions'", which provides the major principles, reference guidelines and information on relevant legislation on making work arrangements for the reference of employers and employees. The booklet can be obtained from branch offices of the Labour Relations Division or downloaded from the department's webpage (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/wcp/Rainstorm.pdf).