

# Management Regulations for Toxic Chemical Incident Response Vehicles Announced

The EPA and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications jointly announced the *Management Regulations Governing Toxic Chemical Incident Response Vehicles* ( 毒性化學物質災害事故應變車輛管理辦法 ), aimed at reducing the impact of toxic chemical incidents and safeguarding public health. The regulations stipulate that when a toxic chemical incident occurs, emergency response vehicles may have the right of way to the scene of the incident. The prerequisite for this is that the emergency response vehicles must be formally stationed in accordance with regulations.

To allow emergency response personnel for a toxic chemical incident to rush to the scene to carry out their duties, the EPA amended Article 24-1 of the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* ( 毒性化學物質管理法 ) on 11 December 2013. The amendment lifted some traffic restrictions on emergency response vehicles. For example, when responding on duty, an emergency response vehicle is not subject to speed limits; nor must it heed any traffic signs, markings or signals when it has its flashing lights and sirens turned on. In response to the amendment, the EPA jointly announced the *Management Regulations Governing Toxic Chemical Incident Response Vehicles* with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications on 11 February 2015.

The newly announced management regulations specify the identification marks, color recognition, basic equipment and usage, registration and license extension requirements of emergency response vehicles, as well as criteria for drivers. The motor vehicle supervision authorities are responsible for license plating issuance, duty management and supervision, and changing or cancellation of registration. The new regulations are intended to reduce the damage of toxic chemical incidents and safeguard the health of people involved.

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