

新印花機將陸續安裝

New franking machines to be installed

本刊記者 Staff reporter

經過差不多十年的使用後，現在的印花機不僅損耗十分嚴重，而且出現了不少問題，例如顯示模糊、電源頻頻出現故障等，經常給會員帶來麻煩。由於很多印花機的狀況越來越差，加上零件太舊，難以替換，所以保養費預計會不住上升。

更換印花機

現在使用的印花機需要經常維修，這既造成不便，兼且又影響會員的業務，旅遊業賠償基金管理委員會為了解決這個問題，已決定訂購四百台 DM100 型號新印花機，以替換那些機件損耗且無法修復的 B7A9 型號印花機。新印花機會於今年稍後時間為會員安裝。

新印花機不僅操作方法與舊機大同小異，而且還有不少對會員有用的特點。比如說新機的壽命比較長，而且噴墨頭不會那麼易於堵塞。每個墨盒可以印出約二千個印花，而 B7A9 型號印花機的色帶每盒只可以印出約九百個印花而已。新印花機並且設有墨水感應器，墨水不足時不會印出空白的印花。此外，新機能夠檢測放進去的紙張是否傾斜，如果要蓋印花的收據位置不妥就不會打印。新機還可以印出每天所蓋印花的總數，而印花金額左邊的三劃也會刪除，以免混淆。

電子印花

以印花機來蓋上印花，差不多有二十年了。這段期間資訊科技屢有新突破，想必會有甚麼資訊科技的方案，可以代替印花機吧。為了找尋這麼一個代替方案，議會和賠償基金管理委員會由二零零四年起就開始留心了，只可惜有望成功的電子印花方案，最終也依舊令人失望。搜尋不會就此停止，只是未必會有結果而已。

After about 10 years of use, the currently used franking machines are so decrepit that there are plenty of problems, dim displays, frequent power supply failures, etc, constantly troubling members. With many of them in deteriorating condition and spare parts too obsolete to find, the cost of maintenance is expected to be escalating.

Replacing franking machines

To get rid of the inconvenience caused by frequent repairs and accompanying interruption of members' business, the Travel Industry Compensation Management Board (TICFMB) has decided to purchase 400 new DM100 franking machines to replace those B7A9 machines which are beyond repair because of wear and tear. The new machines will be installed later in the year.

Apart from being easy to operate, the new franking machine also has many features beneficial to members. For instance, it has a longer lifespan, and its printhead will not dry easily. Each ink cartridge can print up to about 2,000 levy stamps, versus about 900 stamps printed by one ribbon cassette of the current B7A9 model. With an ink level sensor in the cartridge, blank stamps will not be printed if the ink level is low. If a receipt for levy stamping is not inserted properly, its paper skew detection function will stop it from printing. Register reports showing the total number of stamps franked daily are also available. Additionally, the three bars on the left of the levy amount will be removed to avoid confusion.

E-levy scheme

With IT breakthroughs one after another during the past two decades, there must surely be some IT alternatives to franking machines in use for some 20 years for levy stamping. The TIC and the TICFMB have been on the lookout for one such alternative since 2004, only to find the potential candidate, e-levy, to turn out to be yet another disappointment. The search is still ongoing, though a find may not be forthcoming.