

LETTERHEAD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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To : Dr Lo Wing Lok
From : Professor TH Lam
Date : December 18, 2001

By fax no. 2596 0557 and
by email lwlhk@hkstar.com

Dear Dr Lo,

**Re: Paper on Subcommittee on Occupational Safety and Health
(Display Screen Equipment) Regulation, meeting on 21 December 2001**

With reference to the proposed Occupational Safety and Health (Display Screen Equipment) Regulation, I would like to give my opinions on the definition of "user". The Administration's proposal is "who use DSE continuously for four hours or more every day, and more or less daily". I note that in the data from the studies as provided in the above captioned paper, the duration of use of DSE refers to average hours per day, which is a measure of cumulative duration of use. There is no mentioning of "continuous" use in all the studies cited.

I opine that it is essential to include in the definition the cumulative duration of use, which is the total duration of DSE use within a working day, regardless of whether the use is continuous or not. As the evidence shows that working for an average cumulative duration of four hours or more everyday can cause health problems in the user, the definition of user should be one who has a cumulative duration of use of 4 hours or more.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Professor TH Lam

This department supports tobacco control and the prevention of smoking in children in Hong Kong.