

2002 August 26

The Hon SIN Chung Kai
Chairman
Bills Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Bldg.,
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 28696794)

Dear Mr Sin,

Comments On Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001

Thank you for your letter of July 16 addressed to our President, Mr. Chan Wing Kee, inviting the Association to give viewpoints on the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001. We are pleased to furnish the following comments for your consideration:

1. It will not only enable greater choices and market access for the end-users and the suppliers thereby driving down the product prices, but is also an encouraging step by the government in support of internet purchase and borderless trade.
2. Virtual marketplace is a growing phenomenon that we have to accept and promote from the perspective of the business community. It will enhance the overall economy of scale and help reduce production costs as well as retailing prices. This, in turn, is beneficial to both the manufacturers and the consumers.
3. The CMA welcomes the amendment. The proposed Bill will, to some extent, help alleviate the financial burden on the computer software licensing compliance, especially for small and medium enterprises. We are also in support of the proposed liberalization, in such a way as to encourage more value-added and competitive services offered by the local suppliers.

4. In line with the prevention of computer software piracy, the proposed amendment on the Copyright Bill is a legitimate and business-friendly Bill that will facilitate parallel importation of computer software.

We would be much obliged if you could keep us informed of future developments. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact me (tel no: 2542 8668) or Ms Natalie Keung, our Manager for Trade and Investment Promotion Department at tel. no. 2542 8618.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Lau
Executive Director