

The Open University of Hong Kong
Submission to the Bills Committee on Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001

We have read the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001 and have the following comments to make.

The Bill proposes to remove civil and criminal liabilities related to the parallel importation of computer software. As an educational institution and a consumer of computer software we fully support that importation of computer software should be made legal as this would increase availability of the products in the market, offering more choices and lower prices for consumers.

We agree to that this liberalization should only apply to computer programs and their associated works (new section 35A) and to the exclusions of movies and music recordings as defined in subsection 35A(3) and 35A(4).

The Bill also provides that a user can make a back-up copy or adapt a program despite any terms in the user licence agreement prohibiting or restricting the end-user from doing so. This is a fair provision for users.

In general we support the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001.

Dated : 12 August 2002