

Our ref. : CIB L/M to CIB 07/09/5/2
Your ref. : CB1/PL/CI

Tel. no. : 2918 7482
Fax no. : 2869 4420

14 March 2002

Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr S. C. Tsang)

Dear Mr Tsang,

**LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry
List of Follow-up Actions Required of the Administration**

I refer to item 3 of the “List of follow-up actions required of the Administration” attached to your letter dated 4 March 2002.

At present, applications from the public for copying Government publications are assessed case by case by the Government agency responsible for the work concerned. In general, permission is given where the copy made is not for commercial sale. This is because most of the Government publications aim to provide information to the public or enhance the transparency of Government. It is logical to facilitate their widest dissemination.

We are reviewing the policy and procedure for granting permission to copy Government copyright works in Government publications and web-sites, with the aim of establishing a user-friendly mechanism.

To increase convenience to the public and to save resources for processing individual requests for authorization, we intend to give a general permission to the public for copying these works provided that the copy made is not for commercial sale. Such permission will be given in the form of a notice included in a Government publication or web-site.

The new arrangement will not apply to cases where the Government work concerned is specifically produced for commercial sale, or where the work incorporates third-party works not owned by the Government, or where other special circumstances warrant exceptional treatment. The relevant Government agency will make this clear in a notice included in the publication or web-site concerned.

In view of the large number of Government agencies and copyright works involved, we need some time to do preparatory work before implementing the new arrangement. Such work includes identifying works that will require specific permission to copy and preparing suitable copyright notices. We will make a public announcement after the preparatory work is completed within this year.

---- A Chinese translation of the content of this letter is attached for your necessary action.

(Laura Tsoi)
for Secretary for Commerce and Industry

c.c.

IPD	(Attn : Ms Ada Leung)
D of Administration	(Attn : Mr Tony Nguyen) (Fax : 2845 7895)
ISD	(Attn : Mr C K Liu) (Fax : 2598 7482)