



HONG KONG RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Presentation to the Sub-Committee on Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation

4 January 2007

Air pollution is a subject that affects everyone in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Retail Management (HKRMA) strongly supports the Pan-Pearl River Delta Agreement between the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government that includes a reduction of the major air pollutants including Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

The approach taken by the Government in the Gazette is the right one for Hong Kong as it targets paints, printing inks and those consumer products that cause the release of most of the VOCs. In limiting the VOC content of these specified consumer products to within the world's strictest standard (CARB) that is in place in California, Hong Kong will be a world leader in controlling the VOC content of consumer products and sets a good example to our counterparts in the region. Controlling the manufacture and importation of these products with a specified VOC limit will prevent such products reaching the retail level.

We are pleased that the Government took the initiative to conduct a survey of existing consumer products compliance levels and has set out appropriate grace periods accordingly.

The HKRMA supports the introduction of the VOC Regulation.

Peter Johnston

Key Spokesperson representing HKRMA on the subject of VOC's

The Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA) was founded in 1983 and is the major association representing Hong Kong's retail industry. For the past 23 years, the Association has played a vital role with a long term mission to promote the retail industry, to present a unified voice and lobby on issues that affect all retailers. The Association facilitates the exchange of information on issues common to the industry and aims to raise the status and professionalism of retailing through education and training.

The Association's current membership represents over 500 major retail chains covering more than 5,000 retail outlets and employing two-thirds of the total retail workforce in Hong Kong. Member organizations are engaged in various types of retail business ranging from department stores to supermarkets, convenience stores, drug stores, food, fashion and accessories, specialty stores as well as suppliers, wholesalers and industry related service organizations.