



廣播事務管理局
Broadcasting Authority

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28 October 2006

Miss Polly Yeung
Clerk to Panel on Information Technology
and Broadcasting
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Revisions to the Accuracy Requirement in the
Generic Code of Practice on Television Programme Standards and
Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards**

I refer to the letter of even date from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority (BA) to the Chairman of the LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting.

You may wish to note that at the meeting today, the Authority considered the concern raised by some members of the public over the extension of the accuracy requirement to four more types of factual programmes, viz. financial programmes, children's programmes with educational purpose, programmes dealing with medical and health issues, and contests through amendments to the Generic Code of Practice on Television Programme Standards and the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards.

After careful consideration, the Authority decided to proceed with the gazettal of the amendments in November 2006. The Authority noted that the amendments were made to meet growing demand from audience on the accuracy of factual content in certain types of television and radio programmes. The amendments have already struck a balance between the interest of the audience and minimizing regulatory burdens on licensees. To fulfill their requirement of the amendments, licensees only need to demonstrate that they have taken reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of the factual content being broadcast. In dealing with complaints about accuracy of factual

contents in the programmes relating to the four additional types of factual programmes, the Authority does not have any preconceived standards for compliance with the accuracy requirement and is prepared to consider any relevant supporting documents or evidence provided by the licensees. The Authority always consults the licensees and the public prior to introducing amendments to the BA Codes. The Authority keeps its consultation mechanism under review to make sure that the views of the audience are fully taken into account when determining the standards of broadcasting content.

Yours sincerely,

(P. L. Po)
Secretary
Broadcasting Authority