

本署檔案
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CB(1) 2096/07-08(01)

30 June 2008

Mr. Philippe Giard
Chairman
Government Regulations Sub-committee
Hong Kong Retail Management Association
10/F., First Commercial Building
33-35 Leighton Road
Causeway Bay
Hong Kong
[Fax No.: 2866 8380]

Dear Philippe,

Product Eco-responsibility Bill

We refer to your letter of 13 June 2008 addressed to the Honourable Choy So-yuk, Chairman of the Bills Committee on the Product Eco-responsibility Bill (PER Bill), which was copied to us. As suggested by the Bills Committee, we would like to respond to the issues raised in your letter.

We would first like to express our gratitude towards the Hong Kong Retail Management Association and its members for their support to environmental protection. We are particularly grateful for the voluntary efforts made by the retail chains among the Association's members in reducing the use of plastic shopping bags, as well as the invaluable suggestions that the Association has been offering to us in developing the proposed environmental levy scheme under the PER Bill. We would certainly look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Association and its members so that we, together, could implement a scheme that is both practicable and effective.

We appreciate very much the view of the Association that the registration requirement under the levy scheme should not create undue

burden to the trade. This view is indeed shared by both the Administration and the Bills Committee. On the other hand, the Bills Committee also recognizes the importance of providing the public with sufficient information on the environmental levy scheme, particularly the names and locations of individual retail outlets to which the scheme would be applicable. Such information would not only help the public form a green habit of bringing their own bags when shopping at those retail outlets, but would also help minimize potential conflicts between the frontline staff of such retail outlets and the customers on the obligation of imposing the levy.

Taking the above factors into consideration, we would endeavor to provide for a registration regime which would possibly enable a single initial registration of all qualified retail outlets of a prescribed retailer and would facilitate easy updating for any subsequent changes. This, as well as other implementation details of the environmental levy scheme, will be set out in the regulation to be made under the PER Bill. Subject to the passage of the Bill by the Legislative Council, we would further seek the views of the Association and its members in our preparation of the regulation.

We shall be in touch again very shortly, and in the meantime, should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 2594 6032 or Mr. Chi-wang Te at 2594 6113.

Yours sincerely,

(Alfred Lee)
for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. Hon. Choy So-yuk,
Chairman, Bills Committee on the Product Eco-responsibility Bill