

立法會 CB(2)1787/07-08(07)號文件
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香港社會醫學學院
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BY FAX

COUNCIL 2007-08

Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP
Chairman of Subcommittee

President

Dr Kathleen So
蘇碧嫻

2 May 2008

Dear the Hon Mr CHAN,

Vice-President

Dr S P Mak
麥信屏

**Subcommittee on Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling)
(Amendment: Requirement for Nutrition Labelling and
Nutrition Claim) Regulations 2008
(the Amendment Regulation)**

Chief Censor

Dr T H Leung
梁焯雄

Meeting on 5 May 2008

Honorary Secretary

Dr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

Thank you for your letter inviting the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (the College) to give views on this very important subject relating to nutrition labelling. We would like to submit our comments and views as follows.

Honorary Treasurer

Dr S V Lo
羅思傑

As a professional organisation consisting of medical doctors working to improve the health of the community, the College strongly supports the government's introduction of the Amendment Regulation to better protect the health of people in Hong Kong.

Members

Dr Fung Hong
馮康

Dr Mandy Ho
何孟儀

Nutrition related diseases are among the leading causes of death and disability in our local population. Useful nutrition information facilitates consumers in making informed healthy food choice which in the long run would improve the health of the population and reduce the burden to the health care system due to nutrition related diseases.

Dr William Ho
何兆輝

Dr. Ronald Lam
林文健

We are glad that the government has finally put forward a legal framework to mandate the labelling of core nutrients on prepackaged food which provides the relevant information for consumers to make informed choices, as well as regulate misleading or deceptive nutrition claims.

Prof Gabriel Leung
梁卓偉

Dr P Y Leung
梁柏賢

It is noted that the Amendment Regulation allows different format in labelling and exempts the labelling requirements for certain food types and products with small sales volume. The College considers the different labelling format may cause confusion to the consumers. The exemption arrangement will also reduce the overall benefits of the scheme. Of particular

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梁柏賢

concern to us is the trade's demand for products of small sales volume with nutrition claims to enjoy the exemption. We think such a relaxation violates the fundamental objectives of the labeling scheme. We are of the view that once a product makes a nutrition claim, it would have to comply with all the requirements of the Regulation, irrespective of the quantity of sales. Furthermore, any trade facilitation measures should be kept to the minimum and not be further expanded, or the overall health gain from this scheme will be greatly compromised. In addition, the government should actively promote the scheme and educate the consumers and general public in understanding and reading the labels.

Yours sincerely

Dr Katherine So
 President,
 Hong Kong College of Community Medicine