

本署檔案  
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**環境保護署總部**

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**CB(1) 1313/08-09(01)**

15 April 2009

Ms. Caroline Mak  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Retail Management Association  
10/F, First Commercial Building  
33-35 Leighton Road  
Causeway Bay  
Hong Kong  
[Fax No. : 2866 8380]

Dear Caroline,

**Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation**

Thank you very much for the letters of 3 March, 4 March, 10 March and 19 March addressed to our Bureau and our Department.

2. Before responding to the letters, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Hong Kong Retail Management Association, and to your good self in particular, for the invaluable advice in the past few months to fine-tune the implementation details of the environmental levy scheme. Most, if not all, of your suggestions have been taken on board and reflected in the amended version of the Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation. Subject to the formal approval of the Legislative Council on the Regulation on 22 April 2009, we would commence the registration of prescribed retailers on 30 April 2009 and the charging of the environmental levy on 7 July 2009. We hope that our *esprit de corp* would continue in the run-up to the launch of the environmental levy scheme and beyond.

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3. With respect to the specific issues you raised in the letters, our responses are set out below:

**(a) Third party operation**

As you know, your suggestion has been taken on board. A second category of exemption is now provided in the Regulation so that an area used for the business of a third party within a qualified retail outlet may be exempted from the first phase of the environmental levy scheme. The requirement of having a separate branch registration has been obviated.

**(b) Publicity**

In preparation for the launch of the environmental levy scheme, we have a publicity programme in place, including (a) the production of a new Announcement of Public Interests (API) dedicated for the launch of the environmental levy scheme; (b) broadcasting of the new API at TV, radio and mass transport; (c) special logo design pertaining to the levy scheme; (d) production and distribution of publicity materials such as posters and stickers for retailers; and (e) publicity campaigns organized by green groups and other organizations. The publicity programme would be intensified in the run-up to the launch of the environmental levy scheme. In the light of your suggestion, we would also produce an additional API, which highlights the key features of the environmental levy scheme.

As part of the publicity, we understand that certain retailers to be covered by the environmental levy scheme would like to print the special logo pertaining to the scheme, as well as the hotline number of the Environmental Protection Department, on their plastic shopping bags. We very much appreciate such initiative and have no in-principle objection.

**(c) Post-implementation Review and Related Surveys**

We have undertaken to review the effectiveness of the environmental levy scheme after its implementation. To facilitate the review, dedicated surveys on the disposal of

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plastic shopping bags would be carried out right before the commencement of the scheme to establish a baseline and annually thereafter for comparison purposes. As per your suggestion, the dedicated surveys would also cover the disposal of non-woven bags, paper shopping bags and plastic garbage bags, where technically feasible. Aside from the dedicated surveys on the disposal end, we would also closely monitor the quarterly returns submitted by registered retailers, which reflect the distribution of plastic shopping bags at source. As part of the review, public opinion surveys would also be conducted to assess the change of public attitude and behaviour, including the use of alternative carriers and garbage bags.

4. We would convene the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags after the registration of prescribed retailers commences so as to address any implementation issues arise. Should you have any enquiries in the meantime, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Chi-wang Te at 2594 6113.

Yours sincerely,



(Albert Lam)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.

LegCo Subcommittee on Product Eco-responsibility  
(Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation  
Retail Task Force under the Business Facilitation  
Advisory Committee

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