

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

**The Administration's Response to the Follow-up Actions
Arising from the Meeting on 16 March 2009 (Part II)**

Opportunity to make representations

The Administration agrees that a registered retailer should be given an opportunity to make representations before the Director revokes an exemption. The Administration will propose amendments to the Regulation for this purpose.

Quarterly returns

2. A registered retailer operating less than three months is still required to submit a quarterly return. The Administration will review section 12 to make this intention clear.

Application for Registration

3. The Administration has been working closely with the retail trade to facilitate compliance as far as practicable. At the initial registration, the Administration only requires very basic and essential information, such as the names and the addresses of a prescribed retailer and its qualified retail outlets. The registered retailer also has thirty days to inform the Director any changes subsequent to its registration. The retail trade is generally agreeable to this arrangement.

Specified Forms

4. The Administration will further refine the specified forms in consultation with the retail trade, including the declaration to provide true and correct information.

Exempted Counters

5. The Administration has been working closely with the retail trade on the implementation details of the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags. The requirement of reporting on the number of plastic shopping bags provided to customers from both exempted and non-exempted cashier's counters is necessary to allow the Administration to cross-check the figure with the number of plastic shopping bags delivered to the retail outlet. The Administration understands that retailers may offer different types of plastic shopping bags at their retail outlets in response to customers' needs. It is not clear whether mandatory differentiation of plastic shopping bags for exempted cashier's counters and non-exempted cashier's counters would actually benefit the operation of the retail trade.

6. That said, the Administration agrees to review the reporting arrangement for plastic shopping bags provided at exempted counters in the light of actual experience gained from the implementation of the levy scheme.

Attendance of the Secretary of the Environment

7. The Secretary of the Environment is pleased to attend the meeting of 19 March 2009.

Environmental Protection Department
March 2009