



19 March 2009

Mr. Yau Tang-wah, Edward, JP
Secretary for the Environment
46/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Yau,

It is of paramount importance that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") will properly publicise the plastic shopping bag levy scheme so that consumers will know how to comply with the new regulation, and that retailers be able to collect the levy for the Government more smoothly. However, the latest promotional materials shown to us by the EPD do not seem to be serving the purpose.

The key challenge for collecting the levy lies at the limited scope of the scheme. To avoid confusion and unnecessary disputes between customers and retailers who collect levy on behalf of the Government, the EPD should clearly and widely publicise two most important pieces of information about the scheme:

- Prescribed retailers: Which retailers must collect the levy from customers
- Definition of Plastic Shopping Bags: What bags are subject to the levy

These two specific points are far more important for helping consumers to comply with the regulation, instead of the general messages of environmental protection or saving money.

I would also like to register the retail industry's great disappointment that EPD refuses to allow prescribed retailers to print the scheme's hotline number on plastic shopping bags. The hotline will go a long way to deal with any queries or disputes, but the hotline service will be of little use if it is not widely publicised. Printing the number on bags is one of the most visible ways to publicise it.



HONG KONG
RETAIL MANAGEMENT
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香港零售管理協會

There is a view in the community and the Legislative Council that EPD should do a lot more to publicise the levy scheme. We hope that you would consider our opinions and assist our work in collecting the levy for the Government.

I would be grateful if you could look into the matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Mak

Chairman

Hong Kong Retail Management Association

cc: Mr. Vincent Fang, SBS, JP

Miss Ruth Yu, Executive Director, HKRMA

Mr. Peter Johnston, Chairman of HKRMA Taskforce on Plastic Shopping Bags
Levy Implementation