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Ref: (76) in Sub-file(2) in FEHD/CFS 3/10/55/2 II

27 April 2009

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: 2866 8380)

Dear Mr Giard,

Nutrition Labelling Scheme – Small Volume Exemption

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2009, making proposals on the implementation of the small volume exemption (SVE) scheme.

Following the passage of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment: Requirements for Nutrition Labelling and Nutrition Claim) Regulation 2008 in May 2008, the Administration has been working closely with the food trade to facilitate trade compliance. Through our recent exchanges at various forums, it is indeed encouraging to learn that the trade is being very supportive and taking active steps to prepare for the changes, for the benefit of the consumers. We appreciate very much the trade's efforts and as always, we stand ready to work with the trade.

Regarding your suggestion to advance the timeframe for accepting SVE application from the trade, we shall take into account the updated projections you provided in exploring various options. We would try to advance the timeframe for accepting SVE application from the trade before the end of 2009. We would inform you of the special arrangement when the details are worked out.

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We look forward to continue working closely with your Association in bringing about the benefits of the nutrition labelling scheme to the public.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Constance Chan) Controller, Centre for Food Safety

Secretary for Food and Health

(Attn: Mr Andy Chan)

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Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food)

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