

From: The Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre Limited

To: Members of the LegCo. Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Views on the Implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme

Mandatory Nutrition Labelling Scheme has been discussed and consulted amongst the trade and the general public for years and finally, Amendment Regulation on Nutrition Labelling is enacted and will be enforced on 1 July 2010. It is good news to the consumers as they can have informed food choices with reference to the nutrition labels on most of the prepackaged food.

However, concerns are arisen amongst the trade that whether the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong can have the capacity to handle and process such a huge volume of food testing before the enforcement of the Amended Regulation on Nutrition Labelling.

We, The Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre Limited (STC), are an independent, not-for-profit testing and certification organization in Hong Kong and operate in various parts of the world servicing a diverse cross-section of industries. Our Centre is accredited by HOKLAS, CNAS and DAR accredited bodies. Since the public is increasingly aware of the food safety issue in recent years, instructions and orders on

food testing are continuously increased. In order to meet our customers' demand, we keep abreast with the latest technology including but not limited to investing machinery and apparatus and training and hiring a pool of professional chemists and technologists. Further, our Dongguan testing centre was also come into operation in year 2007 in response to the increasing demand of quality conformity service for imports and exports in China. Therefore, we verily believe that we have the capacity to handle and meet the trade and profession's food testing demand in compliance to the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

Concerns are also arisen amongst the trade in relation to the accuracy and reliability of the food testing data and/or results presented and reported by the testing and certification centres. Nonetheless, as stated above, we are equipped with advanced apparatus and staffed with qualified and knowledgeable chemists and technologists who are skilled in adopting different testing methods on verification of the data. STC being a laboratory accredited to ISO 17025 requirements, all our testing are carried out under close supervision and reviewed by experienced technical staff. We also actively participate in the proficiency tests organized by various Accreditation proficiency test providers and achieved complied results. With our professional and extensive experience on food testing, we verily believe that we can achieve highly reliable and accurate test results.