

ECON 4/3231/66(99) Pt.21

CB1/BC/14/98

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20 September 1999

Clerk to Bills Committee  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn. : Miss Salumi CHAN)

**Fax No. 2869 6794**

Dear Miss Chan,

**Bill Committee on**  
**Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Bill 1999**  
***Third meeting on 23 September 1999***

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 1999.

Regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Council's submission on the Bill, we would like to respond as follows –

- (a) The proposed increase of penalty charges in the Bill aims to enhance the deterrent effects so as to minimize the number of marine industrial accidents. The proposed increase had resulted from a restatement of the charges in “levels” rather than absolute numbers. When we review the charges, we also need to bear in mind possible impacts on the industry. Indeed, we have received representations which suggest that the current level of proposed increase is already too high. Given the current economic situation, we believe we shall go for incremental increases rather than drastic increases. We shall continue to monitor the situation and keep under review the level of the penalty charges to ensure there are sufficient deterrent effects.

- (b) We would step up the publicity work to promote the awareness of the importance of occupational safety, together with the Occupational Safety and Health Council and the industry.

Yours sincerely,

( Peter KWOK )  
for Secretary for Economic Services

c.c. Director of Marine