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18 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 Hong Kong and Kowloon Shipbuilding Trade Workers Union's submission on the Bill, we would like to respond as follows –

- (a) To improve the occupational safety of the cargo handling industry, we propose that all workers engaged in the industry have to attend basic safety training courses. We will monitor the situation and extend the training requirements to the ship repair industry as and when required.

- (b) We understand that in some cases, the principal contractor does not control the actual progress of works on board a vessel. In the light of this, we proposed to include in the Bill an amendment to the existing definition of “person in charge of works” by adding “any other person having for the time being in command or charge of any works being carried out on, to or by means of a vessel”. With this amendment, the frontline supervisor who is directly in charge of works on board a vessel will be responsible for the works to be safely carried out. To assist the industry in complying with this requirement, we in conjunction with the Vocational Training Council are organising two-day safety training courses for work supervisors of ship repair works. The requirement for attendance to this course of work supervisors of repair works will be stipulated in the relevant code of practice. We will consult the industry in the formulation of the code.

Yours sincerely,

(Peter KWOK)
for Secretary for Economic Services

c.c. Director of Marine