

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)2434/02-03(01)

Ref: CB1/BC/18/02

**Bills Committee on
Companies (Amendment) Bill 2003**

Proposed Work Plan

Introduction

This paper seeks to set out the proposed work plan for the Bills Committee's scrutiny of the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2003 (the Bill) for members' consideration.

Background

2. At the request of the Administration, an informal meeting was held on 4 September 2003 between the Administration and the Chairman, the Clerk and the Legal Adviser of the Bills Committee to discuss the work plan for the scrutiny of the Bill. Having regard to various factors including the relative urgency and complexity among the various proposals contained in the Bill, a tentative work plan for the Bills Committee was drawn up at the informal meeting for members' comments.

Proposed arrangements

3. There are four groups of proposed amendments to the Companies Ordinance and they are set out in Schedules 1 to 4 of the Bill respectively, while the consequential amendments are set out in Schedule 5. As the four groups of proposed amendments are fairly independent of one another, the Administration suggests, subject to members' views, completing the work relevant to one Schedule before proceeding to the next Schedule. The Administration proposes the following arrangements for the scrutiny of the Bill -

- (a) the Administration will prepare a working paper for each Schedule of the Bill, outlining the major proposals therein;
- (b) the Administration will invite Members to discuss the policy proposals in each Schedule together with the relevant consequential amendments and raise comments on provisions therein;

- (c) the Administration will respond to deputations' views on the proposals, which have been presented to Members;
- (d) draft Committee Stage Amendments (CSAs) will be prepared in parallel in response to comments made by Members and deputations. Any comment from Members would be addressed as soon as possible during the scrutiny of the relevant schedule or in the overall review of the CSAs as referred to in (f) below, whichever is appropriate;
- (e) the provisions in the relevant schedule will be subject to the clause-by-clause examination by the Bills Committee;
- (f) The Administration will go through the steps in items (a) to (e) above by schedules; and
- (g) There will be an overall review of all draft CSAs upon completion of scrutiny of all schedules to ensure the quality and compatibility of/among the CSAs.

The Administration stresses that the above proposed arrangements should not be construed as any intention on the Administration's part to preempt the approach to be adopted by the Bills Committee in processing the Bill.

Proposed timetable

4. Based on the above proposed arrangements and on the basis of the Bills Committee's decision that meetings would be held on every other Thursday mornings, the following time-table has been drawn up -

Matters to be discussed	Date(s) of meeting(s)
Work plan of the Bills Committee Overview of the proposals in the Bill (briefing by the Administration)	11 September 2003
Meeting with deputations	2 October 2003
Clauses 1 - 4 Schedule 1: Amendments relating to Prospectus Schedule 5: Consequential amendments arising from Schedule 1	16 October 2003 30 October 2003 13 November 2003 27 November 2003
Schedule 4: Amendments relating to shareholders' remedies	11 December 2003 18 December 2003 8 January 2004

Matters to be discussed	Date(s) of meeting(s)
Schedule 2: Amendments relating to group accounts Schedule 5: Consequential amendments arising from Schedule 2	29 January 2004 12 February 2004 26 February 2004 11 March 2004 25 March 2004
Schedule 3: Amendments relating to overseas companies Schedule 5: Consequential amendments arising from Schedule 3	8 April 2004 22 April 2004 6 May 2004
Overall review of CSAs	20 May 2004 3 June 2004

A full schedule of the meetings is at **Appendix**.

Advice sought

5. Members are invited to comment on the proposed arrangements and timetable set out above.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 September 2003

**Schedule of Meetings of
Bills Committee on Companies (Amendment) Bill 2003**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, 11 September 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 2 October 2003	9:00 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 16 October 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 30 October 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 13 November 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 27 November 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 11 December 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 18 December 2003	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 8 January 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 29 January 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 12 February 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 26 February 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 11 March 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 25 March 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 8 April 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 22 April 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 6 May 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 20 May 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 3 June 2004	10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Thursday, 17 June 2004 (Reserved for further discussion if necessary.)	10:45 am - 12:45 pm

Total number of meetings scheduled: 19