

**Extract from Minutes of meeting of Panel on Financial Affairs
held on 19 July 2002**

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**V Briefing on proposed legislative amendment to the Dutiable
Commodities Regulations**

LC Paper No. CB(1)2286/01-02(03) - Paper provided by the
Administration

22. At the Chairman's invitation, the Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (DS/FST) briefed members on the proposals to remove the prescriptions on the standards of quality for Chinese-type spirits from the Dutiable Commodities Regulations (Cap. 109 subsidiary legislation) (the Regulations), and to introduce a labeling requirement for liquors under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (Cap. 109). The details of the proposals were contained in the information paper LC Paper No. CB(1)2286/01-02(03).

Simplifying the overall categorization of liquors

23. Mr James TIEN supported the proposal to remove the prescriptions on the standards of quality for Chinese-type spirits, as the proposal would facilitate the trading of Chinese-type spirits. He also suggested that the Administration should consider simplifying the overall categorization of liquors if such could facilitate enforcement of duty collection and the trading of a greater variety of liquors.

24. DS/FST and the Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (PAS/FST) responded that the fine categorization of Chinese-type spirits as currently provided in the Regulations had caused some difficulty in the import of Chinese-type spirits. The import of other types of spirits such as Japanese-type and western spirits did not pose such problems because they were not as specifically categorized under the Regulations. As the prescriptions concerning western spirits and fortified wine were working well, the Administration had no intention to introduce changes to these prescriptions.

Practices of other jurisdictions for the import and export of liquors

25. Mr Henry WU enquired about the practices of overseas jurisdictions for dealing with the standards of quality of liquors for import and export purposes. DS/FST said that he was not aware of other jurisdictions having prescriptions for Chinese-type spirits similar to those currently set out in the Regulations. PAS/FST supplemented that countries which exported liquors such as France, Australia and certain provinces in China required the alcoholic strength to be specified on the bottle labels. Countries which required imported liquors to specify the alcoholic strength on bottle labels included the United States, New Zealand, France and Australia.

26. The Chairman thanked the Administration for attending this discussion session.

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