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25 June 2003

Mrs. Constance LI,
Clerk to Subcommittee,
Council Business Division 2,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
3rd floor, Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong.
(Fax: 2509 0775)

Dear Mrs. LI,

**Subcommittee on
Apprenticeship (Designation of Trades) Order 2003 and
Apprenticeship (Periods of Apprenticeship) Notice 2003**

At the Subcommittee meeting held on 20 June, Members expressed concern that the specification of Audio-Visual and Radio-Frequency Mechanics and Building Services Mechanics as designated trades might result in early termination of contracts of young people who are currently employed under the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS) as employers may no longer be eligible for the monthly training subsidy of \$2,000 under YWETS. In view of this, Members requested the Administration to consider granting exemption of registration under the Apprenticeship Ordinance (the Ordinance) to those youth workers in these two designated trades during the term of their existing YWETS contracts.

We have checked with the Labour Department (LD) and confirmed with the Office of the Director of Apprenticeship that no young person aged between 14 and 18 is currently employed in the two trades under YWETS. As such, the designation of the two trades will not affect existing contracts under YWETS.

With this clarification, I hope that Members will consider the merits of the designation and support the captioned legislation.

Yours sincerely,

(Mr. Byron Lam)
for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c. SJ	(Attn: Mr. Alan Chong)	(Fax: 2869 1302)
	(Attn: Miss Olivia Wan)	(Fax: 2869 0670)
SEDL	(Attn: Mrs. DO PANG Wai-ye)	(Fax: 3101 1018)
C for L	(Attn: Mr. Stanley Ng)	(Fax: 3101 0289)
	(Attn: Mr. C. S. Koo)	(Fax: 2382 3121)
ED/VTC	(Attn: Mr. M. K. Wong)	(Fax: 2904 7843)