

**HKCA Submission to Bills Committee on  
Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2003**

This paper lists out below HKCA's comments on the proposed landfill charging scheme for construction waste and the associated arrangements under the Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2003.

1. HKCA is supportive to the reduction of waste which helps to extend our landfill capacity.
2. HKCA noted the proposal to exempt all construction contracts that are awarded before the commencement of the landfill charging scheme. However, HKCA maintains the view that the exemption criteria should be revised in such a way that all construction projects with tender submission date before the enforcement date of the Regulation are exempted from the charge. This is to ensure a clear demarcation for contractors to allow for the landfill charge provisions in their tenders and address the possible time lapse situation between the tender submission and the contract award.
3. The landfill charge at \$125 per tonne for construction waste is too high and will create additional financial burden on the construction industry under the present economical situation. We still suggest that a charge of around \$60 per tonne, which represents the estimated recurrent costs of the existing landfills, should be adopted.
4. Accordingly, the charge for disposal at sorting facilities should be lowered to half of the landfill charge, say at \$30 per tonne, in order to provide a financial incentive for sorting and cater for congested construction sites that physically cannot carry out on-site sorting.
5. We consider that there should not be any charge for public fill facilities. This will only create unnecessary administrative works.
6. Another consideration for not imposing a high level charge is not to turn people away from using the facilities, thus reduces fly-tipping.

7. Unless the Chit system is implemented industry wide including the private sector, introduction of the landfill charge scheme will result in drastic increase of illegal dumping.
8. For accounting purposes it is essential that accounts are billed on a construction contract basis.
9. Similar provisions for suspension of demand for payment to be allowed for contractors should they fail to receive money from clients and evidence were produced.
10. Would the Administration clarify that main contractors will not be made liable for sub-contractors default if the sub-contractor / sub-contractor's driver dumps illegally and committed an offence under section 16A.
11. The facilities must have contingency plans for weighbridge breakdowns, e.g. by waiving disposal charges during weighbridge downtime.
12. Comprehensive consultation with stakeholders on the operating details of the charging system should be conducted before the actual implementation of the charging scheme. A simple and stream-lined system is essential in order not to create unnecessary administrative works.

Hong Kong Construction Association  
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