

Information Note
23 November 2009

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development
Proposed Fee Regulation made under the Bunker Oil Pollution
(Liability and Compensation) Ordinance

Introduction

At the meeting on 16 November 2009, Members asked the Administration to review again whether there is room to reduce the application fee for the Insurance Certificate issued by the Director of Marine under the Bunker Oil Pollution (Liability and Compensation) Ordinance (“the Ordinance”). This paper sets out the result of our review and the way forward.

The Proposed Fee

2. The proposed application fee of \$535 reflects Government’s established policy that fees and charges should in general be set at levels adequate to recover the full cost of providing the services concerned. After further evaluation of the cost items and projected revenues, we are of the view that the Government is not in a position to reduce the amount for the moment. We will, however, review the fee level on a regular basis and, as in the case of the fee reduction proposal covering 27 marine-related fee items introduced in May 2009, consult Members on our fee adjustment proposals when the circumstances warrant such action.

Way Forward

3. We will gazette the Commencement Notice for the Ordinance and the proposed fee regulation at the same time on 27 November 2009 and table them at the Legislative Council on 2 December 2009. Allowing for the usual duration for the Legislative Council's scrutiny, we aim at bringing both the Ordinance and the proposed fee regulation into operation on 22 January 2010.

*Transport and Housing Bureau
November 2009*