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**Hong Kong Retail Management Association**  
**Comments on the Extension of Environmental Levy Scheme on**  
**Plastic Shopping Bags**

**28 November 2011**

Hong Kong Retail Management Association welcomes Government's proposal to extend the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags ("The Scheme") to all retailers in Hong Kong. The Association also supports that retailers to retain the levy is the most effective and simplest way to move forward.

Regarding exemption under the Scheme, we would like to give the following comments:

1. It would be helpful if the Environmental Protection Department could issue a list of items that it thinks are exempt/not exempt.
2. Please consider extension of the exemption to (i) packaged ice cream and (ii) loose frozen products such as fishballs / dumplings.
3. The proposed exemption applies to plastic shopping bags used to contain solely "food, drink, medicine or other items for human or animal consumption". What does "other items for human or animal consumption" mean?
4. The proposed exemption will also apply to food, drink, medicine or other items for human or animal consumption "packed in a manner that is not securely segregated from the outside environment". What does this mean?
5. If a customer has an exempt product in a free bag, but then puts in a non-exempt product into the bag at the check-out, does the retailer need to charge the customer?

END