

By post and by fax at 3529 2837

13 June 2013

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central Hong Kong

[Attn: Mrs Mary TANG]

Dear Mrs TANG

**LegCo Bills Committee on Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013 –
Meeting on 18 June 2013**

Thank you for inviting the Institution to put forth our views on the captioned Bill. The HKIE supports the Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013 proposing to extend the charges on plastic shopping bags (PSBs) to all sales of goods by retail. Since the retailers will not be required to remit the charges collected to the Government, this will help reduce the administration cost, and is considered as a practical way on implementing the extended scope, considering that some small- and medium-scale retailers may have difficulty to install electronic cash handling system to keep exact records of the PSBs sold.

However, we suggest the Government to elaborate and lay down clearly the types of retailers that fall within the regulation and provide further elaboration of the reasons for those exclusion cases.

Regarding the proposed fixed penalty of HK\$2,000 for offence of failing to charge for PSBs provided at the time of sale concerned or offering any rebate or discount to offset the charge concerned, the HKIE suggests the Government to arrange more promotion activities and information delivery sessions to the public and retailers, especially to those groups (e.g. senior citizens) who may inadvertently violate or misunderstand the requirements. Also, the Government should elaborate how the staff of concerned Department(s) will execute their duties (e.g. mystery shopper) under the Ordinance.

As a constructive initiative, the HKIE suggests the Government to promote and encourage the retailers to use bio-degradable plastic bags to minimise their effects to environment as well as to donate the charges collected for charitable or environmental protection purposes, which can help to deliver a positive message to the public that the charges collected is not to be considered as additional income of the retailers.

- 2 -

13 June 2013

Mrs Mary TANG

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir Prof CHOY Kin Kuen
President
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

KKC/IN/WC