

**Bills Committee on Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal
(Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 30 October 2015**

Definitions

"Beverage"

1. In the light of the proposed definition of "beverage" in the Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015 ("the Bill"), the Administration is requested to –

- (a) clarify the principles, criteria and industry guidelines, if any, for determining whether a product falls within the said definition and hence will be subject to regulation under the mandatory producer responsibility scheme on product containers which will initially cover glass beverage containers ("the mandatory PRS"); and
- (b) illustrate with examples of common types of food, beverage and sauce contained in glass containers available in the market, such as soup, soya sauce, vinegar, bird nest essence, chicken essence, Bovril beef juice, "turtle tea/jelly", and beauty supplements like collagen drink/jelly, etc. whether and how a product falls under the said definition.

"Suppliers" of regulated articles

2. The Administration is requested to provide, in relation to the definitions of "supplier" and "regulated article" under the Bill, the policy intent and considerations in respect of regulating an article which (a) satisfies the definition of "regulated article"; (b) is acquired locally and hence owned by a supplier that carries on a business of distributing regulated articles in Hong Kong; and (c) the supplier distributes or consumes the article concerned in Hong Kong. In other words, please provide the policy intent and considerations in respect of the regulatory framework under the Bill relating to a regulated article that is neither manufactured nor imported by the supplier as defined in the definition of "supplier" but the article is nonetheless owned by the supplier who acquires it locally and that the article is acquired by the supplier concerned for distribution or consumption in Hong Kong.

Costs and benefits of the mandatory PRS and determination of the recycling levy

3. The Administration is requested to –
- (a) provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis on the mandatory PRS, including the potential cost items and levels, annual levy collectible, values and outlets of materials recycled from glass beverage containers, as well as the quantifiable economic/environmental benefits that the mandatory PRS will bring about, such as reduced land/capital costs involved in the provision of landfill space, and savings achieved for public works projects as a result of using construction materials manufactured from the recycled glass; and
 - (b) set out the considerations to be taken into account in determining the recycling levy, including –
 - (i) the reasons for computing the levy on the basis of per litre-container volume instead of other criteria such as the container weight or adopting a tiered levy rate for different weights/volumes of glass beverage containers); and
 - (iii) whether the costs involved in the collection of glass containers other than glass beverage containers by the glass management contractors to be hired by the Government will affect the level of levy payable by registered suppliers.

Disposal, recycling and reuse of glass containers

4. The Administration is requested to provide –
- (a) updated information on the amount of glass containers disposed at landfills in Hong Kong, with breakdown by glass beverage containers, food/sauce containers and other glass containers, and the percentage of daily municipal solid waste generated by glass containers;
 - (b) distribution in terms of alcoholic beverages (with breakdown by beer, red wine and white wine, etc.) and non-alcoholic beverages (with breakdown by milk, soft drinks and juices, etc.) held in glass in Hong Kong; and the respective rates and average number of times of recovery/reuse of glass containers of the respective beverage categories; and
 - (c) the number of companies conducting glass recycling business in Hong Kong at present.

Compliance costs

5. The Administration is requested to address the concerns raised by members about the potential compliance costs incurred by registered suppliers of regulated articles as a result of implementation of the mandatory PRS, in particular the requirements on the submission and auditing of periodic returns for computation of levy payment.

Council Business Division 1
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