



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, March 24, 1974

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CENSUS STARTS TOMORROW

Manufacturers Urged To Complete Questionnaires Early

Starting tomorrow (Monday) the Census and Statistics Department's staff will deliver or post questionnaire forms to be used for the 1973 Industrial Production Census.

This Census is the first of its kind in Hong Kong and will cover establishments engaged in manufacturing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply. Information to be collected will include employment, labour cost, materials and products, local sales and exports, capital expenditure and stocks of fixed assets.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department said that Hong Kong is the only major manufacturing centre in the world which has not collected industrial production statistics on a systematic basis.

"Both the government and commerce and industry have for some time been concerned about the lack of comprehensive statistics on industrial production and related subjects," he said. "Information of this kind is vital not only to negotiations with the government and industries abroad, but also to enable the government to facilitate economic and social development in Hong Kong.

"Manufacturers and merchants need these statistics so that they can compare their own performance with the overall average in the same industry sector. Industrial production and related statistics are also basic to economic analysis and research."

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In July and August 1971, the Census and Statistics Department conducted a Census of manufacturing establishments in order to establish a framework for this forthcoming Census. Extensive consultations with manufacturers and their associations were carried out in late 1972 and early 1973, and a pilot survey was held in May 1973 to test the organizational procedure and the ability on the part of manufacturers to complete the questionnaire.

The spokesman urged manufacturers to complete the questionnaires as soon as possible. The completed forms may either be returned to the department or be retained until they are collected by census officers. The census officers will do their utmost to assist manufacturers in completing the forms whenever necessary.

Details supplied by individual establishments will be kept strictly confidential and will be published in such a manner that it is not possible to identify any individual establishment.

All completed forms received in connection with this Census will be destroyed by fire not later than June 30, 1976.

The spokesman added that the accuracy and value of the published statistics will depend on the co-operation of the establishment managements and he appealed to manufacturing establishments and to trade and industrial associations for co-operation in this Census.

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NEW WINTER UNIFORM FOR FIREMEN

Hong Kong's firemen will take on a smarter look next Winter with the introduction of a new-style uniform.

The present, rather uncomfortable looking high necked tunic is to be replaced by a double-breasted, open necked, reefer style jacket, with six chrome buttons and matching trousers. The material, good quality Indigo Barathea, replaces the rough serge now used. A blue cotton shirt and black tie will also be worn.

A Fire Services spokesman said today that there had been no change in the style of firemen's uniforms for more than 50 years.

"It is felt that the new uniform will be more in keeping with the times," he said.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the new uniforms are boxed for collection.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.