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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
No truth in report on six months delay in labour scheme .....	1
Survey on student drug abuse .....	1
Revised form for textile export licence .....	2
Injured employees should be compensated on time .....	4

### No truth in report on six months delay in labour scheme

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Referring to a report in a Chinese newspaper today (Wednesday), the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, said there has been no change to the Government's proposal on the Supplementary Labour Scheme (SLS).

"The report which alleged that the Government is considering delaying the proposed SLS by six months is totally without basis.

"I have said on many occasions that I am willing to discuss the SLS with Legislative Councillors, the Labour Advisory Board, and employees and employers representatives. I have been doing this in the past few weeks and will continue to do so," Mr Wong said.

"There is still some time before the proposed implementation date of the SLS. I remain hopeful that with goodwill on all sides, we can come to an arrangement which would allow, under clearly defined rules and after satisfying the most stringent requirements, the employment of foreign workers in specific cases where the vacancies cannot be filled locally. The SLS proposes to do precisely that."

He reiterated that the Government agreed entirely with the position of the trade unions that foreign labour should not be allowed to take away jobs from local workers.

"I have had several useful discussions with the trade unions and made it clear that Government would attempt to address their concerns in a positive manner and with flexibility," he said.

End/Wednesday, November 1, 1995

### Survey on student drug abuse

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The Education Department is conducting a survey to find out the size of the at-risk group among students and the need for support services in schools.

A spokesman for the department said the survey would help the Government to work out an effective remedy to the problem of drug abuse among young people.

The spokesman said primary and secondary school principals are required to consult class teachers, discipline teachers, guidance teachers and school social workers before completing the questionnaires.

In the questionnaires, school principals have to estimate the number of students who are at risk and suggest the kind of preventive programmes they need.

The completed questionnaires should be returned to the Education Department on or before November 25.

To demonstrate the Government's support in combating drug abuse, the department has set up a Drug Education Resource Corner in the Sex Education Resource Centre at Teachers' Centre in North Point this September.

To enhance in-service teacher training on drug education, the department has organised one-day courses for primary school teachers and three-day courses for secondary school teachers.

Meanwhile, a pilot scheme involving 20 secondary schools is implemented in the 1995-96 school year to promote the development of school-based drug education courses.

End/Wednesday, November 1, 1995

#### Revised form for textile export licence

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The Trade Department announced today (Wednesday) that a revised textile export licence Form 4 would be put into use as from next Monday (November 6).

Export licence (Textiles) Form 4 "Form TIC 353 (Rev 1995)" is used to cover the export of textiles not subject to quota restraint and the re-export of textile articles.

A spokesman for the department said applicants using the revised form should pay special attention to changes which are as follows:

- \* Declared exporters or manufacturers, who are not registered with the department for textiles controls purposes and who do not have a textiles controls registration (TCR) number, are required to fill in their business registration (BR) number. The BR number may be omitted for applications covering personal effects or gifts.
- \* The exporter's and manufacturer's declarations have been modified.
- \* The space for affixing stamps has been extended;
- \* The relevant "vehicle no" should be declared on the licence form if applicable.
- \* The conditions of licence and explanatory notes at the back of the licence form have been updated.
- \* The important warning at the back of the licence form has been revised in accordance with amendments to the Import and Export Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations.

The spokesman said the revised Form 4 would be available for sale as from November 6 at \$2.50 per set or \$20 per pad of 20 sets, at the Trade Department Collection Office, Room 813, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

The new form will also be on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, he added.

The spokesman said to facilitate traders in the running down of their old stock, applications on both the existing and the new forms would be accepted concurrently up to December 16.

"Starting from December 18, only the new Form 4 will be accepted for applications, including resubmission of deferred application on fresh licence form," he said.

End/Wednesday, November 1, 1995

### Injured employees should be compensated on time

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The Labour Department today (Wednesday) reminded employers that periodical payment to employees injured at work should be paid on normal pay days.

An employer is liable to pay periodical payment at the rate of two-thirds of pre-accident earnings as compensation to an injured employee for temporary incapacity (sick leave) which results from the work accident.

Under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, the principal contractor is also liable to pay periodical payments to injured employees of his sub-contractors.

Shun Hing Construction Company Limited at Lai Chi Kok Road, Kowloon, being the principal contractor, was recently fined a total of \$15,000 at Kwun Tong Magistracy for failing to pay an injured employee periodical payments within seven days after due day for three wage periods.

The Magistrate also ordered the company to pay an amount of \$1,500 to compensate the employee who suffered from the late payment. The direct employer, Ma Yau-nung, was also fined \$6,000 for three summonses earlier this year.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said failure to pay periodical payments to an injured employee within the statutory period was an offence under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance. The maximum fine for the offence is \$25,000.

End/Wednesday, November 1, 1995