



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, April 30, 1973

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LICENSING SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN HONG KONG EXPORTS

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The Commerce and Industry Department announced today that all exports and re-exports of processed and manufactured foodstuffs and electrical products powered by mains supply will be brought under export licensing from June 1, 1973.

It is also envisaged that toys will become subject to these conditions at some point in the future.

A spokesman for the department said that the decision to extend export licensing to these products had been taken on the advice of the Health and Safety Committee of the Trade and Industry Advisory Board. The committee was established in July 1971 to consider generally the problems of health and safety standards of the products involved, and to advise on measures which should be taken to identify and reduce problem areas.

The spokesman added: "In view of increasing consumer protection activities in Hong Kong's major overseas markets, and the possibility that importing countries might unfairly penalise all Hong Kong products on account of the shortcomings of a few manufacturers, the committee recommended that measures should be introduced to improve basic health and safety standards."

The committee also said action should be taken to prevent the export of obviously dangerous or unhygienic products which could only give rise to adverse publicity unfavourable to Hong Kong's commercial image.

The Executive Council and the Trade and Industry Advisory Board agreed with these views.

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The spokesman explained that the surveillance export licensing scheme is the result. Under it, the Director of Commerce and Industry will have powers to refuse the issue of an export licence to a manufacturer in respect of a particular product which has been the subject of a justified overseas complaint, or which has been proved to the satisfaction of the Director to be dangerous or unhygienic.

"This authority will only be exercised in serious cases and where a manufacturer who has been advised to correct defects in his products has failed to do so," the spokesman said.

Standards of health and safety, based on criteria applied in Hong Kong's main import markets, may be used to determine the suitability of products for export licensing. In the case of foodstuffs, it is the intention to require all Hong Kong origin foodstuffs exported under licence to have been produced in premises registered for the purpose with the Urban Services Department.

The spokesman said it was not anticipated that the new licensing requirements would pose particular difficulties for manufacturers and exporters. In normal circumstances, licences will, as at present, be approved and available for issue within 24 hours of receipt of the applications.

He said the trade had been advised of the system and that the Import and Export (General) Regulations were now being amended.

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OVER 300 HURT ON BUILDING SITES LAST MONTH

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A total of 358 workers were injured last month in accidents on construction sites, according to reports received by the Labour Department.

Mr. A.H. Carter, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Department, said that for the first time in many months there was no fatality in such accidents.

"However," he said, "this does not necessarily reflect that there was an improvement in safety measures in the construction industry.

"In fact the number of injuries showed a slight increase over the figures for February".

He said that as in December last year during which 267 workers were injured and four killed, the main cause of accidents was "falling objects".

Since April last year 610 workers had been injured and eight killed as a result of being struck by falling objects.

Mr. Carter said that many of these accidents could have been avoided had managements paid more attention to housekeeping.

He said: "To reduce the number of accidents of this nature, those working at heights should be provided with proper working platforms. Small items and tools should be kept in suitable receptacles. Large items must be safely secured."

Mr. Carter pointed out that a small nut falling from a height of 50 feet had the penetrating power of a bullet.

/"It is therefore .....

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"It is therefore obvious that debris, scrap items and the like should never be thrown down from heights. Instead they should be lowered in properly constructed containers," he said.

He said he was disappointed to find that managements in general were still apathetic towards carrying out safety measures while workers, on the other hand, rarely pressed for the implementation of such.

"Some of the workers are even reluctant to take advantage of the safety equipment provided by managements," he said.

He quoted "safety helmets" as an example.

"I always advocate that the wearing of a safety helmet will definitely reduce the severity of the injury sustained by the worker in the event of an accident, but it is a pity that only a minority of workers have taken my advice."

Mr. Carter stressed that the only means to overcome industrialists' as well as workers' ignorance of industrial safety was properly organised accident prevention training.

"I cannot stress more the importance of safety training for those working in industry, especially on construction sites," he said.

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ROLE OF POK OI HOSPITAL

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Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, said today he hoped people in the Yuen Long and Castle Peak areas of the New Territories would make full use of the expanded facilities of the Pok Oi Hospital.

He was speaking at a reception in the Medical headquarters to mark the annual visit of the Hospital's Board of Directors, headed by the Chairman, Mr. Koo To-shing.

The Pok Oi is an assisted charitable hospital with 162 beds. It carries out the role of a general hospital for the western area of the New Territories, including Yuen Long and Castle Peak - the latter being a rapidly-expanding centre of population.

Since 1972, a number of improvements have been introduced to encourage people in rural areas to use the Pok Oi Hospital instead of attending overcrowded government hospitals in Kowloon.

In line with this policy, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council recently approved a recommendation by Dr. Choa that from April 1 this year, the Pok Oi Hospital's subvention be increased for the current year from \$1.5 million to \$2,116,000.

Twenty of its 162 beds are being set aside for non-acute cases, and can be used for the transfer of patients from other districts in the New Territories, and urban areas, so as to make full use of available beds.

The others are for acute medical, surgical and gynaecological cases.

Dr. Choa thanked members for their concern for the health and welfare of people living in rural areas and for their recognition of the growing importance of the Pok Oi Hospital in the New Territories.

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EMBARGO NOTE TO EDITORS: The following item is embargoed  
until 8 p.m. today (Monday).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG

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The job of Radio Hong Kong is to tell the truth and there can be no excuse for anything else, the Acting Director of Broadcasting, Mr. James Hawthorne, said in a talk to the Hong Kong Toastmasters Club this (Monday) evening.

He said that "Broadcasting in Hong Kong brings additional responsibilities."

Many people told him that so-called B.B.C. values should be applied in Hong Kong.

But, he said, the B.B.C. was a product of British society -- a society which was outspoken, humourous, irreverent, polemic. It was those factors in society which largely shaped the character of the B.B.C. and created its freedom.

"In many respects broadcasting in England is easy," Mr. Hawthorne said. "You haven't to worry too much about the effect of what you say because you know that society as a whole can take it."

In Hong Kong, however, one had to think the problem through more carefully, more especially when Radio Hong Kong was construed to be the voice of the government.

"Not only must we consider what we say, but how we might be interpreted and therefore how the task of governing may be affected," Mr. Hawthorne said.

Objectivity, he said, was essential but it would be inappropriate and even irresponsible to use some of the techniques of "hard hitting journalism."

/These exercises .....

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These exercises could sometimes be legitimate and might contribute to an ordered process of change in society, he continued.

"Broadcasters should play it a different way especially where news is concerned," Mr. Hawthorne said.

On the whole, he said he would prefer "to cool a controversy rather than add fuel to the fire."

"Understanding is at the root of good broadcasting and compassion shouldn't be too far away," he added.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Hawthorne's speech are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

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41 EVENING COURSES OFFERED BY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

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Forty-one courses will be available at various centres of the Morrison Hill Technical Institute for students enrolling for part-time evening classes which are due to begin next September.

Students who wish to apply for admission should do so immediately as completed forms must arrive at the Institute before May 16. Application forms are available from the Institute, the City District Offices or the Tsuen Wan District Office.

The courses include those at craft level, which are taught mainly in the medium of Chinese, and courses at technician level, which are mainly in English.

Courses are also offered for student technical teachers, workshop instructors, business studies and preliminary and general studies.

Three of them are recognised by the City & Guilds of London Institute.

Two other courses consist of English, Mathematics, Engineering Science and Technical Drawing to prepare students for the Ordinary Certificate and Technician Certificate courses run by the Hong Kong Polytechnic and the Morrison Hill Technical Institute.

Tuition fees vary from \$40 for preliminary classes to \$70 for higher classes per session. For audio-typing and business machines classes, the tuition fees are \$50 per course and Pitman's Shorthand varies from \$50 to \$70 per course.

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Classes will be held at either the Institute in Oi Kwan Road, Wanchai or in some 16 other centres in Hong Kong, Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwun Tong.

Details of the Institute's full-time, block-release and part-time day-release courses will be announced in the last week of July while details of short courses will be given in the middle of September.

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#### TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON TONG

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Special arrangements will be introduced in Kowloon Tong to improve the flow of traffic in the area.

With effect from 10 a.m. on Thursday (May 3), motorists proceeding northwards on Embankment Road will not be allowed to turn right into Boundary Street.

Access to Boundary Street will be via Duke Street and Knight Street.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

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During the third week of the current anti-measles campaign, a total of 585 doses of vaccine was administered, according to figures released today by the Medical and Health Department.

Of the total, 153 doses were administered on the Island, 301 in Kowloon, and 131 in the New Territories.

Since the 1973 anti-measles campaign began earlier in the month, 2,078 children have been immunised against the disease. The campaign is continuing for another six weeks.

Free vaccine is available at all government maternal and child health centres.

The theme of the publicity campaign now going on in the press, radio and TV is that all susceptible children between six months and five years should be immunised.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.