

7 Feb 2013
Food and Health Bureau,
18/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong
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Dear Sir,

Re: Amendments to Import and Export (General) Regulations
(Cap. 60, sub. leg. A)

I write to support the proposed amendment to Import and Export (General) Regulations (Cap. 60, sub. leg. A) as one of the measures to address the problem of shortage of powdered milk. There is no doubt that this is related to the huge demand from parallel traders. The amendment is expected to be useful as a stopgap measure.

It is proposed that

“ exemption from the licensing requirement should be allowed whereby each person aged 16 or above can carry out of Hong Kong not more than a total net weight of 1.8 kg of powdered formula for infants and young children under the age of 36 months. Such exemption should only be applicable to a person on his first departure from Hong Kong within a 24-hour period.”

Given the huge demands across the border, it is likely that parallel traders would try to abuse the exemption by multiple crossings or by paying more people to carry goods for them. To address this, the time limit of granting a repeated exemption should be appropriately lengthened from “within a 24-hour period” to “within 7 calendar days.”

As a huge parallel trade across the border would cause supply problems not only to powdered milk but also many other daily used items and service, it is now time for the government to initiate an in-depth review of Hong Kong’s population policy.

Yours sincerely



Dr HO Pak Leung
Email: