

LOGISTICS POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

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Trade Single Window 貿易單一窗口 (SW)

On 13 April 2016, the Government carried out a three-month public consultation to seek views on the development of a Trade Single Window (SW) in Hong Kong and related matters.



Source: Customs & Excise Department

The HAFFA Executive Committee met the officials of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and Customs and Excise Department on 19 May 2016 for views exchange. As mentioned in previous News, the Association fully supported and urged the implementation of SW in Hong Kong as soon as practicable in order to maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness.

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In response to the public consultation, HAFFA made an official submission to CEDB on 23 June 2016 in which the Association:

- reinforced support to the SW;
- reflected operational concerns;
- sought clarification on possible liability issue under pre-shipment declaration; and
- expressed the need for the SW to also cater for Business to Business connection in order to genuinely enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness.

As a Member's privilege, the HAFFA submission was uploaded onto the website under "Member Only" area [After login] <http://www.haffa.com.hk/portal/MemberOnly/PositionPapers.aspx>

On 25 November 2016, CEDB invited HAFFA for an informal meeting. They thanked HAFFA for the submission, shared the overall views collected from the public consultation and sought further advice from the Association. In brief, the trade generally supported the implementation of SW in Hong Kong but shippers' organizations in particular held serious reservations on the requirement of pre-shipment declaration (pre-TDEC). They do not accept any requirement more than that of the current Road Cargo System (ROCARS). Considering the trade's strong objection to the full pre-TDEC, the Government tended to take a soft-launch approach to roll out SW in phases.

Information in Relation to Cargo in Packages	Information in Relation to Cargo in Bulk
1. Description of packages	1. Gross weight or gross volume of cargo
2. Number of packages	2. Quantity of cargo (If applicable)
3. Description of articles contained in each package	3. Description of cargo
4. Name of consignor	
5. Address of consignor	
6. Name of consignee	
7. Address of consignee	
8. Expected date of arrival in / departure from Hong Kong of the cargo	

Required fields under ROCARS

In order to relieve forwarder's liability, HAFFA also brought out the following suggestions regarding licence requirement at the meeting with CEDB on 25 November 2016:

- Need trader to make declaration under SW as to whether or not valid licence is required for the shipment;
- Platform to link with searching engine for controlled items with enquiry hotline of relevant departments;
- Pop-up message to remind trader of the legal implication and consequence of shipping controlled item without valid licence.

It is expected that more details of the SW implementation will be released by the Government later this year.

Date: 18 April 2017

(END OF REPORT)