

Attn: Shipping, Logistics, Business & News Editors

## **HAFFA Hails Government Amendments to Alternative Smoking Products Transshipment Regulations**

The Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics (HAFFA), has welcomed and fully supported the announcement today (March 22) by the Hong Kong SAR Government of legislative proposals for the Import and Export (Amendment) Bill 2023 (the Bill), related to the transshipment of alternative smoking products.

As predicted by the industry, since the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (the "Ordinance") came into effect on 30 April 2022, the volume of air cargo exports has continued to plummet. According to the latest statistics released by the Airport Authority, in January 2023, the volume of air freight exports fell by almost 30%.

In addition to other peripheral factors, the loss of the huge e-cigarette product transshipment business from the Mainland is one of the main contributors to the decline as most of the Mainland-produced e-cigarette goods originally exported through Hong Kong Airport have now been forced to transship through Macau or South Korea.

The government's ban on the transshipment of e-cigarettes through Hong Kong has had a seriously detrimental impact upon the industry, and has dealt an unprecedented blow to the economy and people's livelihood.

Commented HAFFA Chairman Mr. Gary Lau: "While HAFFA agrees with the original intention of the legislation to protect public health and establish a smoke-free Hong Kong, we also now strongly support the government's legislative (revision) proposal to restore the existing transshipment methods in the freight logistics industry as soon as possible. It is vital to the survival of the industry."

Mr. Lau added: "The Association has proposed a new, safe land transportation method to the Transport and Logistics Bureau, and firmly believes that the industry will also comply with the conditions proposed by the Bureau, and actively cooperate with the strict regulatory measures required by the government to prevent e-cigarettes from entering the local black market through secured land transfer directly to the cargo terminals at the airport. The Association is now actively discussing the details of the proposed intermodal transshipment plan with the government, and will do its best to resume land-air transshipment of e-cigarette products as early as possible."

Established in 1966, and now with over 320 corporate members, HAFFA is responsible for setting industry standards as well as providing educational courses which enhance the professional standards of freight forwarders and logistics services providers.

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Issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics (HAFFA) by PR Plus Limited. For further information, please email [nikki@prplus.com.hk](mailto:nikki@prplus.com.hk).