

TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Programme Areas

(1) Commercial Relations

Aim

The aim is to secure and preserve maximum access and fair treatment for exports from Hong Kong to international markets.

Brief Description

- The Department, through its Multilateral Division, Regional Cooperation Division, Europe Division and Commercial Relations Branches of respective geographical Divisions, is responsible for Hong Kong's commercial relations. It seeks to protect Hong Kong's rights and trade interests by monitoring and responding to trade policies and measures of other trading partners through multilateral and bilateral negotiations and other channels. To this end, Hong Kong relies on the multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the cornerstone of Hong Kong's external trade policy. The Department also engages actively in the discussions with the Mainland on further trade liberalisation under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the effective implementation of respective liberalisation measures.

(2) Textiles Licensing Control

Aim

The aim is to maintain the integrity of the textiles control system through monitoring the production and import/export activities of textiles traders to deter against textiles-related malpractices as well as to safeguard the interests of Hong Kong's textiles trade.

Brief Description

- The Department, through its Factory Registration and Origin Certification Branch, Textiles Licensing Branch, and Textiles Systems Branch of Systems Division, operates a textiles control system to monitor the production and import/export activities of textiles trader. Various textiles licensing facilities are provided to the trade.

(3) Trade Support and Facilitation

Aim

The aim is to :

- fulfil Hong Kong's obligations under international, multilateral and bilateral trade agreements/arrangements and optimise the benefits to Hong Kong flowing from such agreements;
- provide origin certification services and supervise and monitor similar services provided by Government Approved Certification Organisations (GACOs); and
- ensure the efficient operation of control or surveillance measures on import and export of strategic commodities, reserved commodities and rough diamonds, facilitate local importers of Mainland cereals and grain flour to conform to the export administrative measures of the Mainland and to provide a licensing service to supplement control on import and export of ozone depleting substances operated by the Environmental Protection Department for protection of the environment.

Brief Description

- The Department serves the trade/community by providing various licensing/registration facilities in respect of certain non-textiles commodities. The Department also provides origin certification services including preference tariff certification and CO(CEPA); and
- The Department provides a one-stop Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS) Certification services for all service sectors under CEPA.

(4) Industries Support

Aim

The aim is to :

- support and facilitate the development of Hong Kong's manufacturing and service industries, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs). To this end, we will :
 - facilitate access to information and services needed by industries for their further development;
 - ensure the availability of infrastructure and resources, such as industrial land, to meet the needs of industry;

- promote excellence in industry and services by providing steer to the organisation of the Hong Kong Awards for Industries; and
- provide and co-ordinate programmes in support of SMEs in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

- The Industries Support Division of the Trade and Industry Department supports the development of Hong Kong's manufacturing and service industries and the development of SMEs. It maintains liaison with local trade and industrial organisations and collects information on Hong Kong's industrial development. It compiles the Directory of Hong Kong Trade and Industrial Organizations, a quick reference on organizations in the trade and industry sectors in Hong Kong.
- The Industries Support Division participates actively in the formulation and implementation of policies by other government bureaux and departments which impinge on industrial development in Hong Kong. It takes part in the policy formulation processes of various support organisations whose work have an impact on industrial and SMEs development. These organisations include the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Vocational Training Council. It provides steer to the organisation of the Hong Kong Awards for Industries.
- With regards to SMEs, the Industries Support Division develops policy initiatives and implements programmes of services to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and their long term developments. It co-ordinates the efforts of the public sector and industrial support organisations in supporting the development of SMEs and meeting their needs.
- The Division provides information and advisory services to SMEs through its Support and Consultation Centre for SMEs (SUCCESS). SUCCESS provides SMEs including business start-ups with free, reliable and practical information and consultation services. On information service, a comprehensive range of business information, including government licensing and certification requirements, can be found in our website (www.success.tid.gov.hk) and reference library. SUCCESS also keeps customers informed of the latest business developments and SME activities through issuing e-newsletters and e-mail alerts, publishing "SME Pulse", organising product/information displays and providing access to a number of business electronic databases. On consultation service, SUCCESS operates a Business Advisory Service and runs a SME Mentorship Programme. SUCCESS also organises seminars, workshops and other activities to help broaden SMEs' business knowledge and enhance their entrepreneurial skills.
- In addition, the Division administers four SME funding schemes to help SMEs raise capital, expand markets outside Hong Kong, provide training to employers and employees, and enhance overall competitiveness. The four funding schemes are the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme, the SME Export

Marketing Fund, the SME Training Fund (the Department has ceased accepting new applications with effect from 1 July 2005) and the SME Development Fund.

- The Division also provides secretariat support to the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee, an appointed body to advise the Chief Executive on issues affecting the development of SMEs in Hong Kong and suggest measures to support and facilitate their development and growth.
- The Division provides secretariat support to the Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors (Working Group) under the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee. The Working Group aims to promote the Basic Law among the industrial, commercial and professional sectors.
- On the regional front, the Division participates in the SME-related activities of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.