

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

Preparation and selling of popcorn in cinemas

Background

Many cinemas in Hong Kong provide light refreshments such as tea, coffee, sandwiches and hotdogs to their patrons for consumption in the premises. Pursuant to the Food Business Regulation, these cinema operators are required to obtain from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) a restaurant licence or a food factory licence as appropriate.

Trade's Concern

2. At a Business Liaison Group meeting for cinemas, the trade expressed that they encountered difficulty in an application for a light refreshment restaurant licence where a popcorn machine was shown on the proposed layout plan but popcorn was not a food item in the "List of approved food items for light refreshment restaurants". The trade requested FEHD to clarify the licensing requirement of using a popcorn machine to prepare and sell popcorn in a light refreshment restaurant.

Government's Response

3. In response, FEHD has clarified that a food business licence is not required if popcorn is prepared or processed in a hygiene manner and in a machine of a type approved by FEHD and the operation is in a proper manner. A list of approved popcorn machines is available on FEHD's website at http://www.fehd.gov.hk/tc_chi/howtoseries/doc/bafseis_popcorn.htm.

4. FEHD is considering incorporating the above clarification in the application guide for restaurant licence and FEHD's website for trade's reference.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to note the above and offer comments, if any.

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
May 2015**