

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

Avoiding delay in receiving renewed restaurant licences by bars

Background

Under the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap. 109B), the sale of liquor at any premises for consumption on the premises is prohibited except issued with a liquor licence. A liquor licence will only be issued if a bar concerned has been issued with a valid restaurant licence by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). For the restaurant licence to remain valid, it needs to be renewed annually before expiry.

Trade's Concern

2. At a recent Business Liaison Group meeting for karaoke establishments, nightclubs, bars and other entertainment clubs, the bar trade expressed their concern that in some occasions, the renewed restaurant licences were delivered to the bars even though they had indicated clearly in the renewal application forms that the correspondence addresses should be used. Due to the nature of the bar business, there are normally no staff on duty during daytime and the registered mails need to be collected at the Post Office. Such incidents could cause delays in receiving the licences for the bars concerned.

Government's Response

3. In response, FEHD has clarified that the relevant District Environmental Hygiene Office of the department will issue a renewal notice to

the licence holder concerned nine weeks prior to the expiry date of the licence. In applying for licence renewal using the form "Application for Renewal of Licence / Permit" (Form FEHB 152), the applicant can choose to collect the licence by registered mail or in person. Under the mail delivery method, the applicant may choose to collect the renewed licence by registered post to the licensed premises or licensee's correspondence address. FEHD has reminded the staff of the Licence Issuing Offices to send the renewed restaurant licences to the licensees according to the collection method as indicated in the Form FEHB 152.

4. FEHD has also amended the Form FEHB 152 for the licensee to indicate explicitly whether he would like the licence to be sent by registered mail to the address of the licensed premises or correspondence address of the licensee.

Way Forward

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

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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