

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

Good noise control practices for liquor-licensed premises

Background

Under the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400), noise generated from industrial or commercial premises shall comply with the relevant noise standards. Since liquor-licensed premises are more prone to cause noise disturbance to nearby residents, liquor licence applicants are advised to take appropriate measures at earliest stage (such as planning and design stage) possible, to prevent, design out or minimise any potential noise disturbance. During liquor licence renewal, the past track record of a liquor-licensed premises, including duration of the current liquor licence, any nuisances (such as noise nuisance and environmental hygiene problems) caused to the neighbourhood or any complaints received by concerned departments during the licence period are taken into account by the Liquor Licensing Board in assessing liquor licence application.

Trade's Concern

2. At a Business Liaison Group meeting for karaoke establishments, nightclubs, bars and other entertainment clubs, the trades enquired about how to implement effective noise mitigation measures so that the operation of the liquor-licensed premises can minimise noise disturbance to nearby residents.

Administration's Response

3. To facilitate the liquor licensees in considering appropriate measures to abate the noise from the premises, the Environmental Protection Department has developed and introduced to the trade a tailor-made guidebook on "Good Practices on The Control of Noise From Liquor Licensed Establishments" which provides a brief description of potential noise problems

associated with liquor-licensed premises, together with guidelines and examples on practical noise control mitigation measures. The practical guide helped both potential and existing liquor licensees to familiarize with the relevant legislation, identify potential noise sources and appropriate abatement measures as well as highlighted the importance of prior planning to mitigate noise problem at the design stage. As the good practices quoted in the guidebook are not exhaustive, the trade is advised to consult independent experts for ensuring the use of proper and cost effective noise control measures, if deemed applicable. Details of “Good Practices on The Control of Noise From Liquor Licensed Establishments” is available online at <http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/misc/LiquorLicense/Web/en/home.html>.

Way Forward

4. Members are invited to note the above business facilitation initiatives, and offer comment, if any.

**Environmental Protection Department
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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