

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

*Fire Services Department's business facilitation measures for
holding public entertainment events*

Background

According to the Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) Ordinance, Cap 172, Laws of Hong Kong, organizer of public entertainment event is required to apply for a licence. Upon receiving the application for PPE Licence referred from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Fire Services Department (FSD) will formulate detailed fire safety requirements (FSRs) if the proposed siting and layout of the premises are considered suitable for holding public entertainment event. The purpose of FSRs is to protect the safety of public and the premises in case of fire.

2. In the course of conducting risk assessment, FSD will take into account of the siting (e.g. emergency vehicular access, fire hydrants), venue layout (e.g. area involved, number of spectators, stage, use of dangerous goods), construction material of marquees/tents, and other performances carried out at the venue (special effect materials), etc. to formulate the FSRs.

Trade's Concern

3. The trade remarked that due to tight schedule of the event venue, they might face great challenge of short period for venue set-up before the commencement date of the event, not to mention the short notification period to various government departments for conducting compliance inspections. In some circumstances, the trade are concerned that they might have difficulties in complying with FSRs or rectifying outstanding FSRs after the compliance inspection.

Administration's Response

4. With a view to facilitating the organizer of public entertainment event to commence the event timely on schedule, FSD has adopted a proactive approach to maintain close communications with the organizer, continuously monitor its compliance progress, and conduct pre-compliance inspections. Should there be any deviation from FSRs, FSD could offer immediate feedback to the organizer for rectification.

5. Due to the uniqueness of individual events, FSD will consider the circumstances and constraints of individual cases and adopt a pragmatic approach to facilitate compliance with the relevant FSRs. Without compromising fire safety, FSD may consider dealing with some of the FSRs in a flexible manner or accepting alternatives put forward by the organizer in the light of the pertinent circumstances, such as provision of improvised hose reel system and other mitigation fire safety measures instead of automatic sprinkler system.

6. In short, FSD pledged to enhance business-friendliness by maintaining close communications with applicant, assessing alternative approach in terms of risk assessment and expedite licensing process without compromising the standard of fire safety. The public can participate in various public entertainment events with ease of mind.

Way Forward

7. Members are invited to note the above business facilitation measures and offer comments, if any.

Fire Services Department
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