

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Food Business and Related Services Task Force**

***Progress Update on the Administrative Scheme to Regulate
Recycling of Waste Cooking Oils from Licensed Food Premises***

Purpose

This paper updates members on the implementation of the administrative scheme to regulate recycling of Waste Cooking Oils (WCO) from licensed food premises.

Background

2. To prevent WCO from re-entering the food chain, thereby safeguarding public health and promote recycling of WCO, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) have jointly implemented an administrative scheme to regulate recycling of WCO generated by licensed food premises. FEHD has imposed an additional licensing condition requiring licensees of restaurants, factory canteens, food factories and bakeries to hand over their WCO to collectors / processors / exporters registered or licensed by EPD and keep proper WCO collection records for at least 12 months. The new licensing condition will take effect in phases starting from 1 November 2017 after a 15-month grace period.

The Grace Period

3. The 15-month grace period aims to allow more time for the trade to adapt and make necessary arrangements to comply with the new regulatory requirements. During the grace period, inspecting officers from FEHD, while carrying out routine inspections to licensed food premises, have offered proper advices to the operators on how to prepare and keep the WCO collection record. The inspecting officers have also checked the correctness of the records and verified the records with the

transaction invoices provided by the WCO collectors, where necessary, The results of the above checking reveal that though the formats of the WCO collection records kept by licensees are diversified, yet the information contained in the records still comply with the new licensing condition. As such, it is considered that majority of the licensed food premises are ready for the new regulatory requirement.

Cross-checking Mechanism

4. As part of the regulatory control, FEHD and EPD have established a cross-checking mechanism to monitor the recycling of WCO from licensed food premises. Under the mechanism, regular cross-checking is carried out by FEHD and EPD to check the WCO collection records kept by licensed food premises and registered WCO collectors respectively. The two departments also exchange the checking results to verify the information in the respective records. So far, the cross-checking has not revealed any irregularities in the keeping of WCO collection records. In case of doubt or any discrepancy detected by the departments, necessary follow-up action will be taken.

Publicity

5. For the sake of reminding licensees of concerned licensed food premises again on the implementation of the new regulatory requirement, FEHD has published a pamphlet for distribution to the operators/licensees of licensed food premises during routine inspections since September 2017.

Way Forward

6. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and offer comments, if any.

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Environmental Protection Department
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