

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

***Revised Inspection Regime for Licensed Food Premises  
with ISO 22000 Certification***

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has implemented a set of Revised Procedures (“the Scheme”) for licensed food premises which have obtained the ISO 22000 certification.

**Background**

2. Any licensed food premises that have fully implemented the food safety management system under ISO 22000 and obtained the ISO 22000 certification can apply to FEHD for recognition under the Scheme. Upon recognition, FEHD will impose a revised inspection regime for those food premises recognised under the Scheme. In addition, the recognized food premises will be excluded from the Demerit Points System (DPS).

**Eligibility**

3. The food premises fulfilling the following recognition criteria are eligible to apply for recognition under the Scheme:

- (a) The food premises are covered by a valid food business licence (provisional or full licence) issued by FEHD and have a good track record in the past 12 months immediately before the date of application (or between the date of issue of licence and the date of application if the licence was first issued in less than 12 months) and are **not** involved in any of the followings during the interval when the application is under process :

- (i) breach of any provisions of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Cap. 132 (including its subsidiary legislation);
  - (ii) breach of licensing requirements and conditions leading to issue of warning letter;
  - (iii) suspension of licence; and
  - (iv) closure order has been made in respect of the food premises.
- (b) The food premises have fully implemented ISO 22000 and are covered by a valid ISO 22000 certificate issued by an accrediting body;
- (c) The ISO 22000 certificate must cover the entire food premises to which the food business licence relates. Partial certification of part of the licensed food premises will not be accepted; and
- (d) For food business licence issued in the name of an individual person, the licensee has to prove his relationship with the company to which the ISO certification is granted, e.g. a director or employee, etc.

## **The Scheme**

4. Under the Scheme, the food premises will be inspected at intervals of at least once every 5 months.<sup>1</sup> The premises will be subject to additional inspections in the event of food poisoning outbreak, food complaint and other complaints.

5. The recognition of the food premises under the Scheme excludes the food premises from the DPS, but does not exempt the licensee / operator from complying with the legislation. Prosecution will be instituted against the licensee / any responsible person if there is any breach of legislation but no demerit points under the DPS will be counted. In addition, the current policy on cancellation of provisional licence or full licence under the warning letter system is still applicable to the food premises recognised under the Scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> For food premises not recognised under the Scheme, FEHD would classify them into three risk types under the "Risk-based Inspection System", and they are inspected once every 20, 10 and 4 weeks respectively.

## **Cancellation of Recognition**

6. Recognition under the Scheme will be cancelled under any of the following situations and the food premises will be reverted to the normal control mechanism by FEHD and subjected to sanctions under the DPS:

- (a) The ISO 22000 certificate has expired or is withdrawn or cancelled by the accrediting body;
- (b) The food premises are involved in food incident leading to temporary closure of the food premises;
- (c) The food premises are not covered by a valid food business licence;
- (d) Breach of the law which is considered to be of public health or safety significance or very serious in nature<sup>2</sup> or repeated violation of offences with significant food safety and hygiene implications<sup>3</sup>;
- (e) Upon transfer of the food business licence, the incoming licensee fails to obtain certification from the accrediting body within three months.

## **Way Forward**

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

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
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<sup>2</sup> For example, sale of unfit food, sale/possession of meat not from an approved slaughterhouse or other approved sources

<sup>3</sup> For example, unauthorised extension of food business outside the licensed area