

**Thirty-third Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(a) : Report on the work of the  
Wholesale and Retail Task Force***

**Purpose**

This paper reports on the work of the Wholesale and Retail Task Force (WRTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting held on 22 July 2016.

**Work progress of WRTF**

***Implementation of regulations on import control of poultry eggs***

2. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has briefed WRTF on the implementation of regulations on import control of poultry eggs since 5 December 2015 when the regulations became effective. Under the regulatory regime, importers of eggs must produce a health certificate issued by an issuing entity from the place of origin recognised by FEHD and obtain a written permission from FEHD.

3. WRTF notes that CFS has taken prompt actions regarding the views expressed by WRTF in 2011 when it was being consulted on the regulatory proposal. Firstly, to ensure a stable supply of eggs in Hong Kong, CFS has conducted briefings for different stakeholders informing them about the new legislative requirements. The concerned trade and over 60 consulate generals were invited to join the briefings. Subsequently, nearly all issuing entities which have applied for the acceptance of their health certificates by CFS have been approved. Together, they account for almost 100% of the egg import in Hong Kong. Secondly, applications for written permission can be submitted electronically at CFS' website.

4. To provide further facilitation, the written permission issued to an importer is valid for six months and can be used to cover multiple

consignments as long as the total quantity imported does not exceed the quantity specified in the written permission.

5. WRTF welcomes the facilitation efforts of CFS.

### ***Trade Promotion Competition Licence***

6. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has briefed WRTF on the Trade Promotion Competition Licence (TPCL) for a business to hold a game that distributes prizes by lot/chance for the purpose of promoting its business. Typical examples are lucky draws organized by department stores to boost sales.

7. WRTF notes that application for TPCL cannot be submitted electronically. As e-application is common nowadays, WRTF enquires the reason for not enabling e-application for TPCL. HAD has explained that the format of the application forms have been specified in the Gambling Ordinance, requiring signature by the applicant. Nevertheless, HAD normally seeks clarification with the applicants by email in order to expedite the application process.

8. On the enquiry of WRTF, HAD has clarified that if the game is organized for the promotion of business, a TPCL must be obtained irrespective of its scale.

9. WRTF appreciates HAD's clarifications.

### **Way forward**

10. Members are invited to note the work progress of WRTF. WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above issues.

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November 2016