

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

***Agenda Item 3(b) : Report on the work of the Food Business  
and Related Services Task Force***

**Purpose**

This paper reports on the work of the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FRSTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 22 July 2016.

**Work progress of FRSTF**

***Mandatory Use of Designated Products Registered Under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme***

2. The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has consulted FRSTF on the proposed mandatory use of designated products registered under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS).

3. To step up the gear in water conservation, WSD has proposed to mandate the use of showers for bathing, water taps and urinal flushing valves of prescribed water efficiency grading registered under WELS in all new buildings and those undergoing major renovations. To gauge the views and concerns of the stakeholders on the compliance difficulties of the proposal, WSD has engaged a consultant to carry out a Business Impact Assessment (BIA), in which different stakeholders including those from the food trade have been interviewed. It has been identified that, among other things, restaurant kitchens would have difficulties in complying with the proposal due to their operational nature. As such, the consultant has suggested a mitigation measure of excluding kitchens in non-domestic buildings. WSD would like to seek FRSTF's view on the proposal and the suggested mitigation measure.

4. FRSTF has pointed out that the food trade all along supports water conservation. Besides, water cost is significant as the trade has been paying sewage charges on top of the normal water charges. In view of the operational needs and business nature of the trade, FRSTF fully supports the exclusion of commercial kitchens from the proposal.

***Latest Development of the Administrative Scheme to Regulate Recycling of Waste Cooking Oils from Licensed Food Premises***

5. To prevent waste cooking oils (WCO) from re-entering the food chain, thereby safeguarding public health and promote recycling of WCO, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Environmental Protection Department (EPD) jointly consulted FRSTF in June and October 2015 on the administrative measures to ensure the legitimate recycling of WCO generated by local licensed food premises. At the FRSTF meeting on 11 October 2016, FEHD and EPD updated members on the latest development of the implementation of the administrative measures.

6. EPD launched a free WCO recycling administrative registration scheme in February 2016 to register local eligible WCO collectors/processors/exporters. Up to the end of October 2016, EPD has approved over 120 applications for registration. Updates of new registrations and other related information are published on EPD's website for reference by the public and the trade.

7. On source management of WCO, FEHD has imposed a new licensing condition by phases requiring 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. Taking into consideration the views collected during consultation, a 15-month grace period is given for the trade to make necessary preparations. The new licensing condition will take effect in phases starting from 1 November 2017.

8. FRSTF is concerned with the efforts required for keeping WCO collection records according to the prescribed format. The Government undertakes to review the record format in the light of the operational experience during the grace period with a view to facilitating the food business concerned and WCO collectors to comply with the administrative control measures in a more cost-effective manner.

## **Way forward**

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

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit,  
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November 2016