

**Thirty-fourth 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 25 November 2016.

Work progress of WRTF

Enforcement Actions of Customs & Excise Department in the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 8 February 2017, the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) briefed WRTF on enforcement actions in relation to the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). As background, there are two IPR crimes subject to criminal enforcement, namely copyright infringement and trademark counterfeiting. C&ED is responsible for criminal enforcement to combat IPR crimes in Hong Kong. Enforcement procedures include recordation procedures, assessment process, criminal investigation and enforcement actions.

3. WRTF appreciated C&ED's efforts in partnering with the trade in the fight against IPR crimes, including exchange of intelligence, technical support, assistance in commencement of recordation procedures, and seminars and training. They agreed that C&ED should continue with their efforts in partnering with the traders in the combat of IPR crimes.

Co-operation Agreement Between Hong Kong and Shenzhen on Inspection and Quarantine Arrangement at Qianhai

4. At the same meeting on 8 February 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefed WRTF on the inspection and quarantine arrangement at Qianhai. This arrangement was made in response to concerns of frozen meat importers about shortage of cold stores in Hong Kong to meet the demand of the trade, and with consultations with the trade and the relevant Mainland authorities.

5. Under this arrangement, frozen meat imported from overseas may be stored temporarily in Qianhaiwan Bonded Port Area (QBPA) of Shenzhen before importation into Hong Kong in batches. Importation procedures for the transshipment of these frozen meats into Hong Kong would basically be the same as those directly imported into Hong Kong.

6. This arrangement provides the trade with an added option for storage of frozen meat. It helps facilitate business and strengthen co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong in inspection and quarantine arrangements without changing any of the existing statutory requirements for imported food or compromising food safety.

7. WRTF appreciated relevant authorities' arrangements to facilitate the importation of frozen meat into Hong Kong.

Way forward

8. 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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