

**Thirty-fourth 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 25 November 2016.

Work progress of FRSTF

Implementation of Reserve Licensee Mechanism for Liquor Licence

2. On 6 February 2017, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefed FRSTF on the Reserve Licensee Mechanism for liquor licence, which will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2017.

3. As background, the Reserve Licensee Mechanism is a new business facilitation initiative to minimise disruption to business operation by identifying and nominating at an early stage a suitable person as the reserve licensee. Should the liquor licensee (who is usually an employee) suddenly leave the job, the business owner can apply for authorisation of the nominated reserve licensee to take over the role of the licensee. In general, the Liquor Licensing Board should grant approval-in-principle in two to four working days. At the same time, the business owner can apply for transfer of licence.

4. FRSTF appreciated the business facilitation efforts of the Government and suggested FEHD to widely promote the Reserve Licensee Mechanism through seminars and communication with the trade.

Business Facilitation Measure for Frozen Confection Factory Licence Applicants to Apply for Endorsement for Sale of Restricted Foods

5. At the same meeting on 6 February 2017, FEHD briefed FRSTF on the revised “Application Form for Food Business Licence”.

6. As background, any premises other than restaurants (e.g. convenience store) has to apply for a Frozen Confection Factory (FCF) licence for selling soft ice-cream and/or slurpee. If the premises also sells restricted foods such as milk and non-bottled drinks, it has to obtain separate endorsement from FEHD.

7. As a business facilitation measure, applicants can now apply for FCF licence and sale of restricted foods in one single application. FEHD has revised the application form which is available in the department’s website for use.

8. FRSTF appreciated FEHD’s business facilitation efforts.

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,
Financial Secretary’s Office
March 2017