

**Thirty-fifth 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 30 March 2017.

Work progress of FRSTF

Maintaining collection records for Waste Cooking Oils

2. To prevent waste cooking oils (WCO) from re-entering the food chain, thereby safeguarding public health, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) jointly consulted FRSTF in 2015 on the proposed licensing condition requiring restaurants, factory canteens, food factories and bakeries to hand over their WCO to collectors registered by EPD, and keep collection records for at least 12 months.

3. In October 2016, the two departments informed FRSTF that the new licensing condition would take effect from November 2017 after a 15-month grace period. To facilitate compliance by the trade, FEHD had published a specific recording form and guidelines. The Task Force suggested the departments to explore, in the light of operational experience, a more cost-effective means for the trade to maintain collection records.

4. At the FRSTF meeting on 16 June 2017, both departments updated the Task Force that there was no compliance problem in general during the grace period. To further facilitate business operators to fulfil the record keeping requirement, FEHD would consider if licensees could maintain collection records issued by registered collectors as an alternative.

5. FRSTF appreciated the Government to take on members' views to ease compliance by the trade.

Improvement measures on processing liquor licence applications

6. At the same meeting on 16 June 2017, the review team¹ briefed FRSTF on the improvement measures introduced to facilitate timely processing of liquor licensing applications and minimise the impact of the summer recess of the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) on the applications.

7. As background, a food business providing alcoholic drinks for consumption on the premises must obtain a liquor licence. To process a liquor licence application, the Government conducts local consultation and assesses whether the applicant is a fit and proper person. If no public objections or adverse comments are received, the application will be approved by FEHD. For contested cases, they have to be considered by LLB which has summer recess in August.

8. FRSTF appreciated the Government's initiative to improve liquor licence application processing.

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
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¹ The review team comprises representatives from the Food and Health Bureau, FEHD, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Home Affairs Department.