

**Thirty-sixth 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 18 August 2017.

Work progress of FRSTF

***Progress Update on the Administrative Scheme to Regulate Recycling of
Waste Cooking Oils from Licensed Food Premises***

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Environmental Protection Department have periodically updated FRSTF on the implementation of the administrative scheme which requires relevant food businesses to hand over their Waste Cooking Oils to registered collectors and keep proper records. The regulatory requirements have taken effect from 1 November 2017 after a 15-month grace period during which FEHD had introduced various facilitation measures to ease the trade's compliance.

3. At the FRSTF meeting on 30 October 2017, FEHD updated members that the trade in general did not encounter difficulties in complying with the new requirements during the grace period. So far, no irregularities had been identified.

4. FRSTF appreciated the Government's efforts to facilitate the smooth implementation of new regulatory measures.

Transfer of Liquor Licence without the Consent of Current Licensee

5. At the same meeting on 30 October 2017, FEHD briefed FRSTF on the transfer of liquor licence without the consent of current licensee.

6. The food trade has raised concern about the disruption to business operation when a liquor licensee (who was usually an employee) left the job and refused to transfer the licence to another person. Under this circumstance, it would be rather difficult for the business owner to obtain a liquor licence for selling liquor at the food premises concerned.

7. FEHD has reviewed the situation. With the legal advice on the legality of transferring a licence without the consent of the existing licensee and the agreement from the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB), the department would process such transfer application for consideration by LLB. LLB would grant approval subject to the evidence produced by the applicant regarding the ownership of the concerned food business.

8. FRSTF appreciated the Government's effort to address the trade's concern.

Implementation Details of the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme

9. To enhance drinking water safety, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) has recently launched the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme (the Programme). WSD briefed FRSTF on the implementation details of the Programme at the same Task Force meeting.

10. The Programme, with voluntary participation, aims to monitor the quality of drinking water by testing water samples collected at randomly selected premises including restaurants. If exceedance of metal contents is found, WSD will provide free investigation into the cause and offer professional advice on possible mitigation measures.

11. FRSTF supported the Government's initiative to enhance the monitoring of water quality and appreciated WSD's efforts to provide assistance in the case of water contamination.

Consultation on Review of Fees for Liquor Licensing Services

12. FEHD had reviewed the fees for liquor licensing services and conducted a special consultation session on 25 August 2017 to solicit views from members of FRSTF and representatives of food trade associations on the proposed fees adjustment. Members and the trade participants actively expressed their views and concerns on the fee revision proposal.

Way forward

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