

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

***Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 21 December 2017.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. In the year 2017, nine Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings were held. At these meetings, a total of 44 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. In addition, nine information dissemination sessions on new business facilitation measures or regulatory requirements and two consultation sessions on proposed new regulation were conducted by the departments concerned.

Facilitating validation of unauthorised signboards

3. At the BLGTF meeting on 12 April 2018, the Buildings Department (BD) briefed members that BD was working with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on a new facilitation measure which would facilitate the validation of certain existing unauthorised signboards during the application for food business licences. Under the proposed measure, trade operators who apply for food business licences could have the option of appointing building professionals to carry out two separate procedures, namely, the validation of unauthorised signboards under the Signboard Validation Scheme and the certification of the premises being free of unauthorised building works (a licensing requirement), in one go. Relevant forms are being revised with a view to implementing the initiative in late 2018 tentatively.

Streamlined processing of Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL) applications for family amusement centres (FAC)

4. To address the trade's concern over the long processing time by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) in vetting applications for PPEL for operating a FAC, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has since November 2017 allowed applicants to submit the supporting documents required by HKPF upfront when they lodge the applications, and it will refer them to the HKPF in the first instance to expedite the processing. FEHD has updated the licensing guide accordingly.

5. Starting from May 2018, HKPF will further streamline the process by interviewing PPEL applicants on a case-by-case basis having regard to the individual circumstances of each licence application.

6. FEHD briefed BLGTF on these trade facilitation initiatives at the meeting on 12 April 2018.

Flexible deployment of game devices / machines in family amusement centre (FAC) premises

7. Under the existing practice, some FAC operators may have to provide evidence to account for the discrepancies between the actual number of game devices deployed in the premises and that on the approved game list. The Home Affairs Department and the Hong Kong Police Force clarified at the BLGTF meeting on 12 April 2018 that operators were not required to do so as long as the types of the games actually deployed were on the approved game list and the number of games did not exceed that on the approved list.

8. BLGTF appreciated the facilitation efforts of the departments concerned.

Way forward

9. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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