

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

***Agenda Item 4(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 26 June 2018.

Work progress of WRTF

Licensing control over sale of prepacked food requiring hot holding by means of vending machine

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 27 August 2018, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) informed Members that to ensure food safety and protect public health, with effect from August 2018, operators selling prepacked ready-to-eat food requiring hot holding by means of vending machine were required to obtain a permit from the FEHD. It was required that all food sold in the machine shall be prepacked and kept at a temperature at least 60 °C, the machine shall be equipped with a thermometer and a device to cut-off automatically its sale operation once food storage temperature in the machine is below 60 °C. All food in the machine shall not be used for resale after the automatic cut-off.

3. WRTF appreciated FEHD's efforts in discussing with the trade before implementing the licensing control and supported the relevant licensing control which protected public interest.

Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 – Prohibition against the Sale and Supply of Alcohol to Minors

4. At the same meeting, the Department of Health (DH) briefed Members on the progress and details of the legislation which prohibited the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor to minors in the course of business.

5. Under the Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, no persons shall sell or supply intoxicating liquor to minors in the course of business. For face-to-face distribution, a sign containing the prescribed notice must be displayed at the place of sale or supply. For remote distribution, a sign containing or expressing the contents of the prescribed notice must be displayed and an age declaration from the purchaser must be received. No person shall sell intoxicating liquor through vending machines. The Ordinance will be effective on 30 November 2018.

6. WRTF welcomed the legislation which would protect the youth from the influence of alcohol. It also appreciated DH's efforts in preparing guidelines to facilitate compliance of the trade as well as its publicity work on the legislation through various means.

Way forward

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

Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
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