

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

***Agenda Item 3(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 5 November 2018.

Work progress of WRTF

Update on Progress of Enhancement of Pharmaceuticals Licence Application and Movement Monitoring System (Phase II)

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 14 January 2019, the Department of Health (DH) updated Members on the latest progress of the Pharmaceuticals Licence Application and Movement Monitoring System (PLAMMS). PLAMMS is an automatic licensing system to process import and export licences applications and monitor drug movement of unregistered drug products for re-export. Phase I was rolled out in 2015. Phase II will be extended to cover unregistered pharmaceutical products for other purposes, locally registered pharmaceutical products, dangerous drugs; and psychotropic substances. Phase II is tentatively scheduled for roll-out in Q4 2019.

3. WRTF welcomed PLAMMS which reduced courier services and shortened the processing time to obtain licence approval, and hence facilitated the trade. WRTF also appreciated DH's support for the trade such as organising briefing sessions, implementing trial runs, setting up kiosk with PC workstations, etc.

Licensing control over sale of hairy crab

4. At the same meeting, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) informed Members that to enhance food safety, licensing control over sale of hairy crab had come into effect on 3 September 2018.

The major licensing requirements for issuance of the hairy crab permit included installation of public mains water or other approved water source and provision of refrigerator and wash-hand basin in premises. For those businesses conducting only online sale of hairy crabs, the operators shall apply for a permit from FEHD for selling restricted foods online.

5. WRTF welcomed the relevant licensing control which protected public health. It also appreciated FEHD's efforts in organising consultation forums and briefing sessions to solicit the trade's views as well as following up the trade's concerns to reduce their compliance costs.

Government's strategy towards prevention of African Swine Fever

6. At the same meeting, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the FEHD and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed Members on Government's preventive measures and contingency plans in response to African Swine Fever (ASF). The departments had enhanced the biosecurity in various areas, including local pig farms, boundary checkpoints and slaughterhouses, and stepped up surveillance. The Government had been maintaining liaison with the local pig rearing sector and disseminating information to the trade and the general public about prevention against ASF via different channels. Close liaison with relevant Mainland authorities had also been maintained on the development of and response actions to ASF.

7. WRTF welcomed the Government's proactive preventive measures against ASF. It also appreciated the Government's efforts in protecting local pigs from ASF infection and ensuring sufficient supply of live pigs for consumption by the public.

Way forward

8. 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
Innovation and Technology Bureau
March 2019