

**Fortieth 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 14 March 2019.

Work progress of FRSTF

Occupational Safety and Health Law related to Fire Precautions in Food Business Establishments

2. Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Fire Precautions in Notifiable Workplaces) Regulations (Cap 59V) regulates food business establishments in regard to fire precautions to safeguard employees' occupational safety in these premises. From time to time, Labour Department (LD) conducts surprise inspections to food business establishment workplaces (e.g. restaurants, factory canteens and food factories) to enforce the relevant occupational safety and health legislation. LD briefed FRSTF on the details of the statutory requirement in the meeting on 8 July 2019.

3. FRSTF appreciated LD's efforts in explaining clearly on the statutory requirements. This would enable the trade to avoid being in breach of the Ordinance.

Revised Licensing Condition of Temporary Food Factory Licence on Requirements for Eating and Drinking Utensils

4. According to Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X), a Temporary Food Factory Licence (TFFL) must be obtained for a food business which involves the operation of a stall/kiosk of a temporary nature for heating up and sale of pre-cooked food for consumption off the premises in conjunction with a public function (e.g. Lunar New Year fairs and carnivals). One of the licensing conditions is that only clean new wrapping materials and disposable eating and drinking utensils shall be used in the sale of takeaway foods on the premises.

5. Recently, some organisers of public events provided tableware rental service for participants of the events on the spot. On the premise of not

compromising food safety and environmental hygiene, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has amended the relevant licensing condition of the TFFL. That is, the licensee is now required to use clean and hygienic wrapping papers and eating and drinking utensils for takeaway foods, not just limited to clean new wrapping papers and disposable eating and drinking utensils.

6. FRSTF welcomed the new licensing requirement which allows the trade greater flexibility in meeting actual operational needs and appreciated FEHD's efforts on business facilitation.

Introduction of the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited

7. The Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited (ASTRI) briefed FRSTF on its services and how it could help the trade to create stronger socio-economic benefits through applied research.

8. ASTRI is the R&D Centre set up by the Government for Information and Communications Technologies. ASTRI also acts as a bridge between the academia pursuing basic research and the industry applying those technologies, facilitating successful commercialisation of technologies into industries and the communities. The participating organisations have benefited from ASTRI's R&D services and resulted in more efficient operations, better customer experience and more meaningful societal impact.

9. ASTRI can embark on new R&D initiatives leveraging government funding schemes such as Innovation and Technology Fund to help enhance the market competitiveness of the business. ASTRI welcomes the food trade to explore with it how innovative technologies could be applied in resolving their business pain points and enhancing their business operation.

10. FRSTF appreciated ASTRI's efforts which fosters the trade to further apply innovation and technology to enhance efficiency in business operation.

Way forward

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

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
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