

**Forty-first 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 28 August 2019.

**Work progress of the BLGTF**

***Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups***

2. From 19 June to 4 November 2019, three Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings were held and a total of 30 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. Seven information dissemination sessions on business facilitation / new regulatory requirements were conducted by the departments concerned.

***Measures to facilitate licence applications for hotel/guesthouse and club premises***

3. To streamline the internal procedures/workflow for new and alteration applications and enhance guidance to applicants to speed up the process, the Office of Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department has formulated a number of business facilitation measures. The OLA briefed Members at the BLGTF meeting held on 5 November 2019 on these measures, which include simplifying the standard licensing requirements and supporting documents for report of completion of compliance works, streamlining the workflow for new applications and publishing a new performance pledge on processing reports of completion, encouraging submission of the required documents in one go, streamlining the details to be shown on the layout plans as well as streamlining the procedures for alteration works. The new measures are being implemented.

4. The BLGTF thanked the OLA for the business facilitation measures which would enhance the efficiency and transparency of the licensing application process.

***Measures to Streamline the Application Procedures for Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences (TPPEL) by Adoption of “Authorised Person/Registered Structural Engineer (AP/RSE) Certification on Pre-accepted Temporary Structures”***

5. To streamline the application processing for TPPEL, the Buildings Department (BD) briefed Members at the same meeting on its initiative to allow APs/RSEs to provide certification on temporary structures that have been pre-accepted by BD. This will obviate the need for the APs/RSEs to provide structural justifications for every similar TPPEL application. The department is working out further details of the scheme and the new procedures will tentatively be put in place by mid-2020.

6. The BLGTF welcomed the above simplified procedures which will help reduce the trades’ administrative burden and speed up the licence application processing.

***Use/Storage of Carbon Dioxide in Compressed Gas Cylinders at Food Kiosks Inside Theme Parks***

7. In response to the trade’s concern, the Fire Services Department briefed Members at the same meeting on one of its proposed amendments to the regulations under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance which updates the exempt quantity for compressed carbon dioxide and allows operators to store more compressed carbon dioxide cylinders as reserve at food kiosks (at a maximum of 150 litres in water capacity) for making soda, thus minimising the need for their frequent conveyance of gas cylinders between the dangerous goods stores and kiosks for replacement. The amendment bill is scheduled for submission to the Legislative Council in the first quarter of 2020.

8. BLGTF welcomed the proposed changes to the exempt quantity of compressed carbon dioxide which will help relieve the trade’s burden and ensure smooth operation of their business.

**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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