

**Forty-third 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 progress of the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FRSTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting on 12 May 2020.

Work Progress of FRSTF

2. In view of the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and the social distancing measures, discussion papers of the following items were circulated to solicit views from members.

Requirements under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and Measures for Good Labour Relations

3. The Labour Department (LD) briefed FRSTF on the requirements under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, including liability for compensation for work injury and compulsory employees' compensation insurance, and the approach of arranging employees to take no pay leave, with a view to maintaining harmonious employment relations.

4. FRSTF appreciated LD's efforts for the clear explanation of the regulatory requirements and the tips of good labour relations to the trade.

Measures to Facilitate Applicants of Catering Business (Social Distancing) Subsidy Scheme to Obtain Full Licence in a Timely Manner

5. The government launched the Catering Business (Social Distancing) Subsidy Scheme (Scheme) under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide immediate financial relief measures to the catering businesses, which were hard hit by the social distancing measures. One of the criteria for applying for the Scheme was that the related food business licences must be valid throughout the whole period from the date of approval of the application till the end of October 2020.

6. To facilitate licence holders to obtain full licences before their provisional licences expire in order to meet the eligibility criteria for application and subsidy release, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Fire Services

Department, the Buildings Department (BD) and the Independent Checking Unit, Office of the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing) (ICU) have implemented a number of measures, including strengthening communication with applicants to notify them of the outstanding licensing requirements.

7. FRSTF expressed appreciation to the relevant departments for their efforts in developing business facilitation measures to assist the trade in obtaining full licences.

New Minor Works (MW) Item under the Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020

8. BD added erection or alteration of supporting frames for suspending an air-conditioning or mechanical ventilation plant of more than 150 kg inside a building as Class I MW under the Building (Minor Works) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (the Amendment Regulation). The Amendment Regulation came into effect on 1 September 2020.

9. BD and ICU briefed FRSTF on the Amendment Regulation and the implementation details. The works in paragraph 8 above should be carried out in accordance with the simplified requirements under the Building (Minor Works) Regulation. For supporting frames inside a building for suspending plants of weight below 150 kg, the erection or alteration works might be regarded as exempted building works under section 41(3) of the Buildings Ordinance. In this respect, the submission of structural justification prepared by an Authorized Person /Registered Structural Engineer for supporting frames for plants of more than 100 kg but less than 150 kg to BD¹ is no longer required.

10. FRSTF thanked the efforts of the departments in briefing the trade the new regulatory requirement prior to the implementation. This would enable the trade to avoid being in breach of the Regulation.

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
Innovation and Technology Bureau
September 2020**

¹ For licence applications for premises on existing and divested properties of the Housing Authority, the Independent Checking Unit set up under the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing) will be consulted.