

**Forty-sixth 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 20 May 2021.

Work progress of WRTF

Promotion of Wider Use of Stand-alone Fire Detectors in Hong Kong

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 18 August 2021, the Fire Services Department (FSD) gave a briefing on promoting a wider use of stand-alone fire detectors to enhance building fire safety. It proposed to amend the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulation (Cap. 95B) (FS(IE)R) that owners/occupants of any buildings/premises would not be required to engage Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors (RFSICs) for the installation, maintenance, inspection or repair of any stand-alone fire detectors which were installed upon their own volition. They would also be exempted from the statutory duty of keeping the stand-alone fire detectors in efficient working order at all times and having them inspected by the RFSICs at least once in every 12 months. The FSD would publish guidelines for members of the public on selection and installation of appropriate standalone fire detectors. It would also launch promotional activities and liaise with relevant trade representatives to encourage them to import/sell stand-alone fire detectors which met the required standards.

3. The WRTF welcomed the proposal and appreciated the FSD's commitment to formulating fire safety policy for better protection of life and property in the territory.

Implementation of the Food Trader Portal

4. At the same meeting, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department briefed Members on the implementation of the Food Trader Portal (FTP). The FTP was a one-stop electronic platform for communication between food traders and the CFS which aimed at strengthening the CFS' capability in food import control, streamlining workflows and facilitating the trade through IT applications. Through the FTP, food traders could register as food importers and / or distributors, renew registration and update trader information online, and apply electronically for import licences and import permissions. The CFS has organised seminars, briefings and training workshops for food traders to help them familiarise with the online operation. Online resources have also been uploaded to the FTP website for reference of food traders.

5. The WRTF welcomed the implementation of the FTP and appreciated the CFS' efforts in strengthening food safety control and traceability.

Way forward

6. Members are invited to note the work progress of the WRTF. The WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above initiatives.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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