

**Forty-sixth 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 the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 20 May 2021.

**Work progress of the BLGTF**

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

2. From 20 April to 27 July 2021, one BLG meeting was held and a total of five issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. At the meeting, four information dissemination sessions on business facilitation were conducted by the departments concerned.

***E-services and measures to improve guidance and support for licensing of hotels, guesthouses, clubhouses, karaoke establishments and entertainment trades***

3. The Office of Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department briefed the BLGTF at its meeting of 28 July 2021 on its latest business facilitation initiatives including provision of e-licensing services for all 12 licences under its administration in phases to allow trades to submit licence applications, make payment, collect licences and track application status online. OLA will also provide better guidance on licence application and support to trades by improving the guidelines on ventilation requirements for licence applications and enhancing the online search function for hotels and guesthouses. A set of Frequently Asked Questions on Hotel and Guesthouse Licence Application has also been devised and posted on OLA's website for trades' easy reference.

4. BLGTF thanked OLA for the initiatives which will reduce trades' compliance burden by making licence applications more business-friendly and transparent.

***E-licensing and other business facilitation measures for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks***

5. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) briefed at the same meeting on a series of initiatives taken forward to facilitate licensing and related applications for billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks. They include provision of e-submission, e-payment, e-licence and e-notification of application progress for applicants, streamlining application forms and documentation requirements, extension of the approval period for extension of business hours and relaxation of specification of moveable furniture items on layout plans.

6. BLGTF thanked LCSD for implementing the business facilitation measures which will streamline the licence application process and save the trades' time and administrative efforts.

***Revised fire safety requirements for emergency lighting systems for licensed/registered premises***

7. The Fire Services Department (FSD) also briefed at the same meeting on the revisions made to the fire safety requirements (FSRs) for emergency lighting systems in licensed/ registered premises to keep them in pace with technological advancement and enhance the fire safety standards in licensed/registered premises. Apart from updating of the FSRs with reference to the current international/national standards, the revisions also cover *inter alia*, updates on the minimum fire resisting cable requirements, routine inspection and testing requirements for emergency lighting systems, as well as requirements on provision of escape lighting, performance verification of the systems and specification of the minimum period of rated duration for self-contained systems.

8. BLGTF welcomed FSD's updates to the FSRs which will facilitate business by ensuring the reliability of the emergency lighting systems and enhancing the fire safety of the premises concerned.

**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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