

**Forty-seventh 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 20 September 2021.

Work Progress of the FRSTF

***Responding to the Trade’s Concern about the Statutory Requirement of
“Notification of Workplaces” and Enhancing Promotion***

2. In the meeting on 8 December 2021, the Labour Department (LD) responded to the FRSTF members’ concerns and suggestions raised at the last meeting on the “notification of workplaces” requirements under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap. 59), including streamlining the procedures for submitting notification, digitising the notification records and enhancing promotion of the statutory requirements.

3. The FRSTF thanked the LD’s effort in responding to the trade’s concerns and suggested the department providing a one-stop service for workplace notification, expediting the digitisation of notification records and stepping up the publicity work, in order to facilitate the trade’s compliance.

***Arrangement to Relax the Requirement for Applying to Lands Department
for Offensive Trades Licences under Government Leases for Specified Food
Businesses***

4. The Lands Department (“LandsD”) briefed the FRSTF on the arrangement to relax the requirement of applying for an offensive trades licence (“OT Licence”) for three types of licenced food businesses, namely, General Restaurant Licence, Light Refreshment Restaurant Licence granted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Liquor Licence granted by the Liquor Licensing Board. Under the new arrangement, upon the grant of the above licences for premises which is subject to the offensive trades clause under the Government lease, an OT Licence would be deemed to be granted to the owner of the premises concerned by LandsD without the need of separate application and payment of associated fees.

5. The FRSTF welcomed the business facilitation measures and appreciated LandsD's efforts in reducing the trade's administrative burden in complying with licensing requirements.

New Exempt Quantity for Use/Storage of Carbon Dioxide in Pressure Receptacles

6. The Fire Services Department (FSD) briefed the FRSTF about the new exempt quantity pertaining to the use or storage of carbon dioxide in pressure receptacles at food premises (i.e. pressure receptacles for making soft drinks). According to the new Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation, the exempt quantity will be determined in terms of water capacity of the pressure receptacles. The new exempt quantity for compressed carbon dioxide in pressure receptacles is set to be 150 litres. The new Regulation is tentatively scheduled to come into operation within the first quarter of 2022.

7. The FRSTF thanked the departments' briefing and welcomed the measure that facilitates the trades.

Way Forward

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

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
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February 2022**