

**Forty-seventh Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 4 : Report on the progress of the
“Be the Smart Regulator” Programme
– January 2022 update***

Purpose

This paper provides updates on the progress of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme (the Programme) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 20 September 2021.

Latest progress

Overview

2. All the 29 participating bureaux and departments (B/Ds) continue to sustain their momentum in enhancing business licensing services. Good progress has been made on various fronts to further improve the regulatory environment for business in Hong Kong and its long-term competitiveness. Major progress is highlighted below.

Major progress in various departments

3. The participating B/Ds have developed a total of 398 business facilitation measures from 2018-19 to 2020-21. 306 of them (77%) have been completed by 2020-21. In 2021-22, B/Ds have devised 108 new measures to continue improving the efficiency and transparency of licensing services and reducing compliance costs to trades through streamlining procedures, proactively using information technology, enhancing regulatory requirements, as well as strengthening support and guidance to the trades. Examples of the measures implemented recently are highlighted as follows –

- (a) The Trade and Industry Department has provided end-to-end e-services (including e-submission, e-processing, e-tracking and e-approval) to facilitate the trade in applying for Authorisation for Delivery of Rice.

- (b) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has adopted iAM Smart for applications under Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to enhance the user-friendliness in application process.
- (c) The Civil Engineering and Development Department has streamlined the supporting documents required for Sand Removal Permit to reduce applicants' and department's efforts in preparing and vetting the supporting documents respectively.
- (d) The Marine Department has established performance pledges for issuance of five licences¹ to enhance the transparency of the licensing process and facilitate the trade in business planning.

Progress of meeting policy pledges on e-licensing

4. It is pledged in the 2020 Policy Address Supplement and 2021 Budget Speech that by mid-2022, e-licensing should be implemented for all licensing applications under the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme unless there are legal or operational constraints. Relevant B/Ds are on track in implementing the required e-services. The Efficiency Office will provide the necessary support and assistance to B/Ds. B/Ds will continue their efforts in meeting the target of providing the e-services for licence application and hence a more business-friendly environment for trades.

Way forward

5. Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
February 2022**

¹ The five licences are International Load Line Certificates, International Ship Security Certificates, Passenger Ship Safety Certificates, Documents of Compliance, and Safety Management Certificates.