

**Fiftieth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 4(b): Report on the work of the
Food Business and Related Services Task Force***

Purpose

This paper reports the work progress of the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FRSTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting on 9 November 2022.

Work Progress of the FRSTF

***Proposal on Requirement of Providing Consumer Advice for
Consumption of Oysters to be Eaten in Raw State (Raw Oysters)***

2. At the FRSTF meeting on 19 December 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) consulted the FRSTF on the proposed inclusion of a new licensing condition requiring food business operators to provide consumer advice on consumption of raw oysters. To better protect public health and ensure food safety, the FEHD considers requiring food premises to provide consumers advice on their menus and websites concerning the potential risk of food poisoning.

3. The FRSTF expressed its reservation on the FEHD's proposal, considered that the public in general is already aware of the potential risks of consuming raw oysters. The FRSTF suggested the FEHD take into consideration the views and concerns expressed by members, revise the proposal and consult FRSTF again before implementation.

***Reforming the Food Business Licensing Regime – Introduction of a
“Professional Certification System” (PCS) on a Pilot Basis***

4. The FEHD also briefed the FRSTF on introduction of a PCS for the issue of licences to light refreshment restaurants and food factories on a pilot basis as an additional option for obtaining full licences. Under the PCS, the FEHD will accept a Certificate of Compliance and final layout plans issued by an authorized person or a registered structural engineer as the certification for compliance with all health requirements for the issue of a full licence. After issuing the full licence, the FEHD staff will conduct on-site audit checks on the premises. The FEHD plans to roll out the new measure in March 2023.

Subject to smooth implementation and support from the trade, the FEHD will arrange extending the new measure to other food business licences in the second half of 2023 the soonest.

5. The FRSTF welcomed the new PCS and expressed appreciation to the FEHD for their efforts in developing business facilitation measures to assist the trade in obtaining full licences timely.

Relaxing the Restrictions on the Scope of Food Items that Can be Sold at Light Refreshment Restaurants (LRRs)

6. To increase the operational flexibility of LRRs, the FEHD briefed the FRSTF on relaxing the restrictions on the scope of food items that can be sold at LRRs. Restrictions will be imposed on the cooking activities instead of the food type under the new initiative. Simple cooking activities (e.g. boiling, stewing, steaming, braising and simple frying) that do not generate a large amount of greasy fumes will be permitted during food preparation. The FEHD plans to roll out the new initiative in March 2023.

7. The FRSTF welcomed the relaxed initiative and appreciated the business facilitation effort of the FEHD.

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
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
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