

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups**

*Measures to Facilitate Renewal of Cinema Licences*

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members on the measures introduced to facilitate renewal of cinema licences.

**Background**

2. Under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance (Cap. 172), anyone who wishes to operate or use a place of public entertainment must obtain a licence. A business operator needs to obtain a Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL) (Cinema/Theatre) for operation of a cinema. The licence is valid for 12 months. The operator can submit an application for licence renewal in writing to the licensing authority during the period not more than six months and not less than five months before the expiration of the licence. The Secretary for Home Affairs is the licensing authority who has authorized the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to execute relevant licensing and renewal procedures.

**Trade's Concern**

3. The cinema trade has been concerned about the long processing time for renewal of the PPELs (Cinema/Theatre). They expressed that the compliance inspections conducted by relevant departments (including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Buildings Department (BD) and Fire Services Department (FSD)) were often conducted at a late stage, and operators' proposed alteration works were taken into account in processing applications for licence renewal. These have resulted in last minute approval of the renewal applications before licence expiry which might affect the trade's business continuity.

## **Administration's Response**

4. To address the trade's concern, FEHD, BD and FSD have worked out the following business facilitation measures with a view to facilitating the trade to timely obtain approval of the renewal of PPELs (Cinema/Theatre) –

- (a) Provided that the proposed alteration works do not have adverse effect on the fire safety, building safety and public hygiene of the cinema as a whole, the departments concerned will not raise objection to the licence renewal application or await the completion of the alteration works before granting the renewal approval; and
- (b) To ensure early approval of the licence renewals, upon confirmation that the premises for licence renewal could comply with various safety requirements, the departments concerned will issue a “no objection” advice for the renewal application to FEHD no later than two months before the licence expiration date.

5. It is expected that the above measures will better enable timely processing of the renewal applications of cinema licences and minimise the impact of alteration and addition works on licence renewals. The above measures have been implemented and are in effect.

## **Way Forward**

6. Members are invited to note the content of the paper and offer comments, if any.

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
**Buildings Department**  
**Fire Services Department**  
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