

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

*The use / storage of carbon dioxide in compressed gas cylinders
at food kiosks inside theme parks*

Purpose

This paper informs members of the forthcoming legislative changes pertaining to the use or storage of carbon dioxide in compressed gas cylinders at food kiosks inside theme parks.

Background

2. Pursuant to Section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO), Cap. 295, except under and in accordance with a licence granted under DGO, no person shall manufacture, store, convey or use any dangerous goods in excess of their statutory exempt quantity. This covers the storage of carbon dioxide in compressed gas cylinders at food kiosks for making soft drinks for sale.

Trade's Concern

3. In a meeting with the Business Liaison Group for theme parks and attractions, the trade enquired if the Fire Services Department (FSD) could relax the statutory restriction on the exempt quantity in respect of storage of carbon dioxide in premises without a valid dangerous goods licence, which is currently one cylinder, by allowing the storage of more cylinders at food kiosks as this would help maintain a sufficient reserve of carbon dioxide for making soda, thereby ensuring the smooth operation of business.

Administration's Response

4. The FSD is aware that being bound by the restriction on exempt quantity under the current DGO, operators of food kiosks inside theme parks may need to convey gas cylinders between their dangerous goods stores and kiosks frequently to have the empty ones replaced. Their due efforts in

complying with the statutory requirements to ensure the safe storage of dangerous goods are appreciated. As part of our efforts to enhance the DGO, we have reviewed and proposed amendments to the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations, Cap. 295B, and the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012, Cap. 295E with a view to aligning with international standards. One of the amendments is to update the exempt quantity for compressed carbon dioxide. Under the new regulations, the exempt quantity is no longer determined by the number of cylinders but rather their water capacity. The new exempt quantity for compressed carbon dioxide is proposed to be 150 litres in terms of water capacity, with no restriction on the number of cylinders. The amendment bill is scheduled for submission to the Legislative Council in the first quarter of 2020.

5. Upon passage of the amendment bill, a new set of regulatory standards, which are in line with international ones, will come into force. Facilitated by the new standards, more compressed gas cylinders containing carbon dioxide can be stored as reserve at food kiosks inside theme parks, thus minimising the need for frequent conveyance of gas cylinders between their dangerous goods stores and kiosks for replacement.

Way Forward

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

Fire Services Department
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