

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Food Business and Related Services Task Force**

***Briefing on the Occupational Safety and Health Law related to  
fire precautions in food business establishments***

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members on the law requirements related to fire precautions for food business establishments as stipulated in the Occupational Safety and Health legislation.

**LD's regulations to food business establishments**

2. The Occupational Safety and Health Branch of LD administers the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap 509), the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap 59) and their subsidiary regulations to safeguard the safety and health of employees at work. In particular, Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Fire Precautions in Notifiable Workplaces) Regulations (Cap 59V) is relevant to food business establishments in regard to fire precautions.

3. From time to time, Occupational Safety Officers (OSOs) of LD conduct surprise inspections to workplaces, including food business establishments (e.g. restaurants, factory canteens and food factories), to enforce the relevant occupational safety and health legislation.

**Requirements on fire precautions for food business establishments**

4. Major fire precautions for food business establishments can be grouped as means of escape, exit specifications and fire-fighting equipment in general.

Means of escapes

- there shall be sufficient number of exits inside the premises;
- fire escapes shall not be obstructed; and
- exit doors shall not be locked.

### Exit specifications

- doors shall be opened outward (except for sliding doors) with self-closing mechanism;
- exit doors shall meet a certain fire-resisting period; and
- suitable illuminated signs shall be installed at the exits.

### Fire-fighting equipment

- sufficient portable fire-fighting equipment, e.g. fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained in an efficient working order.

### **Way Forward**

5. LD will continue to assist the food business establishments in complying with the occupational safety and health laws in Hong Kong. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper and offer comments, if any.

**Labour Department**  
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