

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

**Requirement on Ventilation in Seating Area of Dine-in Catering Premises
under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and
Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F)**

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the requirement on ventilation in seating area of dine-in catering premises under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) (the Regulation).

Background

2. Under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), restaurants and factory canteens do not have adequate natural ventilation shall be provided with a ventilation system able to supply a minimum amount of 17 cubic metres of outside air per hour for each person accommodated in the premises.

Voluntary Declaration Scheme on Air Changes in Licensed Catering Premises

3. To achieve better anti-epidemic effect, public health expert advisers had previously recommended enhancement of air ventilation in restaurants and factory canteens to a minimum of six air changes per hour. In fact, the ventilation systems of some licensed catering premises have already met the air change rate as recommended by public health expert advisers. If it has yet to reach that recommended level, the catering premises may install air purification devices meeting the relevant specifications in the seating areas as the alternative. In this connection, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had launched on 16 October 2020 a “Voluntary Declaration Scheme on Air Changes in Licensed Catering Premises” for licensed catering premises to declare voluntarily the information on air changes per hour of the ventilation system and/or air purification device installed in their premises. Upon confirmation of the information, list of the licensed premises will be shown at the FEHD website.

Requirement on Ventilation in Seating Area of Catering Premises under the Cap. 599F

4. On infection control grounds, a requirement on air change or air purifiers in dine-in catering premises has stipulated in the Secretary for Food and Health's directions under the Regulation on 17 March 2021. In respect of seating area of catering premises, if the air change per hour (fresh air) is not 6 or above, catering business operator must install on or before 30 April 2021 air purifier (either High-Efficiency Particulate Arrestance Filter (HEPA) cum Ultraviolet-C (UV-C) device or HEPA device or UV-C device) that meet the specified specifications in the seating area according to the on-the-ground situation.

5. Pursuant to the directions issued under the Regulation in respect of the requirements on ventilation for seating area of dine-in catering business, catering business operators must register on FEHD's designated webpage on or before 30 April 2021 and upload a certificate in specified form issued by a registered specialist contractor (ventilation works category) providing the information related to the air change or air purifier(s) installed in the respective premises. The online registration platform also provides an air change calculator to facilitate the catering business operators to estimate the air change of seating area in the catering premises. Upon confirmation of the information, list of the licensed premises will be shown at the FEHD website.

6. After the registration has been confirmed by the FEHD, catering business operators must download within 2 days a notice from a designated position of the FEHD webpage and display the notice with the prescribed specifications round-the-clock at the entrance of the catering premises. In case air purifiers have been installed at the premises, catering business operators must properly switch on, operate, maintain and repair the air purifiers in accordance with the manufacturer manual when the premises is opened for business. Catering business operator unable to complete the registration within the specified time period must submit an application to the FEHD for an extension of time for registration. If approved, they must complete the registration within the time limit as specified by the FEHD.

7. To facilitate the smooth implementation of the aforesaid ventilation requirement, the Government has also established a Working Group comprising of expert representatives coming from a wide spectrum of backgrounds to put forward practicable recommendations to the Government and work on specific guidelines with a view to assisting in the smooth compliance of the requirement by catering premises operators and ventilation contractors. On 18 March 2021, the Working Group had invited suppliers who are interested in providing information on their air purifiers that

meet the specified specifications to submit information of the air purifiers and will announce details about air purifiers meeting relevant specifications in early April 2021 or before for reference by the catering premises operators and ventilation contractors. The Working Group had also arranged meetings with representatives of the catering trade and ventilation contractor businesses to listen their views and respond to their queries.

Advice Sought

8. Members are invited to note and give comments on the content of this paper.

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
April 2021