

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

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

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members on the new initiatives of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for the relaxation of restrictions on the scope of food items that can be sold at light refreshment restaurants (LRRs).

**Background**

2. Under the prevailing LRR licensing regime, LRR licensees may only choose to sell food from one of the six specified groups of food items. For example, they may only choose to sell rice congee cooked with specified ingredients, specific drinks and a total of five snack items from the “Specified Snack List” for customers’ consumption on the premises. With the types of cuisine and cooking activities becoming more diversified, the above regime is often considered too prescriptive.

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at LRRs**

3. To increase the operation flexibility of LRRs, the FEHD plans to relax the restrictions on the scope of food items that can be sold at LRRs on the premises that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised. Restrictions will be imposed on the cooking activities instead to make sure that they will not cause any environmental nuisance. Under the new regulatory regime, only 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.

In addition, no cooking or food re-heating activities (e.g. hotpots, Teppanyaki or Korean style BBQs) are allowed in the seating area.

4. To facilitate the operation of the trade, the above-mentioned initiatives will apply to all new LRR licence applications. Current LRR licensees who wish to switch to the mode of operation under the new regime may apply for an amendment to the specified groups of food items on their existing licences. Current LRR licensees may also choose to adhere to their original mode of operation, i.e. selling food items of a specified group. The above-mentioned initiatives are expected to be put in place in the first quarter of 2023.

### **Advice Sought**

5. Members are invited to note and give comments on the contents of this paper.

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
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