

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

***Improving business-friendliness in electronic submission of  
liquor licence applications***

**Background**

Under the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap.109B), any person seeking a liquor licence or club liquor licence shall make application in writing to the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB). To facilitate the trades to submit the applications online, LLB has given consents to accept applications and documents in the form of electronic records. The applicant may submit the application to the Licensing Offices of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) by filling the appropriate forms, attaching relevant information through electronic files and signing the forms through the system with digital signatures (e-Cert).

**Trade's Concern**

2. At a recent Business Liaison Group (BLG) meeting for hotels, the trade opined that it was not business friendly to use e-Cert to sign the liquor licence applications and enquired whether there was any other way to facilitate them to submit their applications online.

**Administration's Response**

3. In response, FEHD briefed the trade that the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) (Amendment) Regulation 2015 had come into effect on 3 August 2015 which allowed the trade an additional option to use a password assigned or approved by LLB for electronic submission of liquor licence applications. To effect the said amendment, FEHD had updated the electronic application system on the "Online Licence Service" website for the submission of liquor licence applications by phases. The first phase covering applications for renewal and amendment was launched in July 2016, while the second phase covering the remaining new and transfer applications would be launched in October 2016.

## **Way Forward**

4. Members are invited to note the above business facilitation initiatives, and offer comment, if any.

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
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