

Business Facilitation Advisory Committee

Task Force on Business Liaison Groups

Exemption of karaoke establishment permit

Background

According to the Karaoke Establishments Ordinance (Cap. 573) (KEO), any person who on any occasion keeps, manages, operates or otherwise has control of a karaoke establishment must obtain a permit or licence from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for restaurants. Certain types of karaoke establishments are exempted from the requirements of permits or licences under the KEO.

Trade's Concern

2. At a Business Liaison Group meeting for karaoke establishments, nightclubs, bars and other entertainment clubs, the bar trade enquired about the exemption criteria of karaoke establishment permit and the application procedure for exemption.

Administration's Response

3. In response, FEHD has explained that, bona fide restaurants are licensed by the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, providing karaoke facilities and satisfying the following criteria:

- (i) The aggregate areas of all rooms partitioned for karaoke activities do not exceed 30% of the seating area in the restaurant.

- (ii) The number of rooms partitioned for karaoke activities does not exceed the quotient obtained from dividing the total seating area in square metres by 100 m².

Any premises (including bars) with restaurant licence and meeting the criteria for a bona fide restaurant, application for exemption can be made to FEHD with reference to the department's "A Guide to Application for Karaoke Establishment Permits in Restaurants".

Way Forward

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

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Home Affairs Department
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