

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF)**

*Facilitation Measure for Validation of Unauthorised Signboards*

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members on the proposed measure to facilitate food business operators to make arrangement for validation of unauthorised signboards.

**Background**

2. The Signboard Validation Scheme has been implemented since 2 September 2013 to allow certain existing unauthorised signboards that are relatively small and of low potential risk to be retained for continued use provided that they have undergone safety inspection, strengthening (if necessary), and certification of the structural safety by prescribed building professionals. Under this voluntary scheme, the unauthorised signboards having been validated can be retained for up to five years. The concerned signboard owners should, at intervals of not more than five years, either make a fresh validation submission for the signboards concerned or remove them.

3. Separately, food business licence applicants are required to assign an Authorised Person or Registered Structural Engineer (AP/RSE) to certify that the premises to be licensed are free of unauthorised building works (UBWs).

## **Current Situation**

4. Many of the existing unauthorised signboards are still in active use by business operators. During the application for a food business licence, applicants who would like to retain an unauthorised signboard for use at the premises may find it inconvenient and costly to arrange for the required certification of UBWs and validation of unauthorised signboards separately.

## **Proposed Facilitation Measure**

5. To facilitate food business licence applicants to validate their unauthorised signboards and reduce the compliance cost without compromising public safety, the Buildings Department is working with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on integrating the validation of unauthorised signboards with the certification of the premises being free of UBWs. Under the proposal, food business operators would have the option to appoint APs/RSEs for validation of the unauthorised signboards and the required certification of the premises being free of UBWs in one go. The Business Liaison Group on food business was briefed on the proposal at its meeting on 13 December 2017. Relevant forms are being revised with a view to implementing the initiative in end 2018 tentatively.

## **Way Forward**

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

**Buildings Department**  
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