Business Facilitation Advisory Committee Task Force on Business Liaison Groups

Further Streamlining Measures for Renewal of Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences

Purpose

This paper reports to members on the further streamlining measures to facilitate renewal of Temporary Places of Public Entertainment Licences (TPPEL).

Background

2. The Fire Services Department (FSD) briefed members at the last meeting on its adoption of a pragmatic approach in granting the validity period of a Fire Services Certificate (FSC) to facilitate renewal of TPPEL in theme parks and attractions where temporary structures are involved. FSD will issue an FSC with validity period covering the whole temporary public entertainment event period on condition that the layout and all other details of the event remain unchanged throughout the event period. The measure is on one hand beneficial to the trade in saving the cost incurred from obtaining a fresh FSC monthly for TPPEL renewal, and on the other hand relieving the trade's administrative burden in arranging a compliance inspection for the same event on a monthly basis. The measure has been implemented since the third quarter of 2020.

Trade's Concern

3. Members welcomed the facilitation measure and suggested similar streamlining arrangements be adopted by other relevant departments including FEHD to further benefit the trades.

Administration's Response

- 4. In response to the suggestion, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Buildings Department (BD) will introduce further streamlining measures for renewal of TPPEL involving temporary structures in theme parks and attractions, as follows
 - (a) In accordance with the requirements of the Places of Public Entertainment Regulations (Cap. 172), if the TPPEL application involves temporary structures, the validity period of the licences issued will be limited to one month. FEHD will thus issue the renewed licences to the applicants every month as appropriate. To facilitate the trades, FEHD will allow the applicants to submit only one application form instead of multiple application forms for applying for multiple TPPELs each lasting for no more than a month covering the whole period of the temporary public entertainment event. The department will also process the application for multiple TPPELs for the event in one go.
 - (b) BD will accept a single authorized person/registered structural engineer's certification on the structural safety of the temporary structures (if applicable) covering the whole event period provided that there is no change to the event layout and associated temporary structures.

It is expected that the above measures will be implemented by the second or third quarter of 2021.

- 5. With a view to further facilitating the trade, apart from applying the above streamlined measures to TPPEL in theme parks and attractions involving temporary structures, the three departments are exploring the feasibility to extend the streamlined arrangements to similar TPPEL applications for other premises. Subject to the process of finalising the implementation details, the trade would be informed of more details in relation to the streamlined arrangements in due course.
- 6. It is expected that the above further streamlined arrangements will save the operational cost and administrative burden of the trade for TPPEL renewal.

Way Forward

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

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Buildings Department Fire Services Department April 2021