

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

***Buildings Department's facilitation measures to foster development of the
cinema industry in light of the trend to operate small-sized cinemas***

Background

The “Code of Practice for Fire Safety in Buildings” (the Code) issued by the Buildings Department (BD) sets out the requirements for fire resisting construction, means of escape in case of fire, and means of access for firefighting and rescue to buildings. The Code stipulates that, in respect of means of escape requirement, the site of a cinema should abut upon and have frontages to two or more thoroughfares.

Trade's Concern

2. At the Business Liaison Group meeting for cinemas, the trade expressed that the current trend of the industry was to operate small cinemas of a few hundred occupant capacity in shopping malls rather than purpose-built cinemas. The requirement of abutting upon and having frontages to two or more thoroughfares has limited the choices of site. To help sustain the development of the cinema industry, the trade enquired whether BD could review the above requirement.

Administration's Response

3. Taking into consideration that flammable films have become obsolete, BD has assessed the fire safety for small-sized cinemas. The review has recommended that the site of the building housing a cinema with an occupant capacity not more than 500 persons may be permitted to abut upon one thoroughfare. The recommendation was agreed by the Technical Committee on the Code¹ in end 2016.

¹ The Technical Committee is composed of representatives from relevant government departments including the Fire Services Department, professional bodies, practitioners and academia.

4. The requirement has been revised with a view to providing the trade with more choices of site without compromising building safety. To facilitate development of the cinema industry at the earliest, new cinema applications will be processed according to this revised requirement while BD is revising the Code for promulgation in due course.

Way Forward

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

Buildings Department

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