

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Food Business and Related Services Task Force**

Facilitation Measure for Validation of Unauthorised Signboards

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the proposed measures 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 Authorized 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 food

business licence, applicants who would like to retain an unauthorized signboard for use at the premises may find it inconvenient and costly to arrange for the required certification on UBWs and validation of unauthorised signboards separately.

Proposed Facilitation Measure

5. To facilitate those food business licence applicants to validate their unauthorised signboards and reduce the compliance cost without compromising public safety, BD is working with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on integrating the validation of unauthorised signboards with the certification of premises being free of UBWs. Under the proposal, food business operators would have the option to appoint AP/RSE for validation of the unauthorised signboards together with the required certification on UBWs in one go. 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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