

**Forty-sixth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 4 : Report on the progress of the
“Be the Smart Regulator” Programme
– September 2021 update***

Purpose

This paper updates on the progress of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme (the Programme) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 20 May 2021.

Latest progress

Overview

2. All the 29 participating bureaux and departments (B/Ds) continue to sustain momentum in enhancing their business licensing services. Good progress has been made on various fronts to further improve the overall regulatory environment for business in Hong Kong and its long-term competitiveness. Major progress is highlighted below.

Major progress in various departments

3. The participating B/Ds have developed a total of 398 new business facilitation measures in the past three years from 2018-19 to 2020-21 to continue improving the efficiency and transparency of licensing services and reducing compliance costs to trades through streamlining procedures, proactive use of information technology, enhancing regulatory requirements, as well as strengthening support and guidance to the trades. 306 of these measures (77%) have been completed by 2020-21. These completed measures have been published on the [Business Facilitation Initiatives website](https://www.gov.hk/en/theme/bf/smart/AAP/index.htm)¹ for the public and trades’ information. Examples of the business facilitation measures implemented recently are highlighted as follows –

¹ <https://www.gov.hk/en/theme/bf/smart/AAP/index.htm>

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has enhanced the online learning platform for registered electrical workers to facilitate them in fulfilling the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of registration and enhance their standard.
- (b) The Create Hong Kong has adopted “iAM Smart” in application for licences such as Special Effects of Operator Licence and Discharge Permit for Special Effects Materials to reduce the applicants’ effort in filling in the personal details in the application forms repeatedly.
- (c) The Marine Department has provided an e-form Submission Portal through the Electronic Business System to allow the trades to submit applications without the need for user registration.
- (d) For persons with disabilities applying for driving tests, originally they were required to submit an approval letter issued by the Transport Department (TD) to prove their physical fitness for driving vehicles. As such approval letter is available for checking from internal records, TD has streamlined the application process by obviating the applicant from such document submission requirement.

Progress of meeting policy pledges on e-licensing

4. It is pledged in the 2020 Policy Address Supplement and 2021 Budget Speech that by mid-2022, e-licensing should be implemented for all licensing applications under the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme unless there are legal or operational constraints. Relevant B/Ds are on track in implementing the required e-services. The Efficiency Office will also review the implementation progress with the B/Ds, understand the challenges they faced and render necessary support. B/Ds will continue their efforts in meeting the commitment of providing the e-services for licence application so as to provide trades with a more business-friendly environment.

Way forward

5. Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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