

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

Occasional use of multi-purpose function rooms for dining in hotels

Background

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is the licensing authority for food business under the Food Business Regulation (Cap.132X).

Trade's Concern

2. Apart from providing accommodation, hotels usually have restaurants for dining and function rooms for events such as meetings and seminars. Occasionally, some events may include food service. At a recent Business Liaison Group (BLG) meeting for hotels, the trade participants enquired whether they had to obtain a restaurant licence from FEHD in order to provide food service in their function rooms.

Administration's Response

3. In response, FEHD has clarified that for function rooms used for multi-purposes such as press conferences, meetings, seminars, receptions or parties where the food service provided is not regarded as the main purpose of those events held, it is not necessary for the hotel operators to apply for food business licence for such multi-purpose function rooms. However, if the mode of business is caught by the legislative requirements stipulated by Cap.132X, the trade should apply for the appropriate type of food business licence accordingly. For example, if the function rooms are used mainly for providing dining service, they will require a restaurant licence under Cap.132X. FEHD has further advised that the trade should seek independent legal advice if in doubt on the application of law to the specific situation.

Way Forward

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

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
February 2015