RTF Paper 27

Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Retail Task Force

Improvement Measures in Response to Concern of Trade in the Beauty Products/Cosmetics/Medicines Retail Categories – December 2006 Update

Purpose

Subsequent to the RTF meeting in October, the Secretariat has circulated the *RTF Paper 23 – Update on Improvement Measures in Response to Concern of Trade in the Beauty Products/ Cosmetics/ Medicines Retail Categories* to the Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry (HKAPI) and representatives in the pharmacy trade for further views and comments. They were generally content with the proposed improvement measures, though they considered that further relaxation should be in place for the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (CPP) requirement for new chemical entities, the advertising for medicine and some other minor issues.

2. The paper has also been circulated to trade associations related to manufacturers/distributors of generic medicine and suppliers/retailers of health food and cosmetics. Their feedback is being awaited.

3. The Business Facilitation Advisory Committee also had a deliberation on the concerns and proposals for the HKAPI at its meeting in November. The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau had noted the views of the committee members and would respond to them later.

4. This paper updates members on the latest improvement measures adopted and the progress made by the Department of Health (DH) since the last RTF meeting.

Improvement measures and their implementation progress

5. An update on the improvement measures adopted by the DH and their implementation is given below:

Lack of guidelines on beauty/health products that need registration

- Consultation for the draft guidelines ended in November. As suggested by the industry, DH will hold meetings with the industry to listen to their views before finalizing the guidelines.
- The inquiry service will be maintained after the guidelines are in place.

Long processing time of registration

- The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (P&P Board) will increase the number of times of registration approval from four to five so as to shorten the waiting time for approval of drug registration. The Board has also decided to further expedite the approval process by giving approval through circulation of papers as far as possible.

Long processing time of re-registration

- DH will issue guidelines on re-registration requirements in the first quarter of 2007.

Restrictions on product ingredients

- The Registration Committee of the P&P Board is exploring the feasibility of adopting a different approach for drug registration for different categories of products and looking at possible ways to expedite the registration of antiseptics/disinfectants.

More communication with trade

- DH will hold forums with the trade to discuss issues of mutual concern on a regular basis.

Way forward

6. Members are invited to note the progress made in implementing the improvement measures and give views on the latest responses/improvement measures adopted by DH.

Business Facilitation Advisory Committee Secretariat
December 2006