

**Fifth Meeting of the
EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation**

Agenda Item 8 : Progress Report on other Business Facilitation Work

Purpose

Members are invited to note the progress of a review of the licensing requirements for Theme Park and Family Amusement Centre under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance and Regulations, and a new referral.

2. Members will be briefed on the findings and recommendations of the following at the next Subgroup meeting –

- RIA on Vehicle Waste Tyres;
- Height restrictions for private residential care homes for the elderly; and
- Review of the licensing regime for travel agents.

Review of licensing requirements for Theme Park and Family Amusement Centre

3. The Secretary for Home Affairs is the Licensing Authority of Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) under the Places of Public Entertainment Ordinance and Regulations, Cap 172. Both Theme Park and Family Amusement Centre require a PPE licence to operate. In addition, the licence holder has to apply for separate licences from different government departments for –

- providing food, amusement rides, and / or amusement games inside the PPE; and
- providing entertainment / exhibition involving the import / export / possession of animals and plants.

4. Under the present regulatory regime, a PPE licence holder has to seek prior approval from the Licensing Authority for any changes, such as

relocation, addition, alteration and demolition of approved facilities. The long processing time has been a concern to the trade.

5. The Efficient Unit (EU) has been commissioned in March to study the above licensing requirements with the main objectives of enhancing the business-friendliness of the present licensing regimes through streamlining processes and identifying opportunities for cutting down on the number of different permits and licences. EU is also required to assess the feasibility of introducing a composite licensing regime.

6. The study is expected to take about four months to complete. The Subgroup will be briefed on progress and results at the August meeting.

Licences for manufacturing plants

7. This is a follow-up to a question raised by a LegCo Member regarding the requirement for multiple licences to start a manufacturing plant in Hong Kong. To take advantage of CEPA, some industries are relocating their manufacturing plants back to Hong Kong. While the factory registration procedures for the purpose of issue of Certificates of Origin to meet the requirements of CEPA or other countries normally takes 14 working days, manufacturers are required to obtain licences or permits from different departments before an industrial plant can commence production. Industries consider these procedures cumbersome and time-consuming.

8. The Secretariat recently discussed the concerns with the LegCo Member who has agreed to provide the former with greater details, particularly on the priority of the industries to be examined. He will also consult the manufacturing industries, particularly the SMEs, regarding third-party certification. Upon receipt of further information, the Secretariat will prepare a detailed brief for Members' deliberation.

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