

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

Consultation on New Requirements for the Installation of Fire Extinguisher Cabinets in Outdoor Seating Accommodation of Licensed Food Premises

Purpose

This paper is intended to put forward recommendations regarding the fire safety requirements proposed by the Fire Services Department (FSD) for licensed food premises with outside seating accommodation (OSA), and to solicit feedback from the trade on the content of the proposed requirements. The core of this initiative is to mandate that all licensed food premises install fully enclosed, dedicated fire extinguisher cabinets within their OSA. This measure is aimed at ensuring that portable fire extinguishers are not compromised by environmental factors such as dust and moisture, thereby ensuring their prompt and effective operation in the event of a fire.

Background and Considerations

Impact of Environmental Factors

2. With the increasing prevalence of OSA in licensed food premises, portable fire extinguishers that are exposed to outdoor conditions are susceptible to degradation from dust, moisture and other environmental influences, which may diminish their effectiveness and increase the owners' maintenance cost.

3. There were several incidents occurred in Hong Kong where fire extinguishers became damaged due to rust, resulting in injuries. This incident has highlighted the critical importance of ensuring the safety of fire extinguishers used in outdoor settings.

Domestic and International Practices

4. To address the aforementioned issues, taking reference from practices in Mainland China and other jurisdiction, FSD has found that fully enclosed fire extinguisher cabinets effectively protect fire extinguishers from contamination and damage, while maintaining their immediate availability in the event of an

emergency. This approach has been widely implemented in public venues and shopping arcade.

Supplementary Regulations and Implementation Arrangements

Installation Requirement

5. Each licensed food premises shall install a fully enclosed, dedicated fire extinguisher cabinet within its OSA to prevent fire extinguishers from being adversely affected by dust, moisture and other environmental factors.

Pilot Period and Assessment

6. In order to provide the trade with sufficient preparation time, the proposed supplementary requirements shall be implemented on a pilot basis for a period of approximately six months. Upon the conclusion of the pilot period, the FSD will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the measures to determine whether to adopt the requirements across all licensed food premises.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to note and give comments on the content.

Fire Services Department
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