

**Fifty-fourth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

Purpose

This paper reports the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 28 December 2023.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. Since the last meeting, we have conducted two Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings, proactively liaised with the trade of ten BLGs, and arranged eight information dissemination sessions on on new business facilitation measures for the food business.

3. The Secretariat has also used various channels including an online form for the trade to share their views on licensing and regulatory regime. Summaries of the views collected and the Government responses are uploaded onto the Business Facilitation Initiatives website on a regular basis. Salient issues and examples have been presented in the 36th meeting of the BLGTF.

4. During this period, a total of 12 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. Salient issues and examples have been presented in the 36th BLGTF meeting held on 24 April 2024.

Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

5. In the 36th BLGTF meeting, the Fire Services Department (FSD) briefed the BLGTF on the proposed implementation details of the Registered Fire Engineer (RFE) Scheme (the Scheme). Under the Scheme, RFEs will be allowed to provide fire risk assessment and certification services which are currently only provided by FSD for applications of licences of specified premises. This will provide greater flexibility to these applicants. The implementation of the Scheme requires legislative backing. The enactment of Fire Services (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in March 2017 has provided the basis for the making of subsidiary legislation

for the Scheme (the New Regulations). FSD plans to set out the implementation details in the New Regulations. The New Regulations will be subject to positive vetting by LegCo.

Enhanced e-services of Fire Services Department

6. In the same meeting, FSD also briefed Members on its enhanced e-services. The e-services platform has already fully supported with the use of “iAM Smart” for identity authentication and digital signing in respect of e-submission, with facilitation measures to enable applications made in the capacity of a company to upload image of their company chop as proof of identity in lieu of digital signature; for e-payment, the platform accepts various electronic payment methods including PPS and Faster Payment System (FPS) for e-payment. As for e-approval, FSD expected that its licences/certificates issued by FSD could be provided electronically with the completion of the e-Issuance of Licences and Certificates System, Blockchain technology will be adopted in issuance of the e-licences and certificates to enhance the identity authentication and security of information system and data.

7. The Task Force thanked FSD for the briefing and its efforts in introducing business facilitation measures.

Digital Corporate Identity Platform

8. Pursuant to the announcement in the Budget Speech 2024, the Government will set up a “digital identity of enterprises” platform, i.e. the business version of “iAM Smart”, to enable authentication of identity and verification of signature of enterprises using electronic government services or conducting online business transactions in a secure, convenient and efficient manner without having to go through complicated procedures, thus saving time and reducing the risk of human error. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) briefed and collected views from the BLGTF on the Digital Corporate Identity (CorpID) Platform to be implemented. According to OGCIO’s plan, the CorpID Platform will be launched progressively from end-2026, including a portal to apply for a digital corporate identity, as well as four key functions (i.e. corporate identity verification, digital signing, authorisation to share corporate information from the e-service application system(s) for form pre-filling, and document wallet to store the corporate digital licences).

9. The BLGTF welcomed the CorpID Platform and expressed concerns regarding the user-friendliness, digital security and promotion of the Platform, taking into account that majority of the companies in Hong Kong are small and medium sized enterprises which may not be accustomed to using technology in their business operations. The OGCIO acknowledged members’ concerns in respect of these areas and agreed to continue to solicit suggestions and opinions

from the trade on the Platform through different channels during the implementation process.

Way forward

10. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
May 2024