

Wellcome's recommendation on simplification and streamlining of licensing

1. Enhancing the public consultation mechanism :

There is no sufficient consultation with the trade nor survey is arranged for any additional requirements or formulation of new regulations and ordinances. To maximize the transparency, it is recommended an independent committee should be set up to monitor throughout the process of the consultation until it is finalized, during which the trade would be given the opportunities to comment and review any feedback from the committee.

2. Composite licensing :

To reduce the number of licenses and permits for supermarkets/convenience stores. The current Food Factory, Bakery and Fresh Food Provision due to involvement of extensive requirements and conditions from Building and Fire Services Department which should be remain unchanged as individual licenses. However, the rest of 11 licenses and permits fall into similar nature with simplex food processing which is recommended to group and combine them into a "Ready-to-eat Food license".

3. Streamlining licensing procedures :

- i) In view of the current outdated and ambiguous licensing requirements, there is a necessity to have a comprehensive review of these license requirements and conditions to align with the latest business operation without compromising the health and hygiene standard.
- ii) To establish performance pledge for processing of application and approval of new license and layout alteration.
- iii).To consider acceptance of self-certification by employment of Authorized Persons as alternative option in addition to normal approval process by the Authorities.
- iv) Easy accessible ways for the trade to browse through the modified comprehensive license requirements and guidelines from website, licensing district offices etc. for potential license applicant and holder as on-going reference.