

香 港 酒 店 業 主 聯 會
The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners Limited

Press Release

To: The Editor

Hotels Object Demerit Points System for Licensed Food Premises

The Federation of HK Hotel Owners (The Federation) today March 23, 2006 (Thursday), holds strong reservation about the revamp of Demerit Point System (DPS) which the government proposed to increase food safety and hygiene. The DPS for the first time accumulating 15 points will lead to a 21-day of suspension of licence. Within 12 months period, if another 15 demerit points are accumulated, the licence will be cancelled.

Currently the first license suspension is 7-day if 15 demerit points are accumulated. Within 12 months, the second license suspension is 14-day if another 15 demerit points are accumulated. The license will be cancelled if another 15 demerit points are accumulated within 12 months from the date of the last offence leading to the second suspension.

Should the DPS proposal be accepted, the business environment would be hampered because investors would rethink about their investment. The revamp of DPS is particularly serious to the hotel industry because the operation of hotels is very unique. A hotel is not a single food outlet, usually its F&B outlets are under one general license. If a hotel's F&B services are suspended from operation, business would be adversely affected. No one can imagine the damages and losses to the hotel in terms of image and investment confidence.

The Executive Director of the Federation Mr Michael LI says that the trade highly supports to strengthen food safety and hygiene. In fact hotels are at high level of hygiene already. The trade would hardly accept such an extreme proposal. The tourism trade had been dropped because of avian flu and SARS in the past, but not because of food processing problems. We urge the government to focus on those genuine problems which would threaten the health of the public and the tourists. These include the monitoring and checking of food supply.

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