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4 April 2006

The Hon LI Wah-ming, J.P.  
The Chairman of the LegCo Panel on  
Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central

Dear Mr Li,

**Demerit Points System for Licensed Food Premises**

At the Panel meeting held on 14 March 2006, Members were consulted on the proposals to revamp the Demerit Points System (DPS) for licensed food premises. The Administration agreed to provide statistics in relation to suspension of food business licences and supplementary information on the proposed demerit points assigned to individual offences.

According to the records of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, a total of 185, 164 and 121 licences were suspended in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively under the DPS. A majority of the offences involved in these suspension cases related to failure to store open food in a proper manner (section 11(1) of the Food Business Regulation (FBR)), unauthorized extension of food business outside the licensed area (section 34C of the FBR) and use of open space for preparation/storage of open food or washing of utensils (section 13(1) of the FBR).

Concerning the demerit points assigned to individual offences on food safety and environmental hygiene, further to the proposed schedule as annexed to the paper for discussion on 14 March 2006, a summary table of the proposed changes is appended below.

Change	Number of offences involved
Offences added to DPS schedule	8
Increase from 10 to 15 demerit points	3
Increase from 5 to 15 demerit points	12
Increase from 5 to 10 demerit points	36
Decrease from 5 to 3 demerit points	9
Demerit points remain unchanged	53
TOTAL	121

We have undertaken to discuss the above with the food trade with a view to finalising a list of offences to be included in the revised DPS schedule.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Shirley Kwan)  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Encl.