

**Extract from the Report of the Subcommittee to
Study the Streamlining of Food Business Licensing**

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Reducing the number of licences required for selling a variety of food

42. The Subcommittee has noted that the food trade has suggested that a new class of food business licence should be introduced to cover generic categories of food for businesses that operate multiple product lines such as supermarkets, in order to reduce the number of licences required for food premises. The Subcommittee has noted that at present, up to nine licences/permits are required for supermarket selling fresh food, dairy products, bakery and ready-to-eat food.

43. The Administration has advised that the concept of a composite licence has already been applied to raw food. One single type of licence, i.e. the fresh provision shop licence, is issued for selling meat, seafood and poultry. Appropriate endorsement or permission is included in the licence to specify the different types of raw food for sale.

44. As regards the request for a generic licence for supermarkets selling a variety of food, the Subcommittee has noted that the Retail Task Force under the EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation has also examined the issue and recommended a composite licence for food business selling a variety of “ready-to-eat” food. The recommendation has the support of the Subcommittee.

45. Following discussion at the Subcommittee, the Administration has informed members that it is prepared to consider introducing a composite licence to cover the sale of “ready-to-eat” food such as siu mei and lo mei, cooked food, bakery products, sushi/sashimi, cut fruits, frozen confections, milk, and Chinese herb tea. Under the proposal, a single licence with endorsement or permission for the sale of particular food items will be issued for this category of food. Amendments to the Food Business Regulation will be necessary.

46. The Administration has also agreed that, for restaurants which also sell bakery products at a separate counter or area, a separate bakery licence will no longer be required and an endorsement on the restaurant licence will be issued instead. Such endorsement is issued on the condition that the sale of bakery products at the restaurant is only for retail, and there is sufficient food preparation area for manufacturing such products.

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