

**A GUIDE TO APPLICATION FOR
MILK FACTORY LICENCE**

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

(March 2012 Edition)

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MILK FACTORY LICENCE

General

In accordance with the laws of Hong Kong, any person who intends to carry on the business of a milk factory for processing milk, preparing reconstituted milk or milk beverages, or packaging milk at any premises in the territory must obtain a milk factory licence issued by the Licensing Authority before commencement of such business.

However, if milk is processed or reconstituted milk or milk beverages are prepared in a restaurant licensed under the Food Business Regulations, Cap. 132X for customers' consumption on the premises, no separate milk factory licence is required.

Application Procedure

Application should be made by submission of a standard application form (FEHB 94), a declaration on premises in compliance with Government lease conditions (FEHB 192), and 3 copies of a proposed layout plan of the premises (drawn to scale and in metric unit) to Assistant Secretary (Other Licences) of Licensing Office concerned (see Appendix I). The standard forms are obtainable from all Licensing Offices and District Environmental Hygiene Offices and can be downloaded from the website of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/forms/index_forms.html.

The application should contain the following :-

- (a) the class of licence applied for;
- (b) full address of the premises under application for a licence including name of the street, number of the premises, name of the building and the shop number etc to avoid postal misdelivery;
- (c) the name, correspondence address and telephone number of the applicant; if the applicant is a corporation, the name and address of the corporation and the names and addresses of the managing director and authorized person;
- (d) the type of fuel, if any, intended to be used; and
- (e) whether ventilating system is to be installed in the factory; if so, the type and working capacity of such ventilating system.

The application must be signed by the applicant personally. A licence may be issued in the name of a person or a corporation.

Before the applicant receives a letter of licensing requirements from the Licensing Authority, he is advised not to start any work on decoration. He must also not start the business before obtaining the licence. Otherwise, he will be liable to prosecution.

Compliance with Government Lease Conditions and Statutory Plan Restrictions

With effect from 18 April 2006, premises under application for **Milk Factory Licence** should comply with Government lease conditions and statutory plan restrictions. Applicants may refer to the “A Guide to Applicants/Licensees on Procedures of Applying for Issue and Transfer of Food Business Licences on (i) Certification of Free of Unauthorized Building Works (UBW), (ii) Compliance with Government Lease Conditions and (iii) Compliance

with Statutory Plan Restrictions” for details. The said documents are obtainable from all Licensing Offices and District Environmental Hygiene Offices and can be downloaded from the website of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/howtoseries/forms/new/External_guide_combine_e.PDF.

Preparation of Proposed Layout Plan

Before preparation of the layout plan, the applicant is required to apportion the factory for the proposed usage. In the proposed layout plan, the following particulars should be furnished :-

- (a) area where milk is pasteurized or sterilized by heating and bottled, or where reconstituted milk is prepared;
- (b) toilets, wash-hand basins and drainage works;
- (c) all windows or ducts providing ventilation on mechanical means of ventilation, if installed;
- (d) all entrances, exits, doors and internal communication;
- (e) cloakrooms, passageways and all open spaces (such as yards and light wells);
- (f) rooms or other spaces (if any) for the exclusive use of staff;
- (g) means of refuse storage and disposal; and
- (h) the siting of all furniture and fittings of a substantial and permanent nature including heat-treatment plant, cleansing, refrigeration or cooling equipment, sterilization machinery or storage and packaging facilities, wash-hand basins, wash-up sinks, water tanks, etc.

The proposed layout plan may be prepared by the applicant himself or an architect employed by him.

Whenever there are changes to the submitted plans for the application, the applicant is required to highlight any proposed changes on the revised plans with colour pens and simple descriptions before making submission to the Licensing Authority for consideration and referral to other Government departments for processing. Revised plans not in compliance with this requirement will be rejected.

Processing of Application and Notification of Licensing Requirements

Upon receipt of the application for licensing, the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences) will acknowledge it and inform the applicant in writing the date and time when the Licensing Inspector will conduct inspection to the premises to assess its suitability for licensing after the proposed layout plan passing the preliminary screening. If the appointment is inconvenient to him, he can always request to change it to another date by telephoning the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences). This, however, may cause some delay in the processing of the application.

Meanwhile, the application will be referred to the other Government departments concerned for comments, as appropriate.

If, in connection with the business, the fuel consumption rate exceeds the following statutory limits, the applicant should also obtain prior approval from the Environmental Protection Department (See Appendix II) for the installation of the stoves and chimneys :

- (a) gaseous fuel : 1150 megajoules per hour; or
- (b) liquid fuel : 25 litres per hour; or
- (c) solid fuel : 35 kilograms per hour.

If town gas or liquefied petroleum gas is intended to be used on the premises, the applicant is required to submit a Certificate of Compliance and a Certificate of Completion before a licence can be issued. These certificates are to be completed and signed by the applicant's gas contractor who must have been registered with the Gas Standards Office of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (See Appendix III).

After the inspection and upon clearance from all Government departments concerned, the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences) will list out in detail the licensing requirements and convey them to the applicant in writing for his compliance before a licence can be issued.

For details of the main licensing requirements, please refer to Appendix IV. The applicant is advised, in his own interest, to make reference to the Milk Regulations, Cap. 132AQ.

The applicant is advised to start the decoration work only when he has received the letter of licensing requirements from the Licensing Authority. If the premises are unsuitable for licensing, the applicant will be informed of the rejection of the application together with reasons by the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences).

Enquiry on Licensing Matters

If the applicant has difficulty in understanding the licensing requirements imposed by the Licensing Authority or has any enquiries concerning licensing matters, he can approach the Licensing Inspector in charge of the application either in person or by telephone at the address and telephone number given in Appendix I.

Report of Compliance with Licensing Requirements and Issue of Licence

The applicant should expedite action to comply with the licensing requirements and report compliance in writing and submit the acceptable documents as soon as possible to the Licensing Office. The Licensing Office will then arrange for a Licensing Inspector to visit the premises for verification inspection. The acceptable documents include final layout plans of the premises, the duly completed nomination form for Hygiene Manager/Hygiene Supervisor and other required supporting documents, such as Certificate of Compliance by applicant (Category 1 requirements) and final ventilation plans.

When all the licensing requirements have been confirmed to be complied with, a licence will be issued. The applicant will be informed in writing to pay a fee and to collect the licence. The flow chart for processing of application for Milk Factory Licence is at Appendix V.

The licence fee for a milk factory licence, which is subject to review, is calculated according to the floor area of the factory. For details, please call the Licensing Offices.

The objective of issuing milk factory licences is to ensure maintenance of a good standard of hygiene at the premises concerned and the wholesomeness of the food supplied therefrom. In the event of any difficulty or incomprehension, the applicant should approach the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences). On the other hand, the applicant must not offer any money or gift to any staff because this is an offence under the law and the offender is liable to prosecution.

Non-compliance with Licensing Requirements

If the applicant fails to comply with all the licensing requirements after verification inspection by Licensing Inspector, the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences) concerned will inform him of the outstanding requirements in writing for his early remedial action. He will also be advised to report compliance again for another verification inspection after he has complied with the outstanding requirements.

If no report of compliance of licensing requirements is received, the Licensing Inspector will only inspect the premises once within the first 3 months after the issue of letter of requirements to check progress of the application. Afterwards, only quarterly reminders will be issued to the applicant reminding to expedite action to comply with all licensing requirements for the issue of licence by the Assistant Secretary (Other Licences).

Deadline for Compliance with Licensing Requirements

The maximum period of time allowed for the applicant to comply with all licensing requirements is 6 months after the expiry of provisional licence or 12 months after the issue of the letter of requirements for a full licence in the case where application for a full licence is made or provisional licence is not issued, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the delay in meeting the licensing requirements is due to factors beyond his reasonable control. The application for a full licence will be deemed withdrawn after the above period of time.

Licensing Offices of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Hong Kong & Islands

Assistant Secretary (Other Licences)
Hong Kong & Islands Licensing Office,
8/F, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building,
225 Hennessy Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
Tel. No. : 2879 5712
Fax No. : 2507 2964
E-mail : hkis_lo@fehd.gov.hk

Kowloon

Assistant Secretary (Other Licences)
Kowloon Licensing Office,
4/F, Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building,
333 Ki Lung Street,
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Tel. No. : 2729 1293
Fax No. : 2789 0107
E-mail : kln_lo@fehd.gov.hk

New Territories

Assistant Secretary (Other Licences)
New Territories Licensing Office,
4/F, Tai Po Complex,
8 Heung Sze Wui Street,
Tai Po, New Territories
Tel. No. : 3183 9226
Fax No. : 2606 3350
E-mail : nt_lo@fehd.gov.hk

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) Regional Offices

EPD Regional Offices				
District	Regional Offices	Address	Tel No.	Faxline
Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung, Yau Tsim Mong & Kowloon City	Regional Office (East)	5/F., Nan Fung Commercial Centre, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon.	2755 5518	2756 8588
Hong Kong Island & Islands	Regional Office (South)	2/F., Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.	2516 1718	2960 1760
Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing & Sham Shui Po	Regional Office (West)	8/F., Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.	2417 6116	2411 3073
Yuen Long, Shatin, Tai Po & North	Regional Office (North)	10/F., Sha Tin Government Offices, No.1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, New Territories.	2158 5757	2685 1133

THE GAS STANDARDS OFFICE
OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Enquiries concerning towngas and liquefied petroleum gas installation works can be made at the following address of the above Department :

3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon.

Tel. No. : 2808 3683

Fax No. : 2576 5945

Main Requirements for the Issue of a Milk Factory Licence

(A) Health Requirements

1. Public mains water shall be laid on to the premises.
2. The internal surfaces of walls of every part of the premises in which milk is processed or packaged, shall be surfaced with smooth non-absorbent material or tiles up to a height of not less than two metres. The junctions between the walls and floors shall be covered (i.e. rounded). All surface areas above the 2 metres level, and ceilings not tiled or imperviously surfaced shall be limewashed or painted. The floor of every part of the premises in which milk is processed or packaged, shall be surfaced with smooth light coloured non-absorbent material.
3. Facilities in the toilets:
 - (a) Water closets and flushed urinals shall be installed to a standard not less than that required by the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations, Cap.123I.
 - (b) The toilets shall not have direct access to areas where milk is processed or the equipment is cleaned.
4. Suitable wash-hand basin(s) shall be installed near the water closets or flushed urinals and in areas where milk is processed or the equipment is cleaned.
5. Suitable wash-up sink(s) shall be provided in areas where milk is processed or the equipment is cleaned.
6. Suitable equipment and facilities shall be provided for the cleansing and sterilization of all vessels, containers and utensils including heat treatment machinery liable to come into contact with milk.

7. Mechanical devices shall be installed to seal the milk containers with caps.
8. No soil-pipe, rain-water pipe or waste-pipe or manhole shall be allowed in areas where milk is processed or where the equipment is cleaned.
9. Areas in the factory allocated for processing or reconstituting milk shall be protected against dust and vermin.
10. A plant or apparatus of a type approved by the Licensing Authority for heat treatment of milk shall be provided.
11. Sufficient dustbins with close-fitting lids shall be provided for the storage of all refuse and other waste matter awaiting disposal.
12. Except for areas allocated for storage purpose, all parts of the premises shall be adequately ventilated by natural and/or mechanical means.
13. The premises shall be drained by connection to a Government sewer.
(Note: This requirement is applicable to premises located in the New Territories and the outlying islands)

(B) Structural Safety and means of Escape

1. Particular care should be taken in the selection of premises as buildings or parts of a building approved for use other than for shop or commercial purposes may not be suitable. Generally, all premises on solid ground floor are structurally suitable.
2. Where premises are on the floor not resting on soil or where extensive alteration and additional works are to be carried out on the premises, it is strongly recommended that the service of an authorized person (architect, structural engineer or building surveyor) registered under the Buildings Ordinance, Cap. 123 be sought.
3. The required superimposed load of the floor is decided after receipt of individual

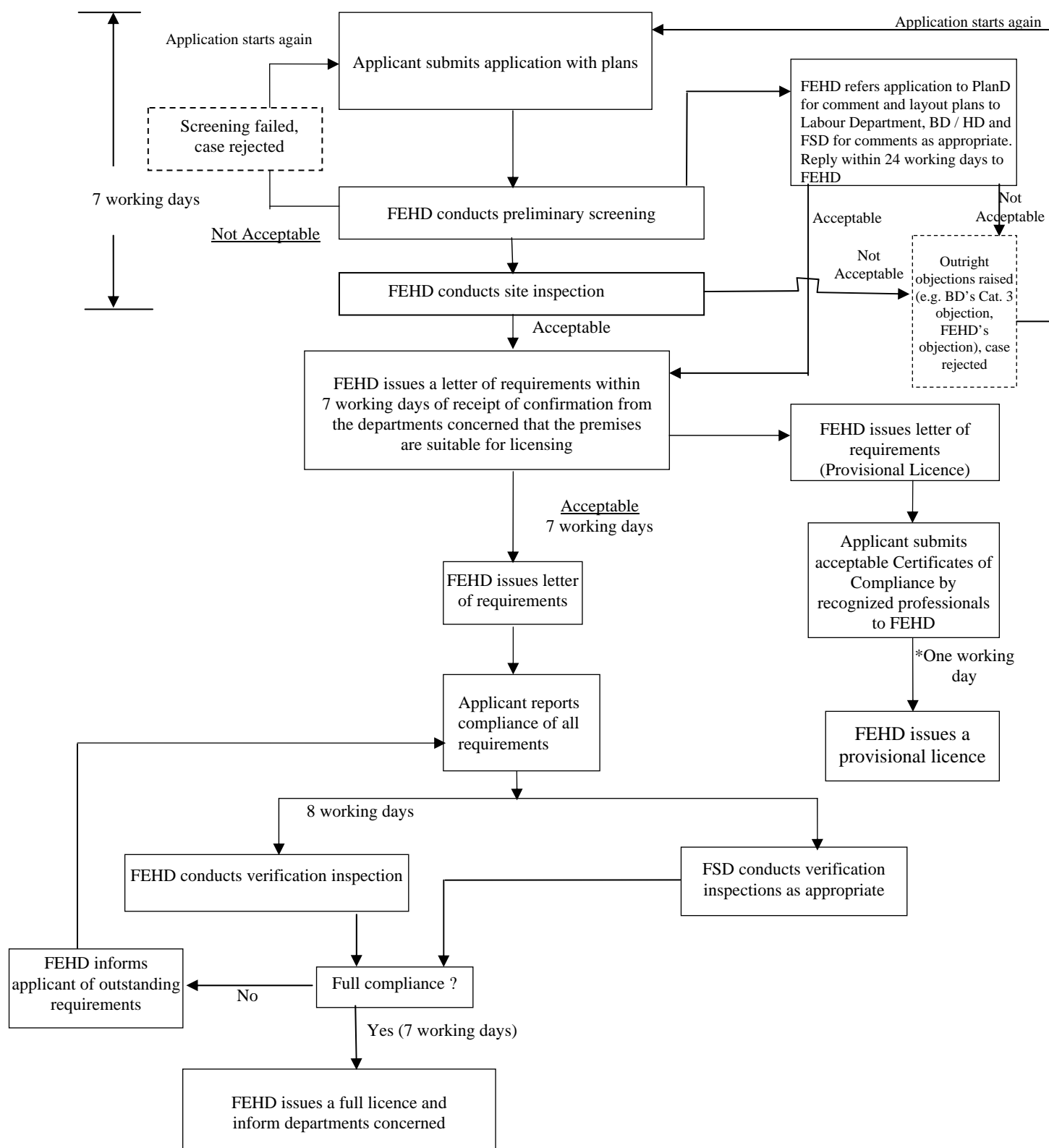
application and consideration is given to the following factors : nature of manufacturing process; total number and kinds of all the machines used; types of building and floor area; the purpose/intended purpose of the building.

4. As a general rule, premises on ground floor having direct access to a street are suitable or can be adapted to meet the requirements on means of escape.
5. For means of escape, the Code of Practice on Provision of Means of Escape and Part V of the Building (Planning) Regulations, Cap. 123F will apply.

Note : For enquiries, please contact the Buildings Department at 12/F, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Tel. No. : 2626 1085

Flow Chart for Processing of Application for Milk Factory Licence



Legend:

*The applicant may approach the Licence Issuing Office for issue of the Provisional Licence over the counter