To: Business operators

Dear Sir/Madam,

Manufacture, Storage or Conveyance of Potable Spirits

This letter serves to remind you about the legal liability and licensing requirements for the manufacture, storage or conveyance of potable spirits.

The Fire Services Department (FSD) is the regulatory authority of Categories 2 to 10 dangerous goods (excluding liquefied petroleum gas) on land in Hong Kong. According to the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulations (Cap. 295A), any spirits being miscible with water, other than denatured spirits as defined in section 53 of the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance (Cap. 109), containing more than 35% of ethyl alcohol by volume and having a flash point of or exceeding 23°C but not exceeding 66°C, are classified as potable spirits, a type of Category 5 dangerous goods subject to licensing and regulation by the FSD. Pursuant to section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295), except under and in accordance with a licence granted under the Ordinance, no person shall manufacture, store or convey any dangerous goods in excess of their statutory exempt quantities. For details of the dangerous goods and their respective statutory exempt quantities, please refer to Fire Protection Notice No. 4 – Dangerous Goods, which can be accessed via the following link or by scanning the QR code below:


Any person who contravenes any of the aforesaid provisions commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of $25,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months.
In this connection, you are required to apply for a licence from the FSD before commencing business operations involving the manufacture, storage or conveyance of potable spirits in excess of the statutory exempt quantity. Please note that the granting of any such licence by the FSD under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) or its subsidiary legislations does not exempt the licensee from breaching of relevant regulation / seeking necessary prior consent, approval, permission or licence from other government departments or agencies (which may include the Buildings Department, the Lands Department, the Planning Department, the Customs and Excise Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department) for the proposed manufacture, storage or conveyance of the potable spirits.

Should you need any elaboration on this matter, please contact the Dangerous Goods Division of our Licensing and Certification Command at 2417 5757 during office hours. Enquiries outside office hours and reports about fire hazards should be directed to the 24-hour hotline (2723 8787) of our Fire Services Communications Centre.

Yours faithfully,

(Chan Kam-cheung)
for Director of Fire Services