

消防處
牌照及審批總區

香港九龍尖沙咀東部康莊道1號5樓
消防總部大廈



FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
LICENSING & CERTIFICATION COMMAND

FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING,
5/F., No. 1 Hong Chong Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

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To: Licence applicants / Licensees of licensed premises

Dear Sir/Madam,

Safe Use of Charcoal as Fuel in Licensed Food Premises

Recently, a group of patrons was reported being admitted to hospital due to suspected to be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning while having hot pot with charcoal as fuel in a food premises. In Hong Kong, the use of charcoal as fuel either inside kitchen or outside kitchen in a licensed food premises is strictly regulated by specific fire safety requirements formulated by the Fire Services Department (FSD). This advisory letter serves to remind licence applicants and licensees of food premises that prior approval from FSD shall be obtained and the fire safety requirements shall be continuously complied with while using charcoal as fuel in food premises.

In general, the use of charcoal as fuel in poorly ventilated or confined space poses high life risks to the personnel therein as they may not be aware of the colourless, odourless, non-irritating but toxic carbon monoxide generated by burning charcoal. Carbon monoxide exposure could be fatal. To provide adequate protection to the personnel in food premises, FSD had issued specific fire safety requirements regarding the use of fuel, including but not limited to charcoal to licensees. Using charcoal as fuel in food premises without complying with the required fire safety requirements may result in serious consequences.

If licensees wish to use charcoal as fuel in their food premises, they are required to seek prior approval from the FSD via the licensing authority. The additional fire safety requirements in respect of the storage and use of charcoal, ventilating system, gas detection system for carbon monoxide and any other FSD requirements shall be continuously complied with. Non-compliance of the fire safety requirements will be

regarded as breaching of licence conditions and the licence may be suspended or cancelled by the licensing authority.

Your particular attention is drawn in the ensuing sub-paragraphs (a) and (b):

- (a) Solid fuels such as fire wood and coal as well as liquid fuels including diesel and kerosene ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR USE IN SEATING ACCOMMODATION of food premises serving barbecue food and/or hot pot;
- (b) Specific requirements for cooking activities using charcoal as fuel outside kitchen such as, but not limited to, installation of gas detection system for carbon monoxide and provision of a buffer zone for establishing around the charcoal grill/stove to prevent small hot particles/hot oil from splashing onto patrons in the seating accommodation shall be strictly complied.

For the details of the general fire safety requirements in relation to the hot pot and use of fuel in food premises, please make reference to the following requirements or letter available at FSD homepage:

https://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/fire_protection/licensing/premises_food.html#Restaurant

- (a) Specific Requirements for Cooking Activities Using Charcoal as Fuel Outside Kitchen (CACOK)
- (b) Additional Fire Safety Requirements for Using Charcoal as Fuel Inside Kitchen
- (c) Various fuels used in seating accommodation of food premises serving barbecue food and/or hot pot
- (d) Fire Safety Conditions for Conducting Temporary or Occasional Hot Pot / Food Warming / Flambéing in Seating Accommodation (Excluding Outside Seating Accommodation) of General Restaurants / Factory Canteens Using Portable Stoves

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need further information, please contact the Licensing Division of the Fire Services Department in accordance with the following districts during office hours:

<u>District</u>	<u>Telephone numbers</u>
Hong Kong and Off-shore Islands	2549 8104
Kowloon West	2302 5339
Kowloon East	3423 9332
New Territories	3423 9328

Yours faithfully,



(LEUNG Kwun-hong)
for Director of Fire Services