

Registration arrangement for ex-gratia allowance to fishermen affected by new fisheries management strategy in marine parks

In view of a commercial fishing ban imposed on four specified marine parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) announced today (June 11) that an ex-gratia payment will be granted to eligible fishermen affected by the commercial fishing ban. Registration for an ex-gratia allowance (EGA) will start on June 18.

A spokesman for the AFCD said that under the new fisheries management strategy in marine parks, commercial fishing by local fishing vessels registered under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) should be allowed to continue in the Brothers Marine Park, Southwest Lantau Marine Park and new marine parks to be designated in the western waters through the marine park fishing permit system. To protect coral communities as well as to enhance the overall fisheries resources in Hong Kong, commercial fishing will be banned in four specified marine parks, namely Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP), Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP) and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (TPCMP) in the eastern waters and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) in the western waters.

A transitional period of two years will be provided under the commercial fishing ban for the four specified marine parks for fishermen to adapt. The AFCD has no longer granted new fishing permits for HHWMP, YCTMP, TPCMP and SCLKCMP since April 1. Existing fishing permits will not be renewed with validity periods beyond the transitional period, i.e. by March 31, 2022. The above-mentioned commercial fishing ban is not applicable to fishing permits granted to local residents.

An Inter-departmental Working Group (IWG), co-ordinated by the AFCD and comprising representatives from the Marine Department and the Home Affairs Department, has been set up to handle all matters relating to processing of EGA applications from the affected fishermen permit holders.

Affected fishermen permit holders are invited to attend the EGA registration sessions from June 18 to July 31. An applicant must hold a fisherman fishing permit for the specified marine parks, and the fishing permit must remain valid on or after April 1, 2020.

For details of the EGA registration arrangement, please refer to the AFCD website at www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_mar/cou_vis_mar_mpp/ega_registration.html. Affected fishermen permit holders will be notified on the assigned registration session individually by registered mail.

For enquiries, please call the IWG secretariat at 3468 3446 or 3468 3447 during office hours.

Government appoints Executive Director of Urban Renewal Authority

The Government announced today (June 11) that the Chief Executive has, on the recommendation of a selection panel, appointed Mr Eric Poon Shun-wing as Executive Director of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) for a term of three years with effect from July 15, 2020.

Mr Poon will assist the Managing Director of the URA in formulating and implementing policies and initiatives on matters relating to planning and design, property and land, and corporate services.

Mr Poon was selected through an internal recruitment exercise and considered by a selection panel set up by the Development Bureau.

The Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, said, "Mr Poon is a professional quantity surveyor and has worked for more than 20 years in the former Land Development Corporation and the URA. He has extensive experience in project and contract management for the implementation of redevelopment projects. We look forward to working closely with him in his new capacity in furthering the important task of urban renewal in Hong Kong.

"I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr Michael Ma Chiu-tsee, who is retiring upon completion of his term of office, for his invaluable contributions towards the URA over the years. Since taking up the position of Executive Director in 2016, with his profound knowledge and extensive experience, Mr Ma has made significant contributions to the URA's work, in particular in forging a district-based and planning-led urban renewal approach."

The selection panel, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), comprises the Chairman of the URA, Mr Chow Chung-kong; the Managing Director of the URA, Mr Wai Chi-sing; the Director of Planning (Official Non-Executive Director of the URA Board); and Non-Executive Director of the URA Board Dr Lawrence Poon Wing-cheung.

Under the existing establishment of the URA, there are two Executive Directors underpinning the Managing Director of the URA in taking forward the work of urban renewal.

A brief biography of Mr Eric Poon is set out below:

Mr Eric Poon Shun-wing

Mr Poon is a professional quantity surveyor. He joined the former Land Development Corporation in 1997 and has been working in the URA since its establishment in 2001. In 2017, he assumed the position of Director (Works and Contracts) of the URA to take charge of project and contract management for all of the redevelopment projects. He is currently a Director of the Hong Kong Green Building Council, and a member of the Committee on Building Information Modelling as well as the Committee on Environment of the Construction Industry Council.

Red flag hoisted at Golden Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 11) that the Environmental Protection Department has classified the water quality at Golden Beach in Tuen Mun District as Grade 4, which means the beach is not suitable for swimming. The red flag has been hoisted. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach until further notice.

Employers and employees should take precautions against heat stroke

As the Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate precautions to prevent heat stroke when working in a hot or humid environment.

Heat stroke could occur if an employee works in a hot or humid environment for prolonged periods of time, as the body may fail to regulate its temperature by effective heat dissipation through sweating.

The symptoms of heat-related illnesses include feeling thirsty, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, muscle spasm or even mental confusion,

and loss of consciousness or convulsion in severe cases.

Construction workers, cleaning workers, kitchen workers and porters, for example, are more prone to heat stroke as they may be working for long hours in such an environment, especially if appropriate preventive measures have not been taken.

The LD reminds employers to arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stress in the work environment and take appropriate preventive measures. The LD has produced two leaflets entitled "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Construction Sites" and "Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces" respectively. Employers engaged in construction or outdoor cleaning work are advised to refer to these checklists in assessing the risk of heat stress at their workplaces. As for heat stress assessment at a workplace in general, employers can refer to a booklet entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work" produced by the LD.

The LD also reminds employers and employees to take the following precautions to prevent heat stroke:

Employers

- (1) Take heed of the weather report and adopt shift work arrangements for employees to reduce their exposure to the hot environment, or arrange appropriate rest breaks for them during very hot periods;
- (2) Avoid working under direct sunlight and set up temporary sunshade wherever possible;
- (3) Provide cool potable water for employees at all times during work. If necessary, provide drinks containing electrolyte for employees to replenish loss of salt during profuse sweating;
- (4) Minimise physical demands by using tools or mechanical aids at work;
- (5) Increase air flow by enhancing ventilation or air-conditioning as appropriate;
- (6) Isolate heat-generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimise heat dissipation to the other work areas; and
- (7) Provide relevant information and training for employees on heat stroke such as preventive measures and first aid treatment.

Employees

- (1) Wear clothing made of suitable materials (for example, cotton) that is loose-fitting and light-coloured to help heat dissipation, minimise heat absorption and allow sweat evaporation;
- (2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat when working outdoors;
- (3) Drink plenty of water or other appropriate beverages with electrolytes to replenish the fluids and salt lost through sweating; and
- (4) Whenever there are any symptoms of heat-related illnesses, rest in a cool or shady place and drink water, inform supervisors to take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulty in adapting to a hot working environment owing to their own health conditions. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of their doctors when assigning work to these employees.

In addition to the publications on risk assessment, the LD has produced a leaflet entitled "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" for the public. The publications can be obtained free of charge from the offices of the Occupational Health Service of the LD, or downloaded from the department's webpage at www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_9.htm.

The LD organises occupational health talks in public places and at its own training venues regularly to raise employers' and employees' awareness of occupational health. Details of health talks on the prevention of heat stroke at work in a hot environment from June to August are as follows:

(A)

Dates: June 16 and 29, July 7 and 27, August 7, 13 and 28, September 7 and 18 (am);

June 9 and 23, July 3, 20 and 29, August 4, 10 and 20, September 3, 14 and 24 (pm)

Time: Half-day

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department, 13/F, KOLOUR·Tsuen Wan I, 68 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories

(B)

Dates: June 12, July 6 and 24, August 4 and 20

Time: Half-day, morning

Venue: Occupational Safety and Health Centre of the Labour Department, G/F, Kwun Tong Community Health Centre Building, 60 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong (MTR Kwun Tong Station Exit A1)

(C)

Date: June 18, July 20 and August 3

Time: 3pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Space Museum, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon (MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit E)

(Taking into account the latest epidemic development, relevant infection control measures are adopted in different venues of health talks.)

For enrolment or enquiries about these occupational health talks, please call 2852 4040 or 2361 8240 (for talks organised at the Occupational Safety and Health Centre). Moreover, the LD also provides an outreach health education service and occupational health nurses will, on invitation, disseminate occupational health information at workplaces at a convenient time. Please contact the nursing officer at 2852 4062 for details. All these health talks are free of charge.

Public may collect CuMask+[TM] at more than 300 places starting June 15

The Innovation and Technology Bureau announced today (June 11) that holders of a valid Hong Kong identity card (HKID) who have not obtained the CuMask+™ through online registration may collect masks in person at post offices around the territory from June 15 to July 15. Residents living in public rental housing estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) and rental estates under the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS) may collect the masks from their respective estate management offices.

Procedures for obtaining CuMask+™

Citizens should present to the staff of post offices or estate management offices the original of their own HKID (copies will not be accepted). The staff will input the citizen's HKID number on a computer or a handheld device immediately and provide an adult sized CuMask+™ once it is confirmed that the citizen has not obtained one before. The computers and handheld devices used by the post offices or estate management offices will not store any HKID information or other personal data.

Those who are unable to collect the mask in person may authorise others to collect it on their behalf at post offices or estate management offices from July 6 to 15. Detailed arrangements will be announced in early July. Estate management offices under the HA and the HS will distribute the masks to residents with special needs (such as elderly people or persons with impaired mobility) by means of appointment.

Collection points

(1) Post Offices

Citizens can visit any of the 121 post offices (except mobile post offices) during the respective office hours to obtain the CuMask+™. Taking into account the sizes of individual post offices as well as the availability of other collection points in the area, the number of masks available for collection at each post office each day will vary. Members of the public can check the quantity of masks available at each post office each day via the following website:

www.hongkongpost.hk/en/about_us/network/cuMaskOffices/index.html.

(2) Public Rental Housing Estate Management Offices under HA

Residents of the 185 public rental housing estates under the HA can visit their respective estate management offices to obtain the CuMask+™ during the time slots listed below (excluding estate management offices in

Tenants Purchase Scheme estates and Buy or Rent Option courts):

June 15 to 19 (Monday to Friday)

9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5pm

June 22 to July 15 (Mondays to Fridays, except public holidays)

2pm to 5pm

(3) Rental Estate Management Offices under HS

Residents of the 20 rental estates under the HS can visit their respective estate management offices to obtain the CuMask+™ during the time slots listed below:

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm

Office hours of Sha Tau Kok Chuen estate management office:

Mondays to Fridays

8.45am to 12.45pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Office hours of Tui Min Hoi Chuen estate management office:

Mondays and Thursdays

8.30am to 12.30pm

Tuesdays

8.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm

For detailed information about the CuMask+™ or other enquiries, including addresses of public rental housing estate management offices under the HA and rental estate management offices under the HS, please visit the CuMask+™ website (qmask.gov.hk). Members of the public may also call the hotline at 3142 2313 or check via the WhatsApp Helpline 9617 1823.