

Manager and operator fined for illegal club operations

A woman and a company were fined \$9,000 each at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (January 14) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in May last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted an inspection at a club on Amoy Street in Wan Chai which had been operating with a certificate of compliance (CoC).

During the investigation, the club's staff failed to show a copy of the certificate of fire service installation and equipment, and the registered drawing upon the OLA officers' request. Moreover, the OLA officers found that the club had a layout that deviated from the registered drawing. As well, the number of people at the club exceeded the maximum allowable capacity as stipulated in the CoC. Conditions 3, 6, 10 and 14 of the CoC were breached.

The woman and the company, being the manager of the club and the CoC holder of the club respectively, were charged with contravening section 21(1) (a) and section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action will continue to be taken against illegal club operations.