

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 15) released the latest grading of water quality of 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-six beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 10 as Fair (Grade 2) and two as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Butterfly Beach	Lido Beach
Casam Beach	Shek O Beach
Castle Peak Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
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Compared with the grading released last week, Discovery Bay has been upgraded from Grade 4 to Grade 1; Kadoorie Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Shek O Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2; Anglers' Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. Latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk or www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Sha Tin tomorrow

Police advise motorists that special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Sha Tin to facilitate the race meeting tomorrow (June 16).

The arrangements will come into effect two hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race

meeting.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and police will be on hand to guide motorists.

The Police also appeal to people going to Sha Tin Racecourse for the race meeting and to Happy Valley Racecourse for cross betting to make maximum use of public transport.

Parking spaces at the two racecourses are available only to holders of appropriate permits issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club and any vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.

Unlicensed food factory raided in Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long (with photo)

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) raided an unlicensed food factory at a premises at the junction of Hung Shui Kiu Tin Sam Road and Hung Yuen Road in Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long, last night (June 14).

The unlicensed food factory was operated with a number of handcart stalls selling cooked food and seven handcart stalls were found operating on the premises. During the operation, FEHD officers seized seven handcart stalls, about 50 kilograms of raw and cooked food, and large quantities of cooking utensils. One man, who was suspected to be the proprietor of the premises, was arrested and charged with operating an unlicensed food factory.

Under the Food Business Regulation (Cap 132X), anyone operating an unlicensed food factory commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

"The FEHD will continue to take stringent enforcement action against unlicensed food business," a spokesman for the FEHD said.

"Members of the public can report any suspected unlicensed food business by calling the FEHD hotline 2868 0000."



Government launches Green Bond Grant Scheme

The Government announced today (June 15) the launch of the Green Bond Grant Scheme (GBGS), as promulgated in the 2018-19 Budget, to subsidise eligible green bond issuers in obtaining certification under the Green Finance Certification Scheme (GFCS) established by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency.

"The GBGS aims to encourage green bond issuances to make use of Hong Kong's competitive capital markets and our sophisticated financial and professional services. From a broader perspective, the enhanced transparency and accreditation standards of green financial products would be conducive to strengthening market confidence in green finance, and help establish Hong Kong as a global green finance hub," a government spokesperson said.

The full cost of obtaining certification under the GFCS for eligible green bond issuances will be granted, up to a maximum of \$800,000 per bond issuance. First time and repeated issuers with their green bonds of any tenor issued and listed in Hong Kong, and denominated in any currency at a minimum size of \$500 million (or the equivalent in foreign currency), are welcome to apply. The GBGS will be valid for a period of three years. Further details on the grant eligibility criteria are available in the Annex.

Progress in the handling of banking complaints by HKMA

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (June 15) the progress made in its handling of banking complaints received as at end-May 2018. Banking complaints include cases concerning general banking services and conduct-related issues.

In May 2018, 157 cases were received and the handling of 163 cases was completed. As at end-May, the handling of 458 cases was in progress.

A table summarising the progress made in the handling of banking complaints by the HKMA is attached.