

Working Group completes composite list of air purifiers meeting specified specifications

The Secretary for Food and Health has earlier stipulated a requirement on air change or air purifiers to be complied with in dine-in restaurants in the directions in relation to catering business under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F). The Working Group, established for the smooth implementation of the requirement, announced today (April 2) that among information of some 500 models of air purifiers received before the deadline on March 28, air purifiers that meet the specified specifications have all been uploaded onto the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)'s webpage for reference by catering premises operators and ventilation works contractors. The composite list (listed in alphabetical order of individual brand names) may be downloaded via the following webpage (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/guide_general_reference/Information_air-changes_purification.html).

Following the first batch announced yesterday (April 1), perusal of the information on air purifiers received before the deadline on March 28 has been completed. Among some 500 models of air purifiers received, information of a number of individual forms was incomplete, and there is altogether a total of 143 air purifiers meeting the specified specifications. The secretariat of the Working Group has approached those submitters through e-mails, requiring them to provide the missing information before 5pm on April 11. Also, after the deadline on March 28, the secretariat of the Working Group has received many late submissions and is handling them pragmatically. To facilitate the trades to make early preparation, the Working Group will simultaneously cease accepting late submissions from 5pm on April 11. After April 11, depending on the information received and follow-up work undertaken, the composite list may need to be updated. Persons concerned should pay attention to this.

To comply with the requirements on air change or air purifiers in catering premises under the Regulation, catering premises operators are required to register at the FEHD's webpage on or before April 30 that the air change per hour at seating areas of their premises has reached six, or air purifiers that meet the specified specifications have been installed according to the on-the-ground situation, together with a certificate issued by a registered specialist contractor (ventilation works category). Catering premises completing the registration may, upon confirmation by the FEHD, download a notice at the FEHD's webpage for display at the entrance of the premises.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "To assist catering premises operators and ventilation works contractors in smoothly implementing the requirement,

the Working Group has worked relentlessly, in order to announce the list of air purifiers that meet the specified specifications soonest possible. The Government is very grateful to all concerned involved in compiling the list of air purifiers, in working non-stop during this period and completing the compilation of the composite list within a short time. This has helped the smooth compliance of the requirement on air change or air purifiers in catering premises under the Regulation, so as to protect the health of staff, customers and the public and to fortify the public's confidence in patronising catering premises."