

Applications for subsidy scheme for promotion of contactless payment in public markets open

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has announced that applications for the subsidy scheme for promotion of contactless payment in public markets under the third round of the Anti-epidemic Fund opened today (October 15), to provide a one-off subsidy to tenants of public markets to promote contactless payment in market stalls.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "Having regard to the very nature of market operation, the use of contactless payment is desirable from the public hygiene perspective and conducive to reducing the virus transmission risk in markets. A one-off subsidy will be provided to tenants of FEHD market stalls (including cooked food stalls) at a flat rate of \$5,000 per stall for use to meet the initial set-up costs as well as service and other fees in relation to the provision of at least one contactless payment means, which would be processed through a licensed bank or a stored value facility licensee regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, or a debit/credit card scheme, for market patrons. The subsidy scheme is expected to benefit about 12 000 stall tenants in FEHD markets."

A tenant is required to submit an application to the FEHD and obtain approval in principle before signing a service contract with a service provider in relation to the provision of at least one contactless payment means, and the tenant has to produce a valid service contract of no less than a duration of two years signed by the tenant. The FEHD will conduct inspections to ensure completion of installation before disbursing the subsidy.

Interested tenants of FEHD market stalls should submit their applications to District Environmental Hygiene Offices of the FEHD in person or by mail. The deadline for application is November 30 this year. The application form can be obtained from District Environmental Hygiene Offices of the FEHD.