

Company and its director fined for late payment of wages

MS Services Center Limited and its director concerned were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay five employees' wages within seven days after the expiry of the wage periods as required by the Employment Ordinance (EO). Both the company and director pleaded guilty at Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (October 5) and were respectively fined \$110,000 and \$95,000, making a total of \$205,000.

The company failed to pay five employees' wages totalling about \$254,000 within seven days after the expiry of the wage periods as required by the EO. The director concerned was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the offence.

"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay employees wages within the time limit in accordance with the EO," a spokesman for LD said.

"The LD will not tolerate these offences and will spare no effort in enforcing the law and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," the spokesman added.

FEHD orders restaurant in Yau Tong to suspend business for 14 days

The Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene has ordered a restaurant in Yau Tong to suspend business for 14 days as the operator repeatedly breached the Food Business Regulation (FBR) by extending the business area illegally.

The restaurant, located at Shop Nos. G3 and G4, G/F, Ka Kwai Arcade, Yau Tong Centre, 9-11 Ka Wing Street, Yau Tong, was ordered to suspend business from today (October 5) to October 18.

"In April and July this year, two convictions for the above-mentioned breach were recorded against the licensee of the restaurant. A total fine of \$6,500 was levied by the court and 30 demerit points were registered against the licensee under the department's demerit points system. The contraventions resulted in the 14-day licence suspension," a spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said.

The licensee of the restaurant had a record of two convictions for the

same offence in October last year and January this year respectively. A total fine of \$3,500 was levied and 30 demerit points were registered. The breaches led to licence suspension for seven days in March this year.

The spokesman reminded licensees of food premises to comply with the FBR, or their licences could be suspended or cancelled.

Licensed food premises are required to exhibit a sign, at a conspicuous place near the main entrance, indicating that the premises have been licensed. A list of licensed food premises is available on the FEHD's website (www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/index.html).

Communications Authority press release

The following is issued on behalf of the Communications Authority:

This press release summarises the decisions of the Communications Authority (CA) following its 79th meeting held in October 2018:

Disruptions of the telecommunications services of China Unicom (Hong Kong) Operations Limited (China Unicom)

On February 27 and March 31, 2018, there were two incidents of network outage of China Unicom, causing disruptions to its telecommunications services including mobile voice services, short message services and mobile data services. The first incident lasted for five hours and 40 minutes and the second incident lasted for seven hours and 25 minutes, with each incident affecting about 138 150 customers. The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) conducted an investigation into the two incidents. Having considered OFCA's assessment and China Unicom's representations, the CA concluded that China Unicom had breached General Condition 5.1 of its services-based operator licence (licence no. 922), which required it to operate, maintain and provide a good, efficient and continuous service in a manner satisfactory to the CA. The CA decided to impose a financial penalty of \$160,000 on China Unicom. For details, please refer to the CA's Decision published on the CA's website:

www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/472/Unicom_FinalDecision_e.pdf.

Renewal of other licensable television programme service (other licensable TV) licences

The CA approved the applications by The Peninsula Hotel Limited, Ricobem Limited and Langham Hotels International Limited for renewal of their respective other licensable TV licences for the provision of television

programme services to hotel rooms in Hong Kong for a period of 12 years. Including the three licensees mentioned above, there are 22 other licensable TV licensees providing services to more than 70 hotels in Hong Kong.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, October 5, 2018 is 105.4 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled goods (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (October 4) seized about 300 000 suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$800,000 and a duty potential of about \$600,000 together with 2 705 cartons of unmanifested assorted goods with an estimated market value of about \$300,000 at the River Trade Terminal Cargo Examination Compound in Tuen Mun.

Customs officers yesterday inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain assorted goods arriving in Hong Kong from Guangzhou. After inspection, Customs officers found 28 cartons containing a total of about 300 000 suspected illicit cigarettes mix-loaded with the batch of unmanifested goods inside the container.

Investigation is ongoing.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

