

FEHD to step up enforcement actions against unauthorised display of commercial publicity materials

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will step up enforcement actions against the unauthorised display of easy-mount frames and other display fittings for business promotion on busy streets from September to October with a view to curbing such illegal activities and improving the district environment.

An FEHD spokesman said today (August 30), "The unauthorised display of commercial publicity materials such as bills and posters with the use of easy-mount frames, and other display fittings on streets and pavements with high pedestrian flow, have kept causing street obstruction and environmental hygiene problems. To tackle the situation, the FEHD mounted special enforcement operations last year. In view of the fruitful results, the department will again step up enforcement actions against such illegal activities at targeted blackspots in various districts from September to October this year so as to sustain the efforts to combat the problem and improve the district environment.

"During the operations, FEHD officers will issue fixed penalty notices on the spot to offenders caught red-handed for illegal display activities, and the promotion materials will be removed. The beneficiaries of the commercial publicity materials will also be prosecuted should there be sufficient evidence."

He said that under Section 104A(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), any person displaying or affixing a bill or poster on Government land without permission commits an offence, and is liable to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$10,000 and a daily fine of \$300 upon conviction. FEHD officers can also remove the commercial publicity materials and the display fittings and recover the removal costs from the persons concerned pursuant to the relevant legislation.

The FEHD has already stepped up public education by issuing warning letters to vendors and street promoters in the vicinity of the targeted blackspots in various districts and related commercial organisations to remind them to refrain from displaying commercial publicity materials illegally, or they may face prosecution. The above enforcement operations will be launched next week.

The spokesman said that the FEHD will evaluate the effectiveness after this round of enforcement actions for formulation of the objectives and strategies of future operations.