

## Manager and operator fined for illegal club operations

Two men were fined from \$3,000 and \$15,000 at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (August 13) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in December last year and January this year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted inspections at two clubs on Jaffe Road in Causeway Bay and Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, which had been operating with certificates of compliance (CoCs).

During the investigation in the club on Jaffe Road, the OLA officers posed as customers and patronised the club for food and drinks without being asked to show their membership status or being invited to join the club as members. Also, the club's staff failed to show a copy of the certificate of fire service installation and equipment and the registered drawing upon the OLA officers' request. The OLA officers also found that the exit route had been obstructed and the club had a layout that deviated from the registered drawing. Conditions 3, 10, 12, 17 and 19 of the CoC were breached. The man, being the manager of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(1)(a) of the Ordinance.

The club on Shau Kei Wan Main Street East was found to have a layout that deviated from the registered drawing. Condition 3 of the CoC was breached. The man, being the CoC holder of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action will continue to be taken against illegal club operations.