

Manager and operators fined for illegal club operations

Two women and a company were fined from \$3,500 to \$20,000 at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (April 3) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in August last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted inspections at two clubs on Soy Street and Portland Street in Mong Kok, which had been operating with certificates of compliance (CoCs).

During the investigation at the club on Soy Street, 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, the registered drawing and the updated membership register upon the OLA officers' request. Conditions 10, 17, 19 and 20 of the CoC were breached. The company, being the CoC holder of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

The other club on Portland Street also served non-members. Condition 19 of the CoC was breached. The two women, being the managers and the CoC holder of the club respectively, were charged with contravening section 21(1) (a) or 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.