

Subsidy Scheme for Promotion of Contactless Payment in Public Markets

Objective

It is our objective to provide a one-off subsidy to stall tenants of public markets to promote contactless payment in market stalls as an anti-epidemic measure to safeguard public health in the new normal.

Brief description

2. The fight against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has aroused public concern on measures to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19 or other diseases transmitted through physical contacts. Having regard to the very nature of market operation (with close contact among stall operators and patrons in an often congested indoor setting, as well as physical touch of commodities and cash exchange), the use of contactless payment is desirable from the public hygiene perspective and conducive to reducing the transmission risk of COVID-19 in a market setting.

3. To promote contactless payment in public markets, the Government will provide a one-off subsidy to stall tenants of public markets under the FEHD or HKHA at a flat rate of \$5,000 per stall. This may be used 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 for market patrons.

4. All stall tenants in FEHD/ HKHA markets, including wet market stalls and cooked food stalls, will be eligible for the subsidy, provided that –

- (a) the tenant holds a valid tenancy agreement of a stall in a FEHD/ HKHA market as at the date of application and when approval is given for disbursement of subsidy;
- (b) the contactless payment means opted by the tenant for his/her stall is processed through a licensed bank or a stored value facility licensee being regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, or a debit/ credit card scheme; and
- (c) the tenant undertakes in the application not to unreasonably refuse request for contactless payment from patrons during the service contract period. FEHD/ HKHA reserves the right to claw back the subsidy disbursed if a tenant is found to be not complying with the undertaking.

5. Disbursement of subsidy will be made to the tenants subject to the following –

- (a) the tenant is required to submit an application and obtain an 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
- (b) the tenant has to produce a valid service contract of no less than a duration of two years signed by him/her and confirming that necessary installation has been completed to enable contactless payment at his/her stall. FEHD/HKHA will conduct inspection to check and ensure completion of the installation.

6. We estimate that the above subsidy scheme will benefit tenants of about 12 000 stalls in FEHD markets, and some 1 500 stalls in HKHA markets.