



Date: 21 July 2014

CIRCULAR

To All AVA-licensed Food Manufacturers / Establishments

Dear Sir/Madam,

REQUEST TO USE REEFER CONTAINERS OR CONTAINERS AT AVA-LICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

1. AVA has recently reviewed the use of reefer containers and containers at food establishments to enhance food safety and good warehousing practices.
2. AVA defines a 'reefer container' as an enclosed facility that has been either leased or purchased by a food establishment and parked at the establishment for storage of either chilled or frozen food products. A 'container' is defined as an enclosed facility that is used for the storage of food products or food-related products such as packaging materials, at ambient temperature.
3. With effect from 1 August 2014, the use of reefer containers or containers for storage of food and food-related products is not allowed if no prior written approval has been given by AVA. With reference from the date of this circular:
 - Licensees are required to seek approval from AVA before using them for storage purposes.
 - Licensees currently using such reefer containers or containers without AVA's prior approval are required to apply to AVA immediately for evaluation of application.
4. The reefer containers and containers will be considered only for use on a temporary basis. We would like to advise you to consider using external coldstores or warehouses as one of the long-term solutions to address the insufficient storage facilities for food products within your establishment. If you intend to use reefer containers or containers for permanent storage of food and food-related matters, you are required to ensure proper integration of such storage facilities as part of the food establishment in order to minimise risks to food safety of the food products.
5. Please note that you are also required to obtain prior approval from all other relevant agencies, such as Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Building & Construction Authority (BCA), Housing & Development Board (HDB), JTC Corporation and Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA).

6. Upon obtaining the approval from other relevant agencies, you can submit your requests via email or letter to the following officers from the Licensing Section, Food Establishment Regulation Group (FERG):

AVA Officer	Tel No.	Email Address
Ms Wendy Lim	63257141	wendy_lim@ava.gov.sg
Mr Alvin Wee	63257411	wee_choon_chuan@ava.gov.sg
Mr Chen Hanwei	63253021	chen_hanwei@ava.gov.sg

Once your application has been approved, AVA officers will inspect the reefer containers or containers when they carry out inspections at your food establishment. We wish to remind you to ensure that the reefer containers and containers must be well maintained in clean and pest-free conditions at all times and the units must be removed immediately after AVA's stipulated period of usage.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Choo Mee Li
Director
Licensing and Grading Department
Food Establishment Regulation Group
for Director-General, Agri-Food & Veterinary Services

(This is a computer generated circular and no signature is required)