Licensing on
Animals (Control of Experiments)
Ordinance (Cap.340)

Health Technology and Advisory Division
Department of Health
October 2025





Outline

Background to Cap.340

Legal responsibilities of licensees

Administration and enforcement of Cap.340

Practical tips for smooth submission of application & return and ensuring compliance



Background to Cap.340



Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance, Cap.340

- First enacted in 1963
- To provide for the control of experiments on <u>living vertebrate animals</u> and <u>calculated to give pain</u> to the animal



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Restrictions on purpose of experiment

Section 6(1) - no licensee shall perform any experiment except -

- a) for the purpose of the advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge, or of any knowledge which will be useful for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants;
 - for the purpose of testing any former discovery alleged to have been made for the advancement of such types of knowledge referred to in para (a);
 - by the order in writing of any judge or district judge in any case where such judge is satisfied that it is essential for the purpose of justice in a criminal case to make such experiment.

To attain manual skill/ for illustration of lectures

Section 4(1) –

• Except under and in accordance with an <u>endorsement</u> made under section 8, no licensee shall perform any experiment <u>for the purpose of attaining manual skill</u>.



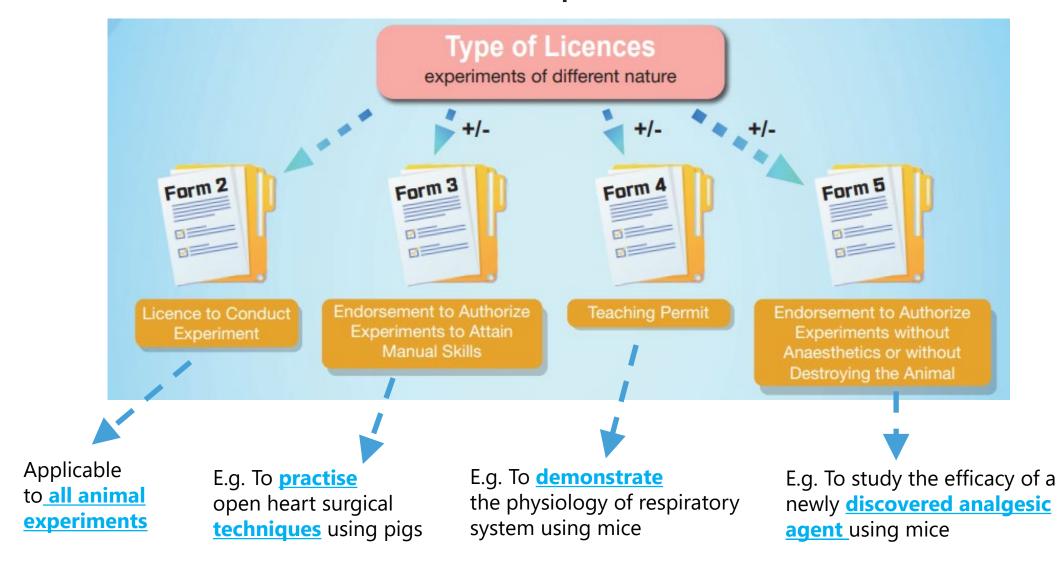
Section 5(1) –

• Except under and in accordance with a <u>teaching permit</u> issued under section 9, no licensee shall perform any experiment <u>for the purpose of illustrating any lecture</u> at any academic institution.





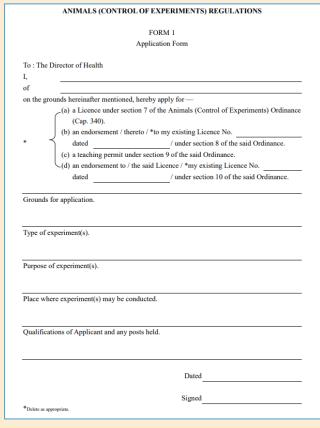
Licence, endorsements and permit



1. Background 7

All applications shall be made in:

Form 1, the statutory application form



Annex to Form 1

nnex	
te section below is not part of Form 1 but information supplied would help avoid unnecessary delay in	(b) Application for a licence with an "Endorsement to Enable Performance of Experiments without
ocessing your application.	Anaesthetics or without Destroying the Animal" under section 10 of the said Ordinance –
57 11	☐ I confirm that the experiment would necessarily be frustrated by −
lease put a 'tick' to the box against each of the followings which are applicable to your application.	the performance of such experiment under any anaesthetic; <u>AND/OR</u>
Type of application:	killing the animal on which such experiment is performed before it recovers from the influence of
77 - 7 - 27	any anaesthetic.
☐ New application ☐ Renewal application	Please indicate why -
I have not been granted a licence for the To continue with the same experiment, that is, no change of	
experiment under application before. experimental procedures under the type of experiment(s)	
[Complete (2), (3), (4a or 4b) and (6) only] and purpose of experiment(s) of a previously granted	
licence (Reference number of licence:	
	5. [I will not conduct any experiment after the expiry date of my existing licence / I have not conducted any
[Complete (2), (5) and (6) only]	experiment after the expiry date of my previous licence under the reference number quoted above; <u>AND</u>
	I have been keeping a proper Form 6 / I have kept a proper Form 6 during the validity period of my
I hereby declare that in accordance with Regulations 4 and 5 of the Animals (Control of Experiments)	previous licence under the reference number quoted above, in accordance with regulation 4 of the
Regulations, Cap.340A ("the Regulations"), I shall keep up-to-date a book in the form set out as Form	Regulations.
6 in the Schedule to the Regulations and I shall render to the Director of Health on or before the 1st day of January each year a return in the form set out as Form 7 in the Schedule to the Regulations of all	
experiments performed by me during the preceding twelve months.	6. I have read and understood the Personal Information Collection Statement Relating to Licence/ Permit/
	Endorsement Issued under the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance, Chapter 340. I agree that
Please indicate the type(s) of animals to be used in the experiment:	my personal data and information may be used for the purposes as set out in the Statement.
□ Amphibian(s): (□ Frogs □ Other(s), please specify:)	☐ I hereby declare that the information provided in this application is true, complete and accurate.
□ Bird(z); (□ Chickens □ Other(z), please specify;)	
□ Fish(es): (□ Zebrafish □ Other(s), please specify:	"Experiment" means any experiment performed on a living vertebrate animal and calculated to give pain (section
	2 of the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance, Cap. 340).
□ Mammal(s): (□ Mice □ Rats □ Guinea pigs □ Hamsters □ Rabbits □ Pigs	
Other(s), please specify:	Please provide valid contact information for correspondence and inform the Department of Heath immediately
□ Reptile(s): (□ Lizards □ Other(s), please specify:)	for any changes of information.
() A. P. c. e. P 1d. c. WE 1 c. E. 11 D. e ET 1d. c.	
(a) Application for a licence without an "Endorsement to Enable Performance of Experiments without	Full name**: Contact No.:
Anaesthetics or without Destroying the Animal" under section 10 of the said Ordinance –	HK Identity Card/Passport/Travel Document No.: Mobile No.:
I confirm that throughout the whole of the experiment the animal is under the influence of some anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animal feeling pain; and if the pain is likely to continue	Email Address:
after the effect of the anaesthetic has ceased, or if any serious injury has been inflicted on the animal,	
the animal is killed before it recovers from the influence of the anaesthetic which has been	
administered; AND	
☐ I confirm that conditions of the animals will be monitored during the experiment; <u>AND</u>	
☐ I confirm that animals with signs of severe distress or pain will be euthanized before the end of the	Signed
study; AND	(Institute/Company chop)*** (Applicant)
I confirm that the following method(s) to be used for sacrificing the animals will not cause	
unnecessary/ prolonged pain to them: cervical dislocation	At Full and a second of the Linear Conference Tours I December 1
cervical dislocation decapitation	** Full name as appears on HK Identity Card/Passport/Travel Document *** Please obtain an official chop of the Institute/ Company where you are working or studying.
overdose of anaesthetic	
carbon dioxide asphyxiation	
exzanguinations under anaesthesia	
other(s), please specify:	

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Application procedures

Fill in Form 1 and the Annex, sign and provide institution chop Submit completed form and Annex online, by email or post Receipt of acknowledgement by email if information is complete +/- Provide further info upon request by email within the timeframe DH processes the application if information is sufficient Within 6 weeks Upon receipt of all requested info DH informs the result of application by email

Non-respondent who fails to provide the info before deadline

Requirement for renewal of licence

If licensee wishes to:

- ☐ Continue with the same experiment after the specified period as stated in existing licence
- □ i.e. <u>no change</u> of
 - Type of experiment(s); AND
 - Purpose of experiment(s)

<u>Licensee should</u>:

- Check and ensure the Type of experiment(s); AND Purpose of experiment(s) are the same as existing licence
- Complete the application form, indicate renewal of licence and quote licence ref. no.
- Submit application at least TWO months before the expiry date of existing licence

Any **change** of Type of experiment(s) or Purpose of experiment(s) → Require submission of a **NEW** application



Requirement for variation of licence

If there are:

Changes or additions of place(s) where the experiment may be conducted





<u>Licensee should:</u>

- Not perform the experiment at the new place(s) right away
- Inform DH in writing of the full address(es) of the proposed place(s)
- Receive a revised licence superseding the existing one if approved
- Perform the experiment at the new place(s) after receiving the revised licence

It will be a breach of the Ordinance to conduct experiments at a place other than that specified in relevant licence.



Other proposed changes

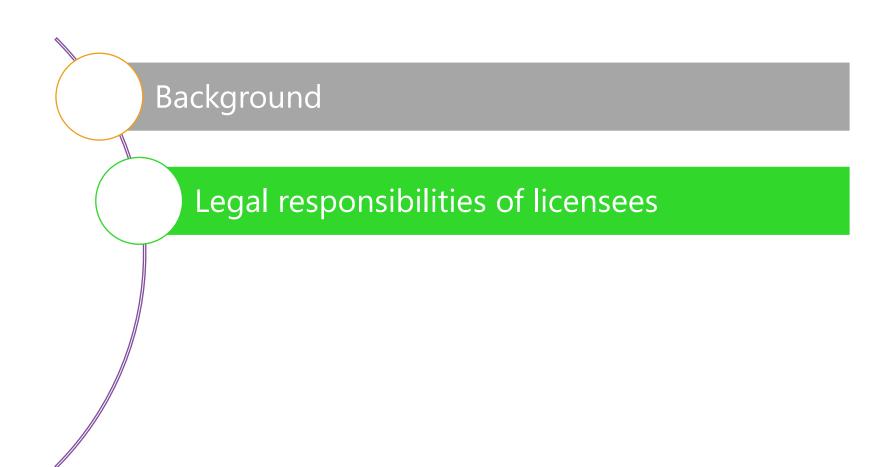
e.g. the type(s) of animals, experimental procedure(s), method(s) used to sacrifice the animals

→ Require submission of a **NEW** application

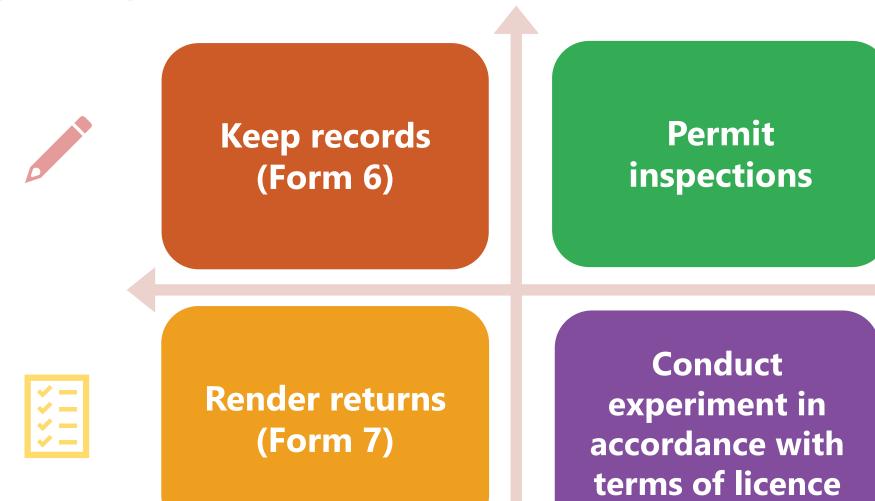
It will be a **breach of the Ordinance** to conduct experiments not in accordance with the terms of **relevant licence**.

Any person who is guilty of an offence under section 3 shall be liable on summary conviction to a <u>fine at level 1 (HK\$2,000)</u> and to <u>imprisonment for 6 months.</u>





Legal responsibilities of licensees









Keep records (Form 6)

Statutory requirement:

- S11(1) of Cap.340 and R4 of Cap.340A
- Every licensee shall Keep a book with up-to-date records of all experiments performed by him/her in the form set out as Form 6

ANIMALS (CONTROL OF EXPERIMENTS) REGULATIONS

FORM 6 Record of Experiments

Name of Licensee :

					Nature of experiments
Date of	Place where	Animal	Purpose of	If animal	(if performed under
experiment.	performed.	used.	experiment.	dead, state	teaching permit or unde
				how died.	special endorsement thi
					should be stated).



Keep records (Form 6)



Licensee should:

- Keep <u>up-to-date</u> record, from licence start date to the most recent experiment
- Record particulars of <u>all experiments</u> performed

Records:



- Can be in e-format or hard-copy
- Contain **all information** as listed in Form 6
- ☐ Should be <u>accessible</u> when inspected
- □ To be usable for subsequent <u>reference</u>



Permit inspections

Section 11 of Cap.340 -

(2) Every licensee shall permit any medical or health officer authorized in writing by the Licensing Authority to inspect any records kept by him at any time between 8 am and 6 pm on any day other than a Sunday or public holiday.



(3) Every licensee shall permit any person authorised in writing as aforesaid to enter and inspect, for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance, any place specified in such licensee's licence for the performance of experiments.







Render returns (Form 7)

Statutory requirement:

- S12(1) of Cap.340 and R5 of Cap.340A
- Render to the Director of Health on or before the 1st day of January each year a return in the form set out as Form 7 in the Schedule of all experiments performed by him during the preceding twelve months

	ANIMALS (CO	NTROL OF EXP	ERIMENTS) REG	ULATIONS
		FORM Return of Ex		
Name of Licens No. and date of Period covered	Licence :		То	
Number of experiments conducted.	Place(s) where performed.	Kinds and number of animals used.	Purpose of experiments (e.g. manual skill, illustrating lectures, etc.).	Any teaching permits, lectures and other endorsements applicable during the period.
Dated				
			Signed	(Licensee).



Render returns (Form 7)

Period covered from licence start date or 1st Jan as applicable



Ensure Form 7 is accurately filled in and signed

Record particulars of all experiments performed in Form 7

Submit Form 7 on or before 1st Jan each year on time

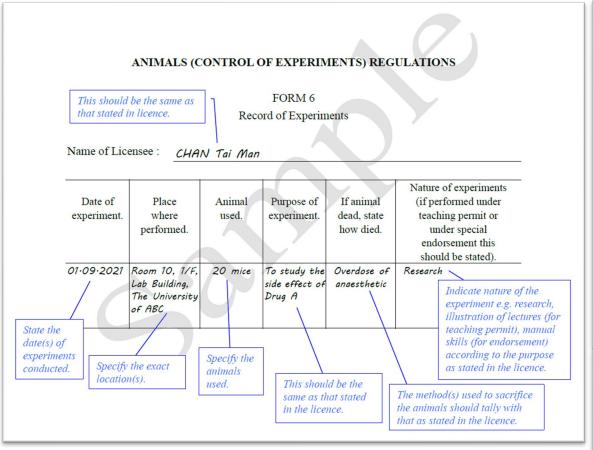


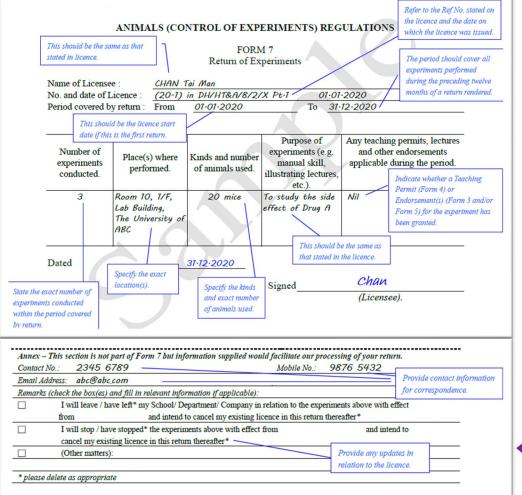
Provide updated contact information in the Annex, if any



Explanatory notes and samples of completed Forms

Available at DH website https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful_forms/useful_forms_ani.html





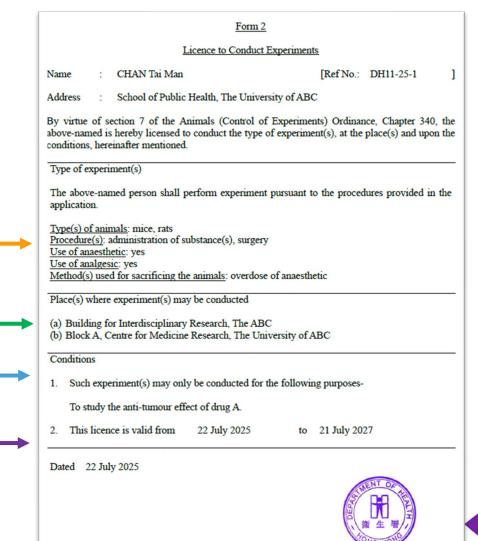




Conduct experiment in accordance with terms of licence

Statutory requirement:

- Section 3(2) of Cap.340
- No licensee shall perform any experiment except in accordance with the terms of his **licence** and subject to the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance.
- Licensee should:
 - Conduct experiment according to the terms and conditions specified in the licence
 - Type of experiment(s)
 - Place of experiment
 - Purposes of experiment; and
 - Validity period –



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Licensing Authority

Contraventions of the provisions



■ Section 11(1) (Duty to keep records); or



■ Section 12 (Duty to render returns)

- Shall be guilty of an offence
- Liable on summary conviction to:
 - **a** a **fine** at **level 1** (HK\$2,000); and
 - imprisonment for 3 months





Contraventions of the provisions

- ☐ Section 3 (performance of experiments only by licensees);
- ☐ Section 4 (performing experiments to attain manual skill);
- Section 5 (performance of experiments for illustration of lectures); or
- ☐ Section 6 (restrictions upon performance of experiments by licensee)
 - Shall be guilty of an offence
 - Liable on summary conviction to:
 - **a** a **fine** at **level 1** (HK\$2,000); and
 - imprisonment for 6 months







To assess licensees' compliance to Cap.340, DH...



Conduct inspection



Monitor Form 7 submission



Handle enquiries or complaints



Initiate enforcement actions





Inspections conducted by DH

- Assess licensee's compliance to the licensing conditions
- Scheduled / unannounced visit
- During inspection, authorized officers will:
 - Check Form 6 kept by licensee:
 - Whether it is up-to-date;
 - Record all particulars of experiment performed; and
 - Information recorded tally with those on Form 7 (if applicable)
 - Check laboratory records in relation to the animal experiments
 - Inspect place(s) for conducting the experiment as specified in the licence

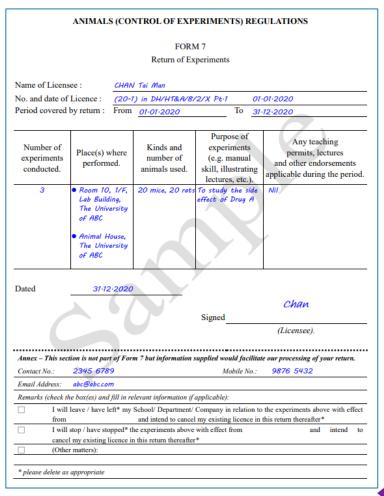
Date of experiment.	Place where performed.	Animal used.	Purpose of experiment.	If animal dead, state how died.	Nature of experiment (if performed under teaching permit or under special endorsement this should be stated).
01-09-2021 to 10-09-2021 15-09-2021 20-09-2021	Lab Building, The University of ABC	20 mice		N/A (animals were still alive) Overdose of anaesthetic	Research

Sample of completed Form 6



Monitor submission of returns

- Receive and process Form 7
- □ DH will conduct inspection to check records kept by licensee who did not render return
- ☐ Ascertain whether experiments had been conducted but failed to render Form 7

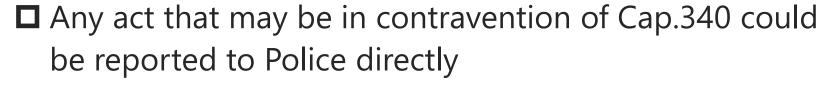


Sample of completed Form 7

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Enquiries or complaints





- Alternatively, upon receipt of complaint in relation to possible contraventions
 - → DH may request licensee to provide information
 - → If there is reasonable ground to suspect that there may be a contravention of Cap.340, suspected case would be referred to relevant authority for further investigation; or legal advice would be sought for prosecution



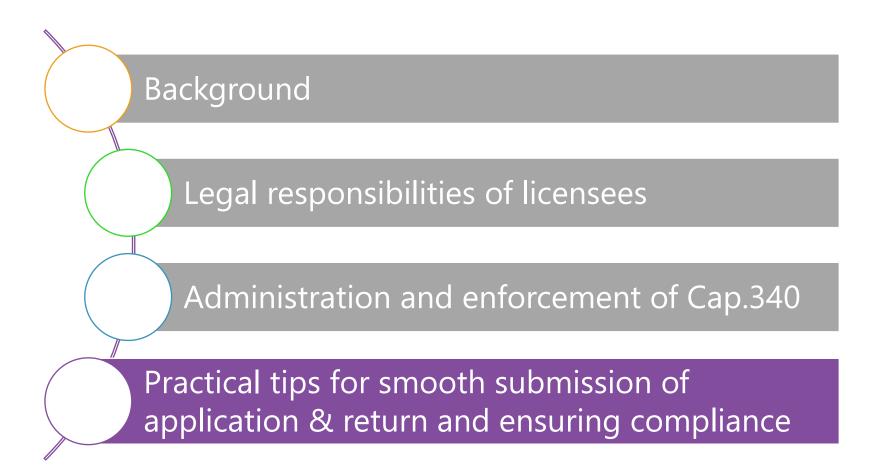




Enforcement of Cap.340

- ☐ Law enforcement action will be initiated against licensees who:
 - had conducted experiments; AND failed to render duly completed return on time
 - had conducted experiments not in accordance with the terms of his licence and subject to the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance



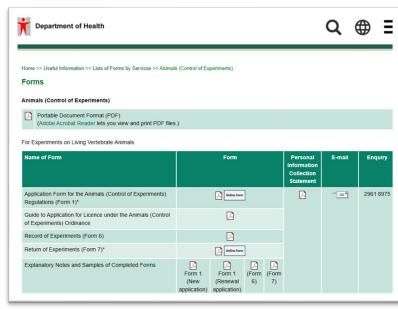


When filling in the application form

☑ Read

 "Guide to Application" and "Notes and Sample Forms" available on DH website to fill in the form correctly

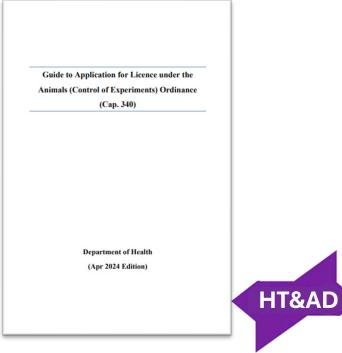




☑ Include

- Information specific to Cap.340:
 - Procedures to be performed on living animals
 - Procedures expected to cause pain
 - Planned use of anaesthesia, analgesic and/or other pain relieving methods to prevent or minimise pain and suffering expected to cause





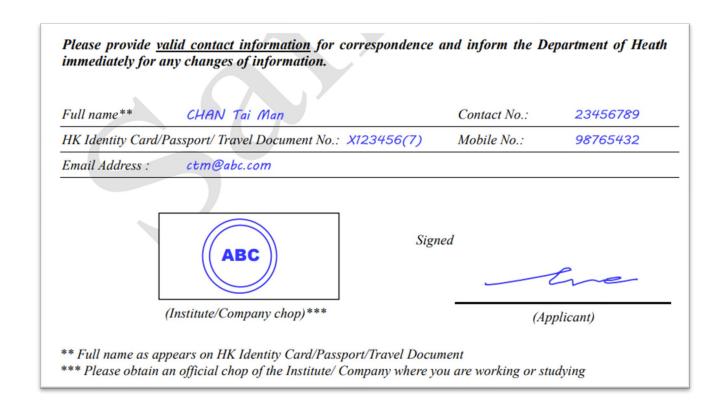
When filling in the application form

☑ Provide

Valid contact information in the Annex for communication

☑ Check

 Completeness of information before submit





When filling in the application form

☒ Don'ts

- □ Directly quote/ attach published research article
- ☐ Provide lengthy protocol, which is used for purposes other than Cap.340
 - → Information is **NOT specific** to licence application
- ☐ Include details that is **not within the scope of Cap.340**, e.g. in vitro analyses
- Lacking the measures to be taken to minimise and/or prevent pain and suffering expected to cause to the animals
- ☐ Information provided in Form 1 not tally with that in the Annex, e.g. types of animals, sacrificing methods

Unnecessary or inappropriate information would prolong the processing time

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After submitting the application form



☑ Provide information/ clarification upon request:

- ☐ DH may request supplementary information / clarification pertaining to the application during processing
- Applicant should provide the requested information within the timeframe



☑ Keep record of all application documents, including Form
1 and email correspondence (if any), for future reference.

■ e.g for renewal application, review if any change of procedures, place of experiment, etc



When submitting returns

☑ Read

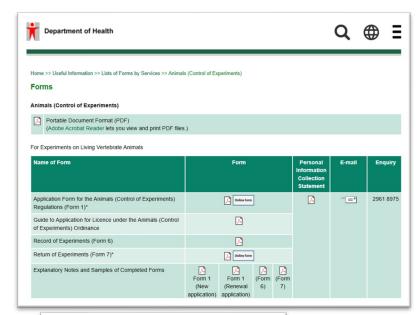
 "Notes and Sample Forms" available on DH website to fill in the form correctly

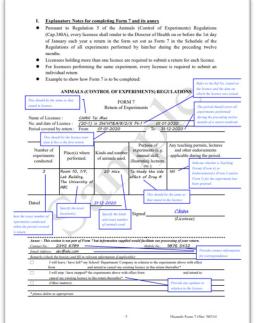
☑ Check

- Ensure that all experiments performed are recorded
- All the forms are already attached and submitted and nothing is missed during submission

☑ Submit on time

- Allow sufficient time for submitting the return
- On or before 1st Jan each year within the licence period









When submitting returns

☑ Keep

- A copy of Form 7 and email sent
- Acknowledge receipt and/or transaction number if submit online
- Other documents sent
 - → Serve as a proof
 - e.g. in case the licensee was suspected failing to render return, the record could serve as a proof that the form has been submitted



Important notes

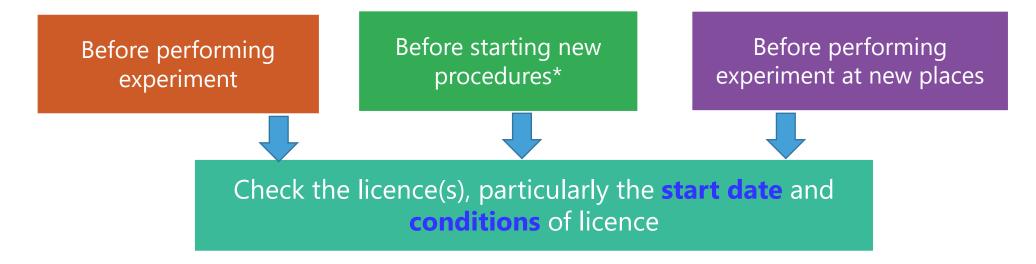
- ☐ Licensees are personally accountable for:
 - Keeping experiment records;
 - Submitting returns on time;
 - · Observing the licensing conditions; and
 - Performing experiments when valid endorsement or permit is otherwise required
- ☐ Licensee should:
 - Update DH ASAP for any change of contact information;
 - Render return when no more plan to conduct experiment (e.g. leaving corresponding institution)







To avoid non-compliance



Do not perform the experiment until you have checked your licence(s) and conditions; or received your new licence to cover that procedures / locations

Seek DH advice if variation of licence or application of new licence is required before conducting experiments not specified in the licence

Take particular care if you hold more than one licence to ensure that the types and places of experiment are covered in the respective licence(s)

* Procedures include, but not limited to, types of animals used, experimental procedures, use of anaesthetic and/or analgesic and methods used to sacrifice the animals.

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Legal duties listed in the covering letter

香港特別行政區政府 衞 生 署 香港灣仔皇后大道東213號



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WU CHUNG HOUSE, 17TH & 21ST FLOORS, 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

本署檔號 OUR REF.: (25-) in DH/HT&A/8/2/1 Pt.79

來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

職 括 TEL: 2961 8645 ■文傳真 FAX.: 2127 7329

17 July 2025

School of Biomedical Sciences The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance Chapter 340

I refer to your application received on 3 July 2025 and forward herewith the following licence(s) issued under the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance ("the Ordinance"):-

Form 2 : Licence to Conduct Experiments

Your attention is drawn to the following legal duties of licensees -

(a) Records

Keep a book with up-to-date records of all experiments performed by him/her in the form set out as Form 6 in the Schedule of the Animals (Control of Experiments) Regulations ("the Schedule").

(b) Returns:

Render to the Director of Health on or before the 1st day of January each year a return in the form set out as Form 7 in the Schedule of all experiments performed by him during the preceding twelve months.

Copies of Form 6 and Form 7 are enclosed for your convenience. Licensees shall permit authorized officer to enter and inspect the places where experiments may be conducted for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance. Failure to comply with the above legal duties is an offence and may result in prosecution and cancellation of your licence. Each offence would be punishable by a fine of HK\$2000 and to imprisonment for 3 months. You are reminded that your duty as a licensee under the said provisions subsists even if you subsequently cease to work or study in your academic institution/ organisation/ company.

/P.2....

We build a healthy Hong Kong and aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority

-2-

Your attention is drawn to section 3(2) of the Ordinance which stipulates that no licensee shall perform any experiment except in accordance with the terms of his licence and subject to the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance. If you wish to perform experiments other than the one stated in the licence or if there are any changes of the experiments, including but not limited to the type(s) of animals used, experimental procedure(s), and method(s) used to sacrifice the animals, application for a new licence is required. If there are changes or additions of place(s) where the experiment may be conducted, prior approval should be sought by informing the Department of Health (DH) in writing of the full address(es) of the proposed place(s) for experiment.

If you wish to continue with the same experiment after the specified periods as stated on the above licence / endorsement / teaching permit, you should renew them at least two months before the end-dates. It will be a breach of the Ordinance to conduct the experiments without a valid licence. On the other hand, if you have completed or stopped your experiments, or you are going to leave your academic institution/organisation/ company before the specified periods, you should inform us in writing immediately and at the same time, render the Form 7 for all experiments conducted. If there is any updates of your contact information, please inform DH immediately.

You are encouraged to submit Application Form (Form 1) and Form 7 online. The online forms require your digital signature by either digital certificate or "iAM Smart+". You may access the online Form 1 and Form 7 via the website at www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/inseful_forms/useful_forms_mi.html. For further information about "iAM Smart", please visit www.iamsmart.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr Addi CHAN) for Director of Health

* Remarks:-

A "Code of Practice - Care and Use of Animals for Experimental Purposes" was prepared by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on the advice of the Animal Welfare Advisory Group.

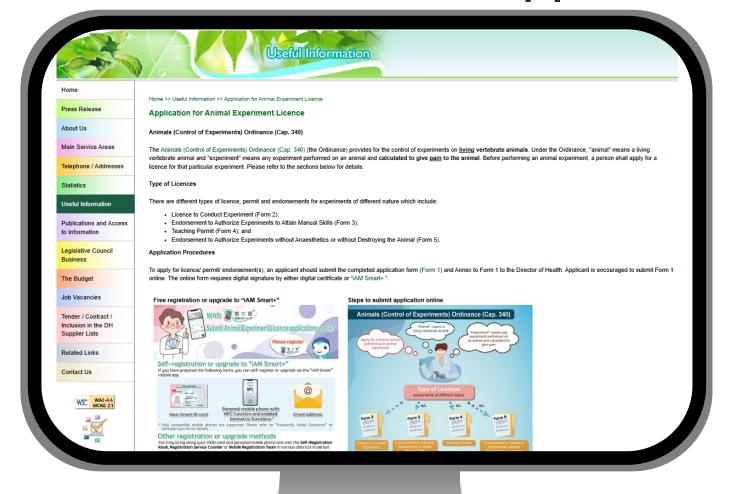
Please visit the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's website at https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/aboutus/abt_adv/files/Code_of_Practice_Care_and_Use_of_Animals_for_Experimental_Purposes_English.pdf for details of the Code of Practice

Encl

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Useful information for applicants/licensees



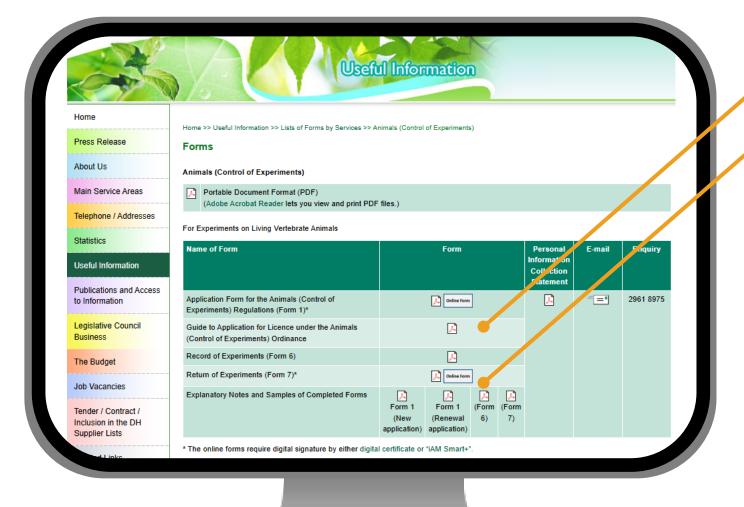
■ Available on DH website

https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful_alo/useful_alo.html





Forms and documents for reference



- Guide to Application
- Samples of Completed forms

https://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful forms/useful forms ani.html





Health Technology & Advisory Division Department of Health



Tel: 2961 8975



Website: www.dh.gov.hk



Fax: 2127 7329



Email: ro_al@dh.gov.hk

