

HONG KONG TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

SAMPLE CLIENT DUE DILIGENCE FORM

FOR USE BY TRUSTEES OF PENSION SCHEMES

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Hong Kong Trustees' Association ("HKTA") issued Best Practice Guides ("the Guides") covering corporate trusts, pension scheme, private trusts and charitable trusts in November 2012. The Guides set out the best practices which aim to educate and raise industry standards of members in relation to their trustee activities. The Guides consist of 3 parts, namely Guiding Principles, Guidance Notes and Practice Guidelines. Practice Guidelines, which are for reference only, will be more detailed than the Guidance Notes and cover more practical issues may be issued from time to time.

This Sample Client Due Diligence Form ("Sample CDD") serves as a Practice Guideline to provide members with ideas on how the Guiding Principles and Guidance Note may be met by Trustees of Pension Schemes.

The Sample CDD is for reference only and, as such, should not be treated in any way as a definitive guide to the relevant practice area. It is also not intended to be the only way to address any particular area of practice. In particular, as there are different ways to meet the Guiding Principles and Guidance Notes as well as the requirements of the relevant laws and regulations, to the extent that the practices stated in the Sample CDD differ from the existing practices of trustees, especially those with established AML frameworks (such as the AML frameworks of established trustees in the MPF industry) developed taking into account the special characteristics and features of their industries, the Sample CDD is not intended to compel, suggest or advise changes to those existing practices.

Also, in the event of any conflict between the Guides and any laws, regulations, codes or guidelines (including codes of conduct) (collectively "Other Codes") issued by a regulatory or professional statutory body to which a trustee may be subject, the Other Codes will take precedence.

LICENSING OF TRUST AND COMPANY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Under the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance ("CTF") (previously "Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance") ("AMLO") which became effective on 1 March 2018, a trustee who, by way of business, provides a trust or company service in Hong Kong will be regarded as a trust or company service provider (i.e. a TCSP), and therefore must obtain a licence from the Companies Registrar to carry out such service. Otherwise, the trustee commits an offence and would be liable on conviction to a fine of HK\$100,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The licensing requirement does not apply to the Government, an authorised institution, an SFC-licensed corporation that operates a trust or company service business that is ancillary to the corporation's principal business, an accounting professional, a legal professional, or other persons prescribed by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. Therefore, a corporate trustee which is not an SFC-licensed corporation and which by way of business acts as the trustee of a unit trust in Hong Kong would be required to apply for and maintain a licence with the Registrar.

A licence may be granted to an individual carrying on business as a sole proprietor, a partnership or a corporation. In relation to a corporation, a licence is granted subject to the fit-and-proper test in respect of

each director and the ultimate owner, as described below. Once a corporation is licensed, a person must not become a director or an ultimate owner without the Registrar's prior approval.

An ultimate owner in relation to a corporation, means any individual who (i) owns or controls more than 25% of the issued share capital of the corporation, (ii) is entitled to exercise control of more than 25% of the voting rights at general meetings of the corporation, or (iii) exercises ultimate control over the management of the corporation.

The licence is generally valid for three years and renewed thereafter for 3 year periods. There is an application fee charged for the grant of a licence, plus a fee for each person who is subject to the fit-and-proper test. Notification on changes in particulars previously submitted to the Registrar in connection with the licensee's application must be given within one month of such changes.

Guidelines, forms and fees etc can be downloaded from the following TCSP website:
(<https://www.tcsp.cr.gov.hk/tcspls/index>)

COMPLYING WITH AML/CTF REQUIREMENTS

TCSP licensees are required to comply with AML/CTF Requirements set out in Parts 2, 3 and 4 of Schedule 2 to the AMLO. This means that they will need to conduct Client Due Diligence ("CDD") to identify their customers, and keep records of the identification data, and account and business correspondence for a minimum of at least five years (originally six years under the previous AMLO). Where appropriate, simplified CDD may be carried out in place of full CDD.

A TCSP licensee is required to carry out CDD when a transaction with a pre-existing customer (i.e. a customer with whom the TCSP has established a business relationship before 1 March 2018) is unusual or suspicious, or is not consistent with customer's business or risk profile known to the TCSP licensee, or there is a material change in the way the customer's account is operated. Otherwise the TCSP licensee should terminate the business relationship with the customer as soon as reasonably practicable.

If a TCSP licensee fails to comply with the AML/CTF Requirements or a condition of the licence, the Registrar may exercise the power to publicly reprimand the TCSP licensee, order the TCSP licensee to take specified action, and impose a pecuniary penalty not exceeding HK\$500,000.

BACKGROUND

The services provided by Trustees of pension schemes (each a “**Scheme**” and collectively the “**Schemes**”) generally include the following:-

- [establishing, at the instruction of an entity (the “**Employer**”) a Scheme for the benefit of employees of the Employer;]
- receiving into the accounts of such employees who wish to participate in the Scheme (each a “**Member**” and collectively the “**Members**”) contributions from the employers and/or the members to the Scheme by way of deduction from the income of each relevant Member which constitute agreed [mandatory] contributions under the Scheme;
- receiving additional contributions to the Scheme from the employer and/or the relevant Member(s) in excess of such [mandatory] contributions, referred to as voluntary contributions (“**VC**”) and special voluntary contributions (“**SVC**”); and
- operating the Scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed constituting the Scheme and the Scheme Rules.

For the purposes of establishing and operating a Scheme and, in particular, accepting payments which are [mandatory] contributions into the Scheme, the Employer shall be the “**Client**” of the Trustee. Where special voluntary contribution is made directly by the member and the payment is not deducted from his/her income, the member concerned shall also be considered as “**Client**” for due diligence purpose.

CLIENT DUE DILEGENCE

Trustees should determine the extent of applicable **CDD** measures and ongoing monitoring required, using a risk-based approach (“**RBA**”) depending upon the background of their Clients and the [product, transaction or service] used by that Client, so that preventive or mitigating measures are commensurate to the risks identified. CDD may also be required to be conducted on a Member under the circumstances described in Section 1.

In June 2019, the Financial Action Task Force (“**FATF**”) has issued a “Guidance for a Risk-Based Approach for Trust and Company Services Providers” which will be taken as reference for the purpose of these Guidelines and can be downloaded from the following FATF website:-

<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfrecommendations/documents/rba-trust-company-service-providers.html>

A RBA will enable Trustees to subject their Clients to proportionate controls and oversight by determining the following:-

- (a) the extent of the CDD to be performed on the direct Client; and the extent of the measures to be undertaken to verify the identity of any beneficial owner and any person giving instructions or otherwise purporting to act on behalf of the Client;

- (b) the level of ongoing monitoring to be applied to the relationship; and
- (c) measures to mitigate any risks identified.

For example, the RBA may require extensive CDD for high risk Clients whose source of funds is unclear or who requires the setting up of complex structures whose purpose is not immediately evident.

An effective RBA involves identifying and categorizing money-laundering risks at the Client level and establishing reasonable measures based on the risks which have been identified. An effective RBA will allow Trustees to exercise reasonable business judgment with respect to their Clients.

[For certain type of pension schemes (e.g. *Mandatory Provident Fund “MPF”, Pooling agreement of ORSO/Pooled retirement funds*) where there is a scheme Sponsor who markets such pension product to the employers/members directly, the trustee may require the Sponsor or their delegated intermediaries or agents to perform CDD on such employers/members pursuant to their licensing requirements and provide the trustee with the relevant CDD documentation and [/or] a declaration to the effect that they have performed CDD on the employer/member in compliance with the relevant Anti-Money Laundering (“AML”) regulations.]

1. This CDD Form is recommended to be completed in respect of the Employer in the following circumstances and where consider appropriate Enhanced CDD should be performed:-
 - 1.1.1 when establishing [or restructuring] a Scheme (“**Scheme**”) for a Client; or
 - 1.1.2 when the Trustee suspects that the Client is involved in any money laundering or terrorist financing or financial crime activities, or
 - 1.1.3 when the Trustee doubts the veracity or adequacy of any information previously obtained for the purpose of identifying the Client or for the purpose of verifying the Client’s identity.
2. This CDD Form is recommended to be completed in respect of the relevant Member(s) in the following circumstances:-
 - 1.2.1 prior to receiving into the Scheme any payment of monies as a [voluntary contribution] or special voluntary contribution by a Member into the Scheme; or
 - 1.2.2 prior to any distribution of Scheme assets to a Member under the terms of the Trust Deed, if deemed appropriate to do so by the Trustee, on a RBA.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment Form (substantially in the form set out in Appendix II hereto) has been referenced to as a checklist for the Employer and, for the reasons set out therein, the Employer has been assessed as ***low / medium / high risk**.

3. EMPLOYER IDENTITY VERIFICATION

3. Details

- 1.1. Trading name: _____
- 1.2. Corporate Registration number: _____
- 1.3. Country of Domicile: _____
- 1.4. Registered office address: _____

- 1.5. Address for correspondence (if different to the above address): _____

- 1.6. Date of Incorporation: _____
- 1.7. Nature of Business: _____

3.2 Regulated / Listed Entities

- 3.2.1 Details of regulated status / licence: _____
- 3.2.2 Details of listing (if any – name of stock exchange and stock code): _____

3.3 Beneficial Owner(s) of the Employer *(Notes 1 & 3 of Appendix I)*

- 3.3.1 A Beneficial Owner includes :-
- (i) an individual who is entitled to a vested interest in not less than 10% of the capital of the Employer, whether the interest is in possession or in remainder or reversion and whether or not it is defeasible;
 - (ii) any individual who has ultimate control over the Employer.
- 3.3.2 We have made enquires as to whether any individual has effective control or beneficial ownership of the Employer, and no person / the person(s)* *(please delete * as appropriate)* listed in Appendix III is/are the beneficial owner(s) of 10% *(Note 1 of Appendix I)* or more of the Employer.
- 3.3.3 A CDD Form has been /shall be* completed in respect of any Beneficial Owner who:-
- (i) in non-high risk situations *(Note 1 of Appendix I)*, holds not less than 25% interest in the Employer.

- (ii) In high risk situations *(Note 1 of Appendix I)*, holds not less than 10% interest in the Employer.

3.3.4 I have no / the following* reason to believe that any individual otherwise exercises control
(Note 1 of Appendix I) over the management of the Employer: _____

3.3.5 Where considered appropriate, additional information has been obtained for

- (i) ID verification, that is, Business address if different from the registered office address;
- (ii) Connected party, that is, Executive Director, non- executive director, guarantor etc;
- (iii) Individual member, that is, Gender, Name in Chinese in addition to Name in English, residential/permanent/correspondence address.

3.4 Client Documentation

We have obtained certified true copies/ sighted originals of the information / copies of documentation relating to Employer's identity verification from a reliable independent source *(Note 2 of Appendix I)* as set out in Appendix IV.

4 PERSON GIVING INSTRUCTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE EMPLOYER *(Note 4 of Appendix I)*

4.1 Name: _____

4.2 Designation: _____

4.3 Basis of authority to give instructions:

4.4 In order to verify the identity of the person giving instructions and the basis of his/her authority to give those instructions, we have obtained a certified true copy of the following *(please tick as appropriate)*:-

- 4.4.1 the person's Passport / Identity Card

 (Please delete as appropriate)

- 4.4.2 the Power of Attorney, Board Resolution or other similar written authority
(e.g. a list of authorised signatories of the Employer which is a corporate entity) authorising the person to give such instructions and, in a high risk situation, the confirmation of identity of the person by an independent party (please see Appendix VII).
- 4.4.3 written confirmation of a specified intermediary (Note 5 of Appendix I) that it
consents to be the Trustee's intermediary; and (ii) will provide, on request by the Trustee, a copy of any document or a record of any data or information obtained by such specified intermediary when conducting CDD on the person giving instructions.

5. MEMBERS OF THE SCHEME

- 5.1 Name of Member / Members: _____
- 5.2 Identity Card / Passport number: _____
- 5.3 Nationality: _____
- 5.4 Details of Bank Account for payment of funds: _____
- 5.5 Member's Address: _____
- 5.6 Date of Birth: _____
- 5.7 Place of Birth: _____

A separate CDD Form is recommended to be completed in respect of each Member prior to receiving into the Scheme any payment of monies as a [voluntary contribution or] special voluntary contribution by Member into the Scheme, or prior to the distribution of any part of the Scheme assets to such Member if deemed appropriate to do so by the Trustee, on a RBA.

We have obtained certified true copies/ sighted originals of the information / copies of documentation relating to Member's identity verification from a reliable independent source (Note 2 of Appendix I) as set out in Appendix IV.

6. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF SCHEME

- 6.1 Please state the nature and purpose of establishing the Scheme :

6.2 Value of the Scheme assets : [USD/HKD] _____

7. CLIENT DUE DILIGENCE – source of funds, and the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship *(Note 6 of Appendix I)*

7.1 We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the Client’s transactions are consistent with our knowledge of the Client, its business (if any) and risk profile, including understanding:-

7.1.1 the source of the Client’s funds;

7.1.2 the nature and intended purpose of the Scheme which has been established;

7.2 Where appropriate, the Client’s name should be checked against the published list of terrorist suspects.

7.3 Simplified CDD

Simplified CDD may be applied to the following Employers without the need to conduct CDD on its Beneficial Owners or other controllers:

7.3.1 a financial institution (“**Financial Institution**”) as defined in the AMLO;

7.3.2 an institution that –

(i) is incorporated or established in an equivalent jurisdiction;

(ii) carries on a business similar to that carried on by a Financial Institution;

(iii) has measures in place to ensure compliance with requirements similar to those imposed under Schedule 2 of the AMLO; and

(iv) is supervised for compliance with those requirements by an authority in that jurisdiction that performs functions similar to those of any of the RAs;

7.3.3 a corporation listed on any stock exchange (“**listed company**”)

7.3.4 an investment vehicle where the person responsible for carrying out measures that are similar to the CDD measures in relation to all the investors of the investment vehicle is-

(i) a Financial Institution

(ii) an institution incorporated or established in Hong Kong, or in an equivalent jurisdiction that-

- i. has measures in place to ensure compliance with requirements similar to those imposed under Schedule 2 of the AMLO; and
- ii. is supervised for compliance with those requirements.

7.3.5 the Government or any public body in Hong Kong; or

7.3.6 the government of an equivalent jurisdiction or a body in an equivalent jurisdiction that performs functions similar to those of a public body.

7.4 **Enhanced CDD** *(Note 7 of Appendix I)*

7.4.1 In situations where enhanced CDD is required *(see Note 7 of Appendix I)*, further enquiry or investigation and/or such further steps as are considered appropriate, should be taken to ensure that there is no suspicion of money laundering or terrorist financing (e.g. by obtaining and verifying further details on the transactions to be undertaken and their underlying purposes and the parties involved).

8. ON GOING MONITORING *(Please tick as appropriate)*

8.1 **High-risk Employers [/Medium risk Employers]** *(please see Appendix I)*

We will conduct enhanced on-going monitoring of the business relationship with such persons at least annually (or more frequently if deemed necessary) during our engagement and will file a written note detailing the results of such monitoring.

8.2 **All other Clients**

We shall undertake periodic reviews of existing Scheme/Employer records to ensure that the information obtained for CDD purpose is up-to-date and relevant, including upon, but not limited to, the occurrence of any of the following trigger events:-

- (i) when a significant transaction is to take place;
- (ii) when a material change occurs in the way the Scheme is operated;
- (iii) when there is a change in the controller or Beneficial Owner of the Employer;
- (v) when the Trustee's Client documentation standards change substantially; or
- (vi) when the Trustee is aware that it lacks sufficient information about the Employer concerned.

9. ANY OTHER MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING THE CONFIRMATION UNDER SECTION 10 BELOW:

10. CONFIRMATION *(To be completed by the relevant staff of the trustee. Please also see Appendix I – Explanatory Notes for Completion of Declaration below)*

- The information in this Form is not inconsistent with any other information of which I am aware.
- I am satisfied that adequate client identity verification and due diligence measures have been taken.
- Whilst working for this Employer, I will consider whether the transactions in which I am involved are consistent with my knowledge of the Employer, its business and its risk profile, which was assessed as [low/medium/high]* risk. *(please delete as appropriate)*

Name:
Position:

Date: _____

APPENDIX I

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR COMPLETION OF CDD FORM

1. Beneficial Owner

Reasonable measures must be taken to identify the persons who have effective control or beneficial ownership of a company or legal entity. A risk-based approach should be adopted. Therefore we have decided that we need to identify all beneficial owners who own more than a 10% interest in the Employer. The objective is to identify the natural person or persons (as opposed to companies) that own a company. It is therefore necessary to look up through the corporate chain to the top parent company to see which individuals are the beneficial owners. It is recognised this is an onerous requirement and so it has been limited, to only those owning more than 10%.

Therefore, a company which is owned equally by 11 other companies has no relevant beneficial owners since all own less than 10%. However, if we understood that, in effect, the Employer was a vehicle for a high net worth individual, we may be required to then investigate the corporate structure. If that investigation showed each of those companies are owned by one individual, it would then be the relevant beneficial owner. That the beneficial ownership was potentially disguised in this way may be a ground for suspicion and would affect our risk assessment of the Employer.

In high-risk circumstances, we need to identify all beneficial owners who own more than 10% of the voting rights or share capital. High-risk circumstances include the following:-

1. Employers or beneficial owners with connections with high risk countries (e.g. incorporation place, business place, nationality, permanent address and residential address)
2. Employers with unduly complex ownership structure
3. Employers with a significant portion of capital in the form of bearer shares
4. Employers whose overseas corporate information is not readily accessible
5. Employers with nominee shareholders/directors without a clear and legitimate commercial purpose or reasonable justification
6. Employers' beneficial owners who are PEPs and persons, companies and government organizations related to them
7. Employers who conduct cash intensive business (e.g. money services business, casino)
8. Employers who/ which engage in high risk businesses (e.g. military related business, energy / resource business)
9. Employers with business activities generating the funds/ assets which have connection with high risk countries / high risk businesses
10. Non face-to-face account opening
11. Services that inherently have provided more anonymity
12. The Employer's source of wealth and funds is unclear
13. Employers are entities from or in non-cooperative countries and territories ("NCCT") identified by the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") or such other jurisdictions (e.g. Iran) known to have insufficiently complied with FATF Recommendations
14. the Employer is otherwise considered as "high-risk" per the results of the Risk Assessment Form and the Employer's risk assessment score

2. **Identification Documentation**

Evidence of identity must be obtained including in the case of existing Employers/Members, and particularly if there is reason to doubt the veracity or adequacy of information or documents previously obtained, or to suspect money laundering, or if beneficial owners may have changed.

3. **Exercise of control**

We need to identify any individual who exercises control over the management of the body corporate. For example, such control may rest with those who have the power to manage funds or transactions without requiring specific authority to do so and who would be in a position to override internal procedures and control mechanisms. Where, for example, a corporate vehicle is controlled by an individual even though they do not appear as the legal or beneficial owner, they will need to be identified as the beneficial owner.

Please indicate in the CDD Form if you have reason to believe that control is vested in someone other than the directors or shareholders of a corporate vehicle.

4. **Person Giving Instructions**

Reasonable measures must be taken to identify the person purporting to give instructions on behalf of the Employer and we should verify that such person is duly authorised e.g. obtaining a copy of the company's board resolution or power of attorney which evidence the conferring of authority on the person concerned. Other methods of verification are indicated on the form.

5. **Specified Intermediaries**

A specified intermediary is—

(a) any of the following persons who is able to satisfy the Trustee that they have adequate procedures in place to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing—

- (i) a solicitor practising in Hong Kong;
- (ii) a certified public accountant practising in Hong Kong;
- (iii) a current member of The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries practising in Hong Kong;
- (iv) a trust company registered under Part 8 of the Trustee Ordinance (Cap 29, Laws of Hong Kong) carrying on trust business in Hong Kong;

(b) a financial institution that is an authorized institution, a licensed corporation, an authorized insurer, an appointed insurance agent or an authorized insurance broker; or

(c) a lawyer, a notary public, an auditor, a professional accountant, a trust or company service provider or a tax advisor practising in an equivalent jurisdiction, or a trust company carrying on trust business in an equivalent jurisdiction, or an institution that carries on in an equivalent jurisdiction a business similar to that carried on by a financial institution mentioned in paragraph (b), that—

- (i) is required under the law of that jurisdiction to be registered or licensed or is regulated under the law of that jurisdiction;
- (ii) has measures in place to ensure compliance with requirements similar to those imposed under Schedule 2 to the AMLO; and
- (iii) is supervised for compliance with those requirements by an authority in that jurisdiction that performs functions similar to those of any of the relevant authorities.]



6. Due diligence / Source of wealth / Source of incoming funds

We do not need to be able to verify the source of wealth/source of funds to complete the CDD Form. You should make enquiries as to the source of funds for the transaction and consider whether the explanation is plausible.

For individuals, the risk is that funds acquired from questionable activities are then being invested in legitimate investments e.g. property. Understanding the source of funds and level of a person's net worth will assist in understanding the level of future investments expected. These are also considerations which must be made to comply with our duties to report suspicious transactions to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit ("JFIU") pursuant to Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance, Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance and United Nation (Anti-Terrorism) Ordinance. **For further guidance, please refer to Appendix VIII – Guidelines for Suspicious Transactions.**

7. Enhanced Due Diligence

Enhanced due diligence is required:-

- (a) when handling complex, unusually large transactions, or an unusual patterns of transactions, which have no apparent economic or lawful purpose; or
- (b) when acting for Employers considered as "high risk" (see Note 1 above)
- (c) when a preliminary meeting leads to:-
 - suspicion of money laundering; or
 - doubt about the veracity or adequacy of previously obtained Employer identification data.
- (d) where there has been no face to face meetings with the Employer.

The current list of NCCTs can be found on the FATF website at www.fatf-gafi.org. Currently FATF has not identified any NCCT.

The FATF was established in 1989 in an effort to thwart attempts by criminals to launder the proceeds of crime through the financial system. Hong Kong has been a full member of FATF since March 1991 and has the obligation to implement the FATF Recommendations.

8. Politically exposed persons

There are additional risks posed by PEPs due to the risk of corruption and misappropriation of state assets.

PEPs are individuals entrusted with prominent public functions, such as heads of state or of government, senior politicians, senior government, judicial or military officials, senior executives of public organisations and senior political party officials. The concern is that they may abuse their public powers for their own illicit enrichment through the receipt of bribes particularly in countries where corruption is widespread.

If a PEP is involved, this should be taken into account in the risk assessment. Where a 51% shareholder or 51% beneficial owner is a PEP, the Employer is likely to be higher risk.

9. Distribution of Funds

- (a) the Member's name;
- (b) the number of the recipient's account maintained and from which the money for the distribution is made, in the absence of such an account, a unique reference number assigned to the distribution;
- (c) the Member's address or, in the absence of an address, the Member's Employer identification number or identification document number or, the Member's date and place of birth;
- (d) the original or a copy of the documents or transaction, together with a record of the data and information, obtained in the course of identifying and verifying the identity of the Member or any beneficial owner of the Employer; and
- (e) the original or a copy of the files relating to the Employer's account and business correspondence with the Employer and any beneficial owner of the Employer.

APPENDIX II

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

How to use this Risk Assessment Form

Employer : [●]

Member : [●]

Factors for Risk Assessment

When determining the risk profile of an Employer, the following factors should be taken into account:-

1. background and origin of the Employer;
2. nature of the Employer's business;
3. for corporate Employers, the structure of ultimate beneficial ownership and control;
4. purpose of the transaction to be undertaken;
5. source of funding; and
6. other information that may suggest that the Employer is of high money laundering or terrorist financing risk.

Please tick all applicable boxes (there may be more than one applicable box in each section):

1. Employer Background

- The name of the beneficial owner or connected party of the Employer is a PEP¹

¹ "Foreign PEP" is defined as:

- (a) an individual who is or has been entrusted with a prominent public function in a place outside the People's Republic of China, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, and
 - (i) includes a head of state, head of government, senior politician, senior government, judicial or military official, senior executive of a state-owned corporation and an important political party official;
 - (ii) but does not include a middle-ranking or more junior official of any of the categories mentioned in subparagraph (i);
- (b) his spouse, partner, child, or parent
- (c) his child's spouse or partner; or
- (d) his close associate where close associate refers to an individual who has close business relations with him, including the following situations
 - Both individuals are beneficial owners of the same legal person or trust, or
 - an individual who is the beneficial owner of a legal person or trust that is set up for the benefit of him.

Note: the partner defined in (b) and (c) above refers to an individual if the person is considered by the law of the place where the person and the individual live together as equivalent to a spouse of the individual.

"Domestic PEP" is defined as

- (a) in the same manner as the above (a) under Foreign PEP, except the individual will have been entrusted with a prominent public function within the People's Republic of China
- (b) similar to (b) above under Foreign PEP
- (c) similar to (c) above under Foreign PEP

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- The Employer or beneficial owner matches with a person named in World Check
- The Employer's business is in a high-risk / medium-risk industry
- The ownership structure of the Employer cannot be verified
- The Employer has trusts or nominee shareholders in its ownership structure where there appears to be no legitimate rationale for such arrangement
- The Employer or its corporate shareholder has shares in bearer form
- The Employer has a complex shareholding structure
- The Employer is incorporated in a jurisdiction which is on the FATF black or grey list
- The Employer is a shell company / a private investment company with nominal capital / an offshore company and is without an obvious commercial purpose
- The Employer is, or claims to be, a charitable organization that is not exempt from tax under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap 112, Laws of Hong Kong)
- The Employer is, or claims to be, a non-profit organization (but not a charity) that is registered outside Hong Kong
- The Employer is :
 - A financial institution (**FI**) (including an authorized institution, a licensed corporation, an authorized insurer, an appointed insurance agent, an authorized insurance broker or the Postmaster General) supervised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Securities and Futures Commission, Insurance Authority or an authority in an Equivalent jurisdiction or a foreign jurisdiction that carries functions similar to any of the above Hong Kong authorities;
 - A corporation listed on any stock exchange;
 - An investment vehicle where the CDD on the underlying investors is carried out by a financial institution supervised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Securities and Futures Commission, Insurance Authority or an authority in an equivalent jurisdiction or a foreign jurisdiction that carries functions similar to any of the above Hong Kong authorities;
 - A Government or public body or undertaking in Hong Kong, or any equivalent jurisdiction; or
 - A wholly-owned subsidiary of any of the above entities.

2. Country and Location

- The Employer or its beneficial owner is connected to a [High-Risk / Medium-Risk Jurisdiction] in any of the above listed aspects

(d) similar to (d) above under Foreign PEP

3. Product and Service

- The transaction conducted by the Employer only relates to a provident, pension, retirement or superannuation scheme that provides retirement benefits to employees, where contributions to the scheme are made by way of deduction from income from employment and the Scheme rules do not permit the assignment of a Member's interest under the Scheme.

4. Delivery and Distribution Channel

- The Employer relationship is established through online, postal or telephone channel where a non-face-to-face account opening approach is used
- The Employer is contacted solely via an approved intermediary

5. Account Activities

- The Employer frequently transacts large amounts in cash
- The Employer previously requested undue levels of secrecy with certain transactions
- Negative information on the Employer has been received from other reliable sources
- The Employer had suspicious transaction activities (e.g. temporary repository of funds, structured/u-turn transactions etc)
- The Employer or the Employer's account has been suspected of being involved in money laundering or terrorist financing
- The Employer has insisted to provide "Hold Mail" services, but mail was not collected and the Employer has not visited Hong Kong for an extended period of time
- There is returned mail due to an incorrect correspondence address and the Employer has not been contactable even though the transaction activities have continued in the account

Assessment Scores

[Note: Trustees may adopt their own risk assessment methodology in accordance with their company/group policy for scoring procedures]

APPENDIX III

BENEFICIAL OWNER IDENTIFICATION

1. Beneficial Owner Details

1.1 Name / Trading name: _____

1.2 Identity Card / Passport / Corporate Registration number: _____

1.3 Nationality: _____

1.4 Address / Registered office address: _____

1.5 Address for correspondence (if different to the above address): _____

1.6 Date of Birth / Date of Incorporation: _____

1.7 Occupation / Nature of Business: _____

2. Beneficial Owner Details

2.1 Name / Trading name: _____

2.2 Identity Card / Passport / Corporate Registration number: _____

2.3 Nationality: _____

2.4 Address / Registered office address: _____

2.5 Address for correspondence (if different to the above address): _____

2.6 Date of Birth / Date of Incorporation: _____

2.7 Occupation / Nature of Business: _____

3. Beneficial Owner Details

3.1 Name / Trading name: _____

3.2 Identity Card / Passport / Corporate Registration number: _____

3.3 Nationality: _____

3.4 Address / Registered office address: _____

3.5 Address for correspondence (if different to the above address): _____

3.6 Date of Birth / Date of Incorporation: _____

3.7 Occupation / Nature of Business: _____

4. Beneficial Owner Details

4.1 Name / Trading name: _____

4.2 Identity Card / Passport / Corporate Registration number: _____

4.3 Nationality: _____

4.4 Address / Registered office address: _____

4.5 Address for correspondence (if different to the above address): _____

4.6 Date of Birth / Date of Incorporation: _____

4.7 Occupation / Nature of Business: _____

APPENDIX IV

EMPLOYER/MEMBER IDENTITY VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Depending on which category the Employer falls into, the following Employer identity verification documents have been obtained. The items in each category appearing under the Sub-heading “**Enhanced CDD**” are required only if enhanced CDD is deemed to be necessary on the particular Employer(s).

Please tick and complete as applicable

1. Employer	
1.1. Corporations	
1.1.1 Corporation listed or regulated [in an approved country]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Incorporation and Memorandum & Articles of Association (or equivalent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of Company’s current registered office address	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Registration Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Register/List of directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed board resolution authorising the establishment of the trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed board resolutions authorizing person giving instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Authorised signatory list (including signatory powers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Latest audited financial statements	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of listed or regulated status	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where any of the above is not applicable, please state why below:-	

1.1.2 Non-regulated Private Limited Company [in an approved country]

- Certificate of Incorporation and Memorandum & Articles of Association (or equivalent)
 - Proof of Company's current registered office address
 - Business Registration Certificate
 - Group ownership and structure chart
 - Register/List of directors
 - Signed board resolution authorising the establishment of the trust
 - Signed board resolutions authorizing person giving instructions
 - Authorised signatory list (including signatory powers)
 - Certificate of Good Standing
 - Corporate organisation chart including a share register (or equivalent official documents to identify the shareholding structure and ultimate beneficial owner(s) of the Company)
 - Latest audited financial statements (or, for newly incorporated companies, an opening balance sheet signed by the Directors)
- Enhanced CDD***
- For any ultimate beneficial owners (who are individuals) with (in high risk situations) not less than 10% interest in the corporate entity or (in non-high risk situations) not less than 25% interest in the corporate entity: identification verification documents as for Individuals (above)
 - Others (specify): _____

Where any of the above is not applicable, please state why below:-

1.2 Partnership

- Evidence of registration of partnership
- Partnership Agreement
- Resolution of the partners authorising the establishment of the trust
- Register of partners and their respective holdings in the Partnership
- Authorised signatory list (including signatory powers)

-
-
-
-
-

Enhanced CDD

- For each partner holding an interest of not less than 25% (where the partnership is established in an approved country) or 10% (where the partnership is viewed as [high risk]) in the partnership: personal identification verification documents as required for individuals (as set out in paragraph 1 above)

-
-

Others (specify): _____

Where any of the above is not applicable, please state why below:-

1.3 Trust

- Trust Deed
- Evidence of registration of Trust
- Board resolution of the Trustee of the Trust authorising the establishment of the trust
- Authorised signatory list (including signatory powers)
- Register of Directors of the Trustee of the Trust

Enhanced CDD

- For each person holding an interest of not less than 25% (where the Trust is established in an approved country) or 10% (where the Trust is viewed as high risk) in the Trust: personal identification verification documents as required for individuals (as set out in paragraph 1 above)
- Others (specify): _____

Where any of the above is not applicable, please state why below:-



2. Member/Individual Beneficial Owner

personal identification documents (HKID/ Passport) bearing the individual's photograph

proof of permanent residential address (a recent utility bill or bank or credit card statement or bank reference to establish a residential address dated within the preceding 3 months)

information on occupation

Beneficial Owner's source of wealth

Any reasonable proof of the Beneficial Owner's source of wealth (documentation such as personal tax assessment note will be helpful).

Non-resident

Where the individual Beneficial Owner is not resident in Hong Kong, a valid travel documentation

Enhanced CDD

Where the Beneficial Owner has ties to a high-risk jurisdiction or is a PEP, a reference letter issued by an international bank, a Chartered Secretary, a notary public, a lawyer, or an accountant stating:-

a. Length of the business relationship

b. If the relationship has been continuous or occasional

c. Types of services provided

d. If the relationship has been satisfactory

e. Any facts or circumstances that should be brought to the attention of a new service provider

Where any of the above is not applicable, please state why below:-

APPENDIX V

RISK-BASED APPROACH (“RBA”)²

1. The risk-based approach **RBA** to CDD and ongoing monitoring is recognized as an effective way to combat money laundering and/or terrorist financing (“**ML/TF**”). The general principle of an RBA is that where Clients³ are assessed to be of higher ML/TF risks, FIs should take enhanced measures to manage and mitigate those risks, and that correspondingly where the risks are lower, simplified measures may be applied. The use of an RBA has the advantage of allowing resources to be allocated in the most efficient way directed in accordance with priorities so that the greatest risks receive the highest attention.
2. The extent of CDD measures and ongoing monitoring using an RBA shall depend upon the background of the Client, so that preventive or mitigating measures are commensurate to the risks identified. The extent of CDD and ongoing monitoring shall be appropriate in view of the Client’s ML/TF risks. An effective RBA involves identifying and categorizing ML/TF risks at the Client level and establishing reasonable measures based on risks identified.

The RBA will help to subject Clients to proportionate controls and oversight by determining:-

- (a) The extent of the due diligence to be performed on the direct Client; the extent of the measures to be undertaken to verify the identity of any beneficial owner and any person purporting to act on behalf of the Clients;
 - (b) The level of ongoing monitoring to be applied to the relationship; and
 - (c) Measures to mitigate any risks identified.
3. The ML/TF risks of individual Clients may be assessed by assigning a ML/TF risk rating to Clients and relevant factors shall be considered including:-
 - (a) Country risk;
 - (b) Client risk;
 - (c) Product/ service risk; and
 - (d) Delivery/ distribution channel risk.
 4. Records and relevant documents of the risk assessment shall be kept so that it can demonstrate to the RAs, among others:-
 - (a) How it assesses the Client’s ML/TF risk; and
 - (b) The extent of CDD and ongoing monitoring is appropriate based on that Client’s ML/TF risk.
 5. A Risk Assessment Form (substantially in the form set out in Appendix II above) must be completed and assessed in respect of each Client.

² For further details, please refer to the chapters 3 of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing.

³ As the context requires, either an Employer (or its Beneficial Owner(s)) or a Member.

APPENDIX VI

The information set out below in Appendices V, VI and VII are for your reference only and has been extracted from sources including the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations, the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries Guidance Note, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering (“AML”) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (“CTF”), the Hong Kong Trustees’ Association Best Practice Guide for Trustees of Corporate Trusts (August 2012), the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit AML and CTF Guidelines, and the Securities and Futures Commission Guideline on AML and CTF. Policies and procedures should be in place for compliance with the principles set out in the applicable laws and regulations.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING / COUNTER-TERRORIST FINANCING CLIENT IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

1. Face-to-face interview should be performed whenever possible in order to better understand the Client³, his or her affairs and business.
2. Originals of the supporting documents should always be requested in the first instance. Such documents should be inspected, photocopied and returned to the Client.
3. Where originals are not available, photocopies of the supporting documents may be accepted provided they are certified as a true copy of the original document by a Chartered Secretary, a lawyer or an accountant with membership in The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, The Law Society of Hong Kong or the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants or a notary public, an embassy, consulate or high commission of the country of issue of the identity document.
4. For multi-layer ownership structures, information and supporting documents should be obtained for the first layer. An organisation chart showing the individuals who are the ultimate principal beneficial owners holding at least 10% interest) should also be obtained. The identity of these individuals should be verified (as to those holding an interest of not less than 10% in a high-risk situation, and as to those holding an interest of not less than 25% in a non-high risk situation).
5. In circumstances where an existing Client is reclassified as high-risk, delaying taking reasonable measures shall be considered to verify the beneficial owner’s identity according to the enhanced threshold (i.e. remediate from 25% to 10%) where a risk of tipping-off exists. All high-risk Clients (excluding Dormant Accounts) should be subject to a minimum of an annual review, and more frequently (if deemed necessary), of their profiles to ensure the CDD information retained remains up-to-date and relevant.
6. For companies: the directors and each beneficial owner must be identified and with their identities verified as described in Note 4 above. Where there are a large number of directors and shareholders, only the principal directors and controlling shareholders need be identified and verified.

³ As the context requires, either an Employer (or its Beneficial Owner(s)) or a Member.

7. For a reference letter, the preference is to obtain a reference letter from an international banker. If that is not possible, a professional reference letter from a Chartered Secretary, a notary public, a lawyer or an accountant with membership in The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, The Law Society of Hong Kong or the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants is acceptable.
8. Try to obtain all documents on the checklist. Any exception to the checklist should be approved by an officer of suitable seniority such as a director or the legal or compliance officer.
9. If a person purports to act on behalf of the Client, the following must be conducted:- (i) verify the person's authority to act on behalf of the Client and (ii) identify the person and take reasonable measures to verify the person's identity on the basis of documents, data or information provided by:-
 - (a) a governmental body;
 - (b) the relevant authority or any other relevant authority;
 - (c) an authority in a place outside Hong Kong that performs functions similar to those of the relevant authority or any other relevant authority; or
 - (d) any other reliable and independent source that is recognised by the relevant authority.
10. The general requirement is to obtain the same identification information as the Client and not to open, or maintain, any anonymous account or account in a fictitious name for any Client. As a general rule, the identity of those authorized to give instructions for the movement of funds or assets shall be identified and verified. If difficulties are encountered in identifying and verifying signatories of Clients that may have long lists of account signatories, particularly if such Clients are based outside Hong Kong, a risk-based approach may be adopted in determining the appropriate measures to comply with these requirements (e.g. in respect of verification of account signatories related to a Client, such as a financial institution or a listed company), a more streamlined approach could be adopted. The provision of a signatory list, recording the names of the account signatories, whose identities and authority to act have been confirmed by a department or person within that Client which is independent to the persons whose identities are being verified (e.g. compliance, audit or human resources), may be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with these requirements.
11. Records must be kept throughout the continuance of the business relationship with the Client and for a period of 6 years beginning on the date on which the business relationship ends.

APPENDIX VII

EXAMPLES OF RELIABLE AND INDEPENDENT SOURCES FOR CLIENT³ IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

1. The identity of an individual physically present in Hong Kong should be verified by reference to their Hong Kong identify card or travel document. A Hong Kong resident's identity should always be identified and/or verified by reference to his/her Hong Kong identity card, certificate of identity or document of identity. The identity of a non-resident should be verified by reference to their valid travel document.
2. For non-resident individuals who are not physically present in Hong Kong, who may be identified and/or verified their identity by reference to the following documents:-
 - (a) a valid international passport or other travel document; or
 - (b) a current national (i.e. Government or State-issued) identity card bearing the photograph of the individual; or
 - (c) current valid national (i.e. Government or State-issued) driving license⁴ incorporating photographic evidence of the identity of the applicant, issued by a competent national or state authority.
3. "Travel document" means a passport or some other document furnished with a photograph of the holder establishing the identity and nationality, domicile or place of permanent residence of the holder. The following documents constitute travel documents for the purpose of identity verification:-
 - (a) Permanent Resident Identity Card of Macau Special Administrative Region;
 - (b) Mainland Travel Permit for Taiwan Residents;
 - (c) Seaman's Identity Document (issued under and in accordance with the International Labour Organisation Convention/Seafarers Identity Document Convention 1958);
 - (d) Taiwan Travel Permit for Mainland Residents;
 - (e) Permit for residents of Macau issued by Director of Immigration;
 - (f) Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macau for Official Purposes; and
 - (g) Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macau.
4. For minors born in Hong Kong who are not in possession of a valid travel document or Hong Kong identity card⁵, their identity should be verified by reference to the minor's Hong Kong birth certificate. Whenever establishing relations with a minor, the identity of the minor's parent or guardian

³ As the context requires, either an Employer (or its Beneficial Owner(s)) or a Member.

⁴ The identity of an individual physically present in Hong Kong should be verified by reference to their Hong Kong identify card or travel document. FIs should always identify and/or verify a Hong Kong resident's identity by reference to their Hong Kong identity card, certificate of identity or document of identity. The identity of a non-resident should be verified by reference to their valid travel document.

⁵ For jurisdictions that do not have national ID cards and where clients do not have a travel document or driving licence with a photograph, FIs may, exceptionally and applying a risk-based approach, accept other documents as evidence of identity. Wherever possible such documents should have a photograph of the individual.

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representing or accompanying the minor should also be recorded and verified in accordance with the above requirements.

5. A corporate Employer may be identified and/or verified by performing a company registry search in the place of incorporation and obtaining a full company search report, which confirms the current reference to a full company particulars search (or overseas equivalent).
6. For jurisdictions that do not have national ID cards and where the relevant individuals do not have a travel document or driving licence with a photograph, the Trustee may, exceptionally and applying a risk-based approach, accept other documents as evidence of identity. Wherever possible such documents should have a photograph of the individual. **For further details on a risk-based approach, please refer to Appendix V – Risk-based Approach (“RBA”) – and Appendix VI – Risk Assessment Form.**

APPENDIX VIII

GUIDELINES FOR SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS

1. Follow JFIU's recommended 'SAFE' approach to identify suspicious transactions:
 - 1.1 Screen the Client³ and account for suspicious indicators: recognition of a suspicious activity indicator or indicators;
 - 1.2 Ask the Client appropriate questions to clarify suspicious circumstances;
 - 1.3 Find out from the Client's records: review information already known when deciding if the apparently suspicious activity is to be expected; and
 - 1.4 Evaluate all the above information and decide whether the transaction relating to the Client is genuinely suspicious.
2. The obligation to report is on the individual who becomes suspicious of a transaction. If a designated person, such as a compliance officer, has been appointed to co-ordinate the reporting of suspicious transactions, once an employee has made a report to that person in accordance with the relevant internal procedures, the employee's obligation to report is considered to have been fulfilled. It is then up to the designated person to decide if a report should be made to JFIU.
3. Suspicion in its ordinary meaning means a state of conjecture or surmise where proof is lacking: 'I suspect but I cannot prove.'
4. Keep a register to record all reports made to JFIU (with date on which the report is made, the person who makes the report and the reasons for making the report).
5. After filing the report, do not carry out or continue the transactions unless authorised by JFIU.
6. Do not disclose to the person the subject of the report or to any party which may prejudice the investigation that a report has been made to JFIU.
7. For further details, please refer to Part III: Reporting Suspicious Transactions/Terrorist Property of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Guidelines 7 or JFIU (at <http://www.jfiu.gov.hk/en/str.html> and <http://www.jfiu.gov.hk/en/faq.html> or Tel: (+852) 2866-3366).
8. Below are some of the common red-flag indicators as suggested by JFIU for reference:-
 - 8.1 Unusual large cash transactions made by an individual or company whose ostensible business activities would normally be conducted through cheques and other financial instruments.

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- 8.2 Substantial increases in transactions of an individual or business without apparent cause, especially if such transactions involve transfers within a short period out of the account and/or to a destination not normally associated with the Client.
- 8.3 Clients who exchange or remit cash by means of numerous smaller transactions so that each transaction is unremarkable, but the total of all the transactions will exceed the threshold.
- 8.4 Clients who seek to exchange large quantities of low denomination notes for those of higher denominations.
- 8.5 Reluctant to provide normal information when conducting transactions, or just provides minimal or apparently fictitious information.
- 8.6 A number of Clients transferring funds to the same beneficiary without an adequate explanation.
- 8.7 Structured transfers – transfers broken up into a series of smaller transfers to avoid record keeping and Client identification requirements.
- 8.8 Transactions in the name of an offshore company with structured movement of funds.
- 8.9 Transactions inconsistent with the Client's usual business or apparent means without good explanation.
- 8.10 Clients who make regular and/or large payments that cannot be clearly identified as bona fide transactions to, or receive regular and/or large payments from, countries which are commonly associated with the production, processing or marketing of drugs; or where the risk of terrorist financing activities is high.
- 8.11 Frequent exchange of travellers' cheques, foreign currency drafts by the same Client.
- 8.12 Clients receipt of numerous transfers but each transfer is below the reporting or identification requirement in the remitting country.
- 8.13 Clients sending and receiving transfers to/from tax havens, particularly if there are no apparent business reasons for such transfers or such transfers are not consistent with the Clients' business or apparent background.

Appendix IX

COMMON REPORTING STANDARD AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The following is extracted from the IRD website at: http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/dta_aeoi.htm

(Please note to always refer/obtain the latest information/update from the relevant website of the IRD.)

In September 2014, Hong Kong indicated its support for implementing automatic exchange of financial account information (AEOI) on a reciprocal basis with appropriate partners with a view to commencing the first exchanges by the end of 2018, on condition that we could put in place necessary domestic legislation by 2017.

The Government introduced an amendment bill in January 2016, which was passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 22 June 2016. The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 3) Ordinance 2016, which commenced operation on 30 June 2016, put in place a legislative framework for Hong Kong to implement AEOI.

Under the AEOI standard, financial institutions are required to identify financial accounts held by tax residents of reportable jurisdictions or held by passive non-financial entities whose controlling persons are tax residents of reportable jurisdictions in accordance with due diligence procedures. Required information of these accounts has to be collected and furnished to the Inland Revenue Department annually.

“Tax residents of reportable jurisdictions” refer to those who are liable to tax by reason of residence in the jurisdictions. In general, whether or not an individual is a tax resident of a jurisdiction is determined by having regard to the person’s physical presence or stay in a place (e.g. whether over 183 days within a tax year) or, in the case of a company, the place of incorporation or the place where the central management and control of the entity is exercised.

Account holders may be requested to provide self-certifications on their personal information including tax residence, so as to enable financial institutions to identify the reportable accounts. In its Automatic Exchange Portal, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has provided information on the tax residency rules applicable in jurisdictions that are committed to automatically exchanging information.

Clients may access the information via the following link:

<https://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/crs-implementation-and-assistance/tax-residency/#d.en.347760>

The Government introduced an amendment bill to the LegCo in March 2017, which seeks to expand the list of reportable jurisdictions to cover 75 reportable jurisdictions for the more effective implementation of the arrangement relating to AEOI. The bill was passed by the LegCo on 7 June 2017.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2017 came into operation on 1 July 2017.

Hong Kong will only conduct AEOI with a reportable jurisdiction when an arrangement is in place with the reportable jurisdiction concerned to provide the basis for exchange.

Hong Kong's network for tax information exchange has been expanded since the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters came into force in Hong Kong on 1 September 2018. Consequently, the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2019 increased the number of reportable jurisdictions from 75 to 126 with effect from 1 January 2020.

According to the due diligence procedures set out in the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112), self-certifications would be required from account holders for all new accounts (i.e. accounts opened on or after 1 January 2017). As for pre-existing accounts (i.e. accounts opened before 1 January 2017), if a reporting financial institution has doubts about the tax residence of an account holder, it can seek a self-certification from the account holder to verify his/her tax residence. Each reporting financial institution can design its own self-certification form, but must ensure that the required data is collected.

The relevant data may be furnished by the reporting financial institution to the Inland Revenue Department for transmission to the tax authority of another jurisdiction. The Inland Revenue Department may check the details of the self-certification, if necessary.

The account holder, in making a self-certification to a reporting financial institutions, who knowingly or recklessly provides a statement that is misleading, false or incorrect in a material particular commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine at level 3 (\$10,000). Sample Self Certification Forms for “Individual, Entity and Controlling Persons” are available at the following link:
http://www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/aeoi/self_cert.htm

Information that will be exchanged with the AEOI partner shall include:

For Personal data, the information to be exchanged includes name, address, jurisdiction of residence, taxpayer identification number (“TIN”), and the date and place of birth.

For Financial account data, it includes the account number, account balance or value (year-end), and the gross amount of interests, dividends and sale proceeds of financial assets as appropriate for the year concerned.

MPF schemes and ORSO

The amendment of the taxation arrangement for the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters (AEOI) relating to MPF schemes and ORSO registered schemes under the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No.2) Ordinance 2019 (Amendment Ordinance) will take effect on 1 January 2020.

Under the Amendment Ordinance, MPF schemes and ORSO registered schemes will become reporting financial institutions and are required to comply with the due diligence and reporting obligations relating

to the AEOI by collecting the tax residence information of scheme members and reporting to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) the account information of those members who are tax residents outside Hong Kong. The IRD will transmit the information to the relevant tax authorities in AEOI partner jurisdictions. The objective of implementing AEOI is to comply with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Common Reporting Standard in fulfilling Hong Kong's obligations and responsibilities as an international financial centre.

Self-certification will be required from account holders for all new MPF and ORSO accounts opened on or after 1 January 2020 for submitting to MPF trustees or ORSO employers/administrators to verify scheme members' tax residency. Otherwise, the account opening process will be adversely affected and could not be completed.

The MPFA calls on employers and employees to pay attention to the new arrangement. Employers should take all practicable steps to ensure that their employees become members of an MPF scheme. They should remind their employees to complete the enrolment form (including to complete the newly added tax residence self-certification) on time, and provide employees with all possible assistance in doing so.

On the other hand, newly joined employees should read the instructions carefully, complete the enrolment form which includes the self-certification and return it to their employers/MPF trustees/ORSO administrators as soon as possible to ensure that their MPF accounts are properly opened such that employers can make contributions within the permitted timeframe.

For details, please visit the IRD website: www.ird.gov.hk/eng/tax/dta_aeoi.htm or contact the relevant MPF trustee or ORSO administrator.

(The above is extracted from the MPFA's press release dated 19 December 2019.)

Please also refer to the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) issued by the HKTA which is now posted on HKTA's website ([http://hktrustees.com/upload/article/HKTA - AEOI FAQ %2829-10-19%29.pdf](http://hktrustees.com/upload/article/HKTA_-_AEOI_FAQ_%2829-10-19%29.pdf)) and the MPF scheme trustees' websites.