

Summary of Events in connection with the Voluntary Certification Authority Recognition Scheme

Introduction

This paper briefs members in respect of the events relating to the voluntary certification authority recognition scheme which is established under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553) (the Ordinance).

Related events

2. The related events are as follows:

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| 5 January 2000 | The Electronic Transactions Bill was passed by the Legislative Council. |
| 7 January 2000 | The Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553) was published in the Gazette. |
| 14 January 2000 | The Director of Information Technology Services (the Director) issued the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (the Code of Practice) in accordance with section 33 of the Ordinance. The Director also issued the related guidance and information notes. |
| 31 January 2000 | The Hongkong Post commenced its recognized certification authority (CA) service. |
| 1 February 2000 | The Advisory Committee on Code of Practice held its inaugural meeting. |

18 February 2000

- Part VII (Recognition of CAs and Certificates by Director) and section 32 (Director to notify revocations, suspensions & non-renewals of recognition, etc.) of the Ordinance came into operation, giving effect to the voluntary CA recognition scheme.
- The Electronic Transactions (Fees) Regulation came into operation.
- The Director published a notice in the Gazette specifying the particulars and documents that should be furnished by applicants for their application for recognition under the Ordinance.

7 April 2000

- The remaining sections and schedules of the Ordinance came into operation. The remaining sections cover legal recognition of electronic records and digital signatures.
- The Electronic Transactions (Exclusion) Order came into operation. This Order sets out specific provisions which are respectively excluded from the application of electronic records and digital signatures under sections 5-8 of the Ordinance.
- The Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2000 came into operation. This Order amends Schedule 2 to the Ordinance by adding to it 28 statutory bodies which exercise quasi-judicial functions.
- The Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting published a

notice in the Gazette specifying the format, manner and procedure for submission of electronic information to Government.

20 April 2000

The Director published a notice in the Gazette specifying a supplementary list of particulars and documents that should be furnished by applicants for their application for recognition under the Ordinance.

3. The Ordinance and the Regulation and Orders thereunder, the Code of Practice, the list of particulars and documents, and the format, manner and procedure for submission of electronic information mentioned above are all available on or via the Web site of the Information Technology Services Department (<http://www.info.gov.hk/itsd>).

Information Technology Services Department
May 2000