

**Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (Version 2.1),
Notes to Application Form (Version 2.1)
and New Version of Related Government Notices**

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the publication of the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (“Code of Practice”) (Version 2.1) and the Notes to Application Form (Version 2.1), as well as new version of the related Government Notices (“G.N.”) under the voluntary recognition scheme for certification authorities (“CA”).

Background

2. With effect from the commencement of the Professional Accountants (Amendment) Bill 2004 on 8 September 2004, the Hong Kong Society of Accountants ("HKSA") was renamed as the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). Besides, the definition of “Certified Public Accountant” has also been revised.

Code of Practice (Version 2.1) and Notes to Application Form (Version 2.1)

3. In the above connection, paragraph 12.4(a) of the Code of Practice (Version 2.0) and paragraph 2(vii) of the Notes to Application Form (Version 2.0) should be amended and the amendments are marked under revision in Annexes 1 and 2. The Code of Practice (Version 2.1) and Notes to Application Form (Version 2.1) were published on 10 December 2004 to include the aforesaid amendments and the two documents are available at www.ogcio.gov.hk/eng/caro/esub3.htm and www.ogcio.gov.hk/eng/caro/esub7.htm respectively.

New Version of Related G.N.s

4. The amendments in Annex 1 should also apply to G.N. 4181, which sets out the Code of Practice, and the amendments in Annex 2 should also apply to G.N. 4180, which sets out the particulars and documents that a CA should

furnish to the Government Chief Information Officer for application for recognition/renewal of recognition of the CA and its certificates. As a result, G.N. 7895 and G.N. 7894 were published on 10 December 2004 to supersede G.N. 4181 and G.N. 4180 respectively. The two new G.N.s are available at the following locations:

http://www.gld.gov.hk/cgi-bin/gld/egazette/gazettefiles.cgi?lang=e&year=2004&month=12&day=10&vol=08&no=50&gn=7895&header=1&part=0&df=1&nt=gn&newfile=1&acurrentpage=12&agree=1&gaz_type=mg

http://www.gld.gov.hk/cgi-bin/gld/egazette/gazettefiles.cgi?lang=e&year=2004&month=12&day=10&vol=08&no=50&gn=7894&header=1&part=0&df=1&nt=gn&newfile=1&acurrentpage=12&agree=1&gaz_type=mg

**Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
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Amendments to the Code of Practice (Version 2.0)

The amendments to paragraph 12.4(a) of the Code of Practice (Version 2.0) are marked under revision as follows:

12.4 The following person who meets the requirements set out in paragraphs 12.2 and 12.3 above may apply to the GCIO for approval as the person qualified to conduct the assessment:

- (a) a Certified Public Accountant (Practising), i.e. a certified publicprofessional accountant holdingwith a practising certificate issued under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap. 50); or
- (b) a Corporate Member in the Information Discipline of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers who is also a Registered Professional Engineer under the Engineers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 409) in the same discipline.

The GCIO may also approve applications submitted by other persons as being qualified to conduct the assessment.

Amendments to the Notes to Application Form (Version 2.0)

The amendments to paragraph 2(vii) of the Notes to Application Form are marked under revision as follows:

2. RECOGNITION OR RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION AS A RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

(vii) a list, in paper or electronic form, of the names and addresses of one or more persons resident in Hong Kong authorized to accept on behalf of the Applicant service of process and any notices required to be served on the Applicant, and also:

- (a) if applicable, the address of the principal place of business of the Applicant in Hong Kong;
- (b) if applicable, the respective addresses of the principal place of business; and
- (c) the registered office (or its equivalent) of the Applicant in the place of its incorporation

provided that in the case of a firm of solicitors or certified public accountants (practising)~~professional accountants~~ so authorized, it shall be sufficient for the purpose of paragraphs 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(vii)(b) and 2(vii)(c) to deliver the name of the firm and its business address in Hong Kong.

(Please note:

- (I) a reference to solicitors is a reference to persons who are solicitors qualified to act as such under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159);
- (II) a reference to certified public accountants (practising)~~professional accountants~~ is a reference to certified public accountants~~persons holding who are registered as professional accountants and hold~~ practising certificates under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap. 50));