Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

Computer Related Services - Cross-boundary Database Services

1. What are the details of implementation and management of liberalisation measures for cross-boundary database services?

Hong Kong service suppliers should follow the application procedures for Computer and Related Services set out by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) before providing cross-boundary database services under the liberalisation measures in Supplement IX to CEPA, i.e. must be valid holders of Certificate of Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS) under the sub-sector of "Computer and Related Services and Information Technology Services" issued by the Trade and Industry Department (TID) of HKSARG. Applications involving internet data centre services, store and forward services, and content services shall be approved by the competent telecommunications authority and MoC.

2. What is the definition of database services?

Database services (CPC844) are all services provided from primarily structured databases through a communication network. The UNCPC specifically excludes "data and message transmission services" which is classified under telecommunications services (7523) and excludes documentation retrieval services, which is classified as library services (96311).