19 July 2021

Circular to licensed corporations

Further updates to the Exemption Scheme

This circular should be read in conjunction with the circulars to licensed corporations entitled “Exemption for senior executives of licensed corporations” issued on 28 May 2021 (Exemption Scheme) and “Updates to the Exemption Scheme” issued on 21 June 2021.

In light of the adjustments to the quarantine requirements for vaccinated persons arriving in Hong Kong announced by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on 21 and 26 June 2021¹, the Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR Government has approved revisions of the conditions under the Exemption Scheme.

In particular, inbound travelers, who have stayed in high or medium risk places specified in Group B or Group C² under Cap. 599H or Taiwan, China during the 14 days prior to their arrival in Hong Kong and who possess a positive result of a recognised serology antibody test, will be subject to itinerary and point-to-point transportation requirements for the first seven days instead of the entire 14-day medical surveillance period³.

Accordingly, the "Guidelines for vehicles providing point-to-point transportation arrangements for exempted persons (air crew, sea crew and others)"⁴ have been updated. Exempted persons are also required to observe the guidelines as set out in the “Point to note for designated activities during the designated period”⁴. Please refer to Appendix III and Appendix IV respectively.

In view of the revisions, the requirement for the submission of attestation forms to the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) is also adjusted. Sponsoring licensed corporations should submit a signed attestation form:

- for a returning executive, on his or her third and seventh days in Hong Kong;
- for a visiting executive,
  - on the last day of his or her trip if he or she stays in Hong Kong for less than three days; or
  - on his or her third day in Hong Kong, and on the seventh day in Hong Kong or the last day of his or her trip, whichever is earlier, if he or she stays in Hong Kong for more than three days.

The updated attestation form is at Appendix II.

² Risk classifications for specified places may change subject to the situation in those jurisdictions. Please refer to https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/high-risk-places.html for the latest details.
³ Exempted persons must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact during the medical surveillance period.
⁴ Issued by the Department of Health of the HKSAR.
The antibody testing and COVID-19 testing (post-arrival test) requirements of the Exemption Scheme are also updated as follows:

- the list of recognised laboratories and criteria have been updated to align with the Government's aforementioned announcements;
- the specification that specimens must be collected for an antibody test on the day of arrival or the following day has been removed; and
- the post-arrival test on the seventh day will be advanced to the fifth day in Hong Kong.

Please refer to Appendix I (updated as of 19 July 2021) for the corresponding revisions to the exemption conditions and requirements.

Should you have any questions regarding this circular, please contact your case officer in the Licensing Department of the SFC.

Intermediaries Division
Securities and Futures Commission

Enclosures

End