



Application for the certificate of registration for practice in the Mainland under the first phase of the mutual recognition scheme begins

(26 April 2012) With the implementation details of the scheme of mutual recognition of professional qualifications of estate agents in the Mainland and Hong Kong finalised by the Estate Agents Authority (EAA) and the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents (CIREA), the first training course and examination were completed last year. Starting from today till 31 August 2012, Hong Kong estate agents who have successfully passed the examination can apply to the CIREA through the EAA for a certificate of registration to practise estate agency work in the Mainland.

The first training course and examination of the scheme were completed in July last year. A total of 66 estate agents from the Mainland and 225 from Hong Kong passed the examination. After thorough discussion, the EAA and the CIREA have confirmed the procedures and timetable for qualified Hong Kong estate agents to apply for a certificate of registration in the Mainland.

Qualified Hong Kong licensees must submit to the EAA the application documents and a copy of the payment receipt, which will then be referred to the CIREA for approval, on or before 31 August 2012. The qualification to practise in the Mainland under the scheme will become invalid if applications and payments are made after 31 August 2012. Disqualified licensees who wish to regain the qualification will have to reapply, attend the training course and pass the examination again.

Once CIREA has approved the applications, it will grant the Hong Kong licensees a certificate of registration which will be issued to the licensees through the EAA. The validity period of these certificates is from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013 and the fee is 2,000 RMB. An application for renewal can be made through the EAA not more than three months and not less than one month before the expiry of the first certificate of registration. If a Hong Kong licensee fails to submit his application for renewal before his certificate expires, his qualification to practise in the



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Mainland will be cancelled.

The EAA has already issued a notice detailing the procedures of application for the certificate of registration in the Mainland to qualified Hong Kong licensees. The information is also uploaded onto the website of the EAA (www.eaa.org.hk). Regarding the application procedures for qualified estate agents in the Mainland to apply for a licence to practise in Hong Kong, the CIREA has made available the relevant information on its website and the EAA has also issued a notice to qualified Mainland estate agents, informing them of the arrangement.

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