



EAA freezes licence fees and examination fees

(12 March 2012) The Estate Agents Authority (EAA) held its Board meeting today and received the reports from various Committees and the EAA Administration, and, upon reviewing these reports, decided that the licence fees and qualifying examination fees should be frozen this year.

From time to time, the EAA reviews the levels of licence fees and qualifying examination fees. The fees of different types of licences have not been adjusted since 2002. After a thorough review, the EAA decided to continue to freeze the licence fees this year.

EAA Chairman Ms Vivien Chan said, “All along, the EAA has applied prudent principles in managing its finances to ensure the proper utilization of resources, so as to discharge its regulatory duties effectively. The EAA is aware of the challenges the trade is facing at present and their requests. However, while it is inevitable that there are ups and downs in the property market, the levels of licence fees should not be linked to the changing market conditions. In fact, the operating costs of the EAA have kept increasing due to inflation over the past few years but the EAA has not adjusted the licence fees upwards. In a way, it can be regarded as a kind of support to the trade.”

Ms Chan added that the EAA is a self-financing body and the licence fees are the main source of income. Due to a sharp downturn of the property market in 2008, the EAA introduced a one-off six-month licence fee concession in 2009 as a gesture of support to the trade. However this measure has led to a reduction of more than \$30 million in the EAA’s reserve. This undermined the EAA’s ability to weather future storms. As a responsible regulator, the EAA has to maintain a healthy financial position to ensure there are sufficient resources for the EAA Administration to discharge its duties. In view of the volatility of the property market, the income of the EAA would become unstable. In addition, the EAA needs to upgrade the standard of services as the public expectations for the EAA are rising. Therefore, there is no room for the EAA to introduce any fee concession measures.



The EAA also decided to freeze the qualifying examination fees. Owing to rising costs, the EAA increased the fees in June last year but it decided not to make any adjustments this year after a comprehensive review. The fee for Estate Agents Qualifying Examination remains at HK\$700 while that for the Salespersons Qualifying Examination at HK\$450.

Apart from receiving the reports from Committees and the EAA Administration, the EAA Board also discussed and endorsed the budget for the fiscal year of 2012-2013.

The fees of different types of licences:

Type of licence	12 months (Validity period)	24 months (Validity period)
Salesperson's Licence	\$1,280	\$2,510
Estate Agent's Licence (Individual)	\$2,010	\$3,930
Estate Agent's Licence (Company)	\$2,800	\$5,460

**Statement of Particulars of Business*
("SPOB"):**

SPOB for a sole proprietorship / partnership under each business name at one place of business	\$2,120	\$4,140
SPOB of a company licensee operating		
- under each additional business name	\$2,800	\$5,460
- at each additional place of business	\$2,120	\$4,140

* Estate agents must apply for a statement of particulars of business (SPOB) for each place of business under each business name.

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