



Dear Licensees,

Re: Commencement of Phase 2 of New Inspection Regime under the Companies Ordinance on 24 October 2022

Further to the letter dated 20 August 2021, the Estate Agents Authority (“EAA”) is writing to draw your attention to the commencement of Phase 2 of the New Inspection Regime under the Companies Ordinance on 24 October 2022 (“Commencement Date”). Starting from the Commencement Date, the usual residential addresses of directors and full identification numbers of directors, company secretaries and some other individuals such as liquidators and provisional liquidators (“Protected Information”) contained in documents delivered to the Companies Registry (“Registry”) for registration will not be provided for public inspection.

As estate agents fall within the meaning of designated non-financial businesses and professions (“DNFBP”) under section 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615) (“AMLO”), they are “specified persons” under section 12(1)(j) of the Companies (Residential Addresses and Identification Numbers) Regulation (Cap. 622N) (“Regulation”) and can apply to the Registry for disclosure of Protected Information from the Commencement Date for the performance of their functions under the AMLO pursuant to section 12(12) of the Regulation through:

- (a) one-time application for disclosure of Protected Information in paper form (i.e. Form PS3 – “Application for Disclosure of Protected Information (By solicitor or foreign lawyer/certified public accountant (practising)/financial institution or DNFBP)”); or
- (b) online application for disclosure of Protected Information at the Registry’s Cyber Search Centre at www.icris.cr.gov.hk or Company Search Mobile Service at www.mobile-cr.gov.hk using a special account or an authorized representative’s special account.



地 產 代 理 監 管 局
ESTATE AGENTS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to section 10(c)(iii) of the Regulation, “specified persons” under section 12(1)(j) of the Regulation (e.g. estate agents) are required to pay a fee of \$10 for obtaining Protected Information of each data subject. If the application for disclosure of Protected Information is approved, the Registry will issue a Protected Information Report on the selected data subject to the applicant.

For details of the implementation of Phase 2 of the New Inspection Regime, major changes in filing requirements and major changes in public search services, please refer to the Registry’s External Circulars Nos. 3 to 5/2022 which have been uploaded on the Registry’s website (www.cr.gov.hk) (Publications > Circulars/Guidelines > External Circulars).

To facilitate “specified persons” in making applications for obtaining Protected Information, the Registry has published various information pamphlets which are available for download from the thematic section on “New Inspection Regime” on the Registry’s website at www.cr.gov.hk/en/legislation/nir/pamphlets.htm.

For any queries concerning the public search services under Phase 2 of the New Inspection Regime, please contact Mr Terence MOK, Assistant Registry Manager (Public Search) by phone (2867 1466) or email (crenq@cr.gov.hk).

Estate Agents Authority

20 September 2022