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Narcotics Division,
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Customer Identity Documents

Under the amended **Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615)** (“AMLO”), which commenced operation on 1 March 2018, estate agents are required to conduct customer due diligence (“CDD”) and keep all relevant records, including those obtained during CDD, before being involved in a transaction concerning the buying or selling of real estate for a client.

An estate agent must, before arranging for a client to enter into an agreement for sale and purchase, identify the client and/or the client’s representative, as well as the beneficial owner(s). For a client who is an individual, the estate



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agent must verify the client's identity against his/her identification document (e.g. Hong Kong identity card, passport, or travel document), and obtain a copy thereof for record-keeping.

According to the “Code of Practice on The Identity Card Number and Other Personal Identifiers” (paragraphs 2.3.1 and 3.2.2.1) published by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong, estate agents (as data users), can collect the Hong Kong Identity Card number of the clients under the obligation pursuant to the AMLO, they can also collect copy of the clients' Hong Kong Identity Card or



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other identification document in order to provide proof of compliance with the statutory requirement under the AMLO on the part of the estate agent. Estate agents must comply with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), including the six data protection principles, on the collection, holding, processing and use of clients' personal data. The Estate Agents Authority ("EAA") has also issued guidelines for estate agents on the protection of personal data, which the estate agents must comply with.

This e-leaflet can be accessed at the EAA's website: www.eaa.org.hk/AML.pdf

