An Overview of Phase 2 of the New Inspection Regime

Major Changes in Public Search Services

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Major Changes in Public Search Services

Searches on the Companies Register

- ➤ Highlights of Key Provisions
- > Searches on registered documents
- > Searches on Index of Directors

Access to Protected Information

- ➤ Highlights of Key Provisions
- Applications for Disclosure of Protected Information

Highlights of Key Provisions

- Materials in Companies Register unavailable for public inspection are provided in Division 7 of Part 2 of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622).
- Protection of residential address and identification numbers ("Protected Information") contained in certain documents are provided in Subdivision 2 of Division 7.
- The Subdivision 2, except section 54(1)(a)(ii), will come into operation on 24 October 2022.
- The usual residential addresses of directors will be replaced with correspondence address and full identification numbers of directors, company secretaries and some other individuals (such as liquidators and provisional liquidators) will be replaced with partial identification numbers for public inspection.



Searches on registered documents

 Protected Information contained in documents filed for registration on or after 24 October 2022 will NOT be provided for public inspection



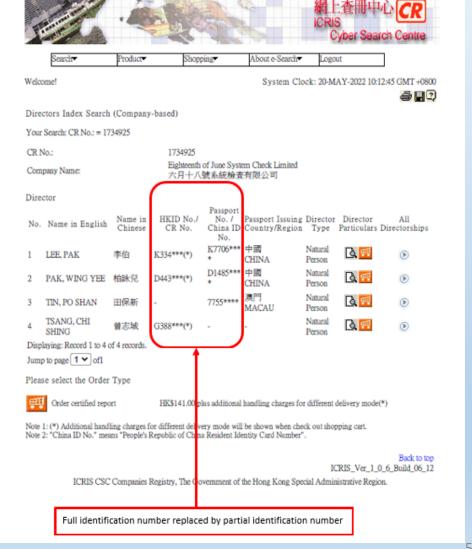
The main form does NOT contain Protected Information and is for public inspection

首任公司秘書/董事(自然人) - 受保護資料										
	First Company Secretary / Director (Natural Person) – Protected Information									
0	公眾紀錄不會顯示此頁 This page will not be shown on the public record									
	- 請於本頁申報首任公司秘書的香港身分證或護照的 <u>完整號碼</u> 。 The <u>full number</u> of Hong Kong Identity Card or passport of the first company secretary should be reported on this page.									
	- 請於本頁申報首任董事的香港身分證或護照的 <u>完整號碼及通常住址。</u> The <u>full number</u> of Hong Kong Identity Card or passport and <u>usual residential</u> <u>address of the first director should be reported on this page.</u>									
	(任一月 PI-NNC1 月可模型一名自然人的世际推算料:如底接一名自然人資料:非对如 PI-NNC1 异填液: Each PI-NNC1 sheet can only report the protected information of 1 natural person. If there is information for more than 1 natural person places report separately on additional PI-NNC1 sheet(s).									
6 0	#####################################									
	英文姓名 姓氏 Name in English Sumane									
	名字 Other Names									
30	身分識別 Identification (a) 奇海分別性医療制 Heng Kong Getarty Card (<u>Full</u> Number)									
	(b) 護照 簽發國家/地區 Passport Issuing Country/Region									
	完整號碼 Full Number									
9	董事的									
	Usual Residential Address of Director									
	國家/地區 Country/Region									
	請勿覆蓋此頁內的條碼 DO NOT COVER THE BARCODES ON THIS PAGE									
	(交付收益 NNC1 時,維持所有 PI-NNC1 實質於最後。									

The PI sheet containing
Protected Information is NOT
for public inspection

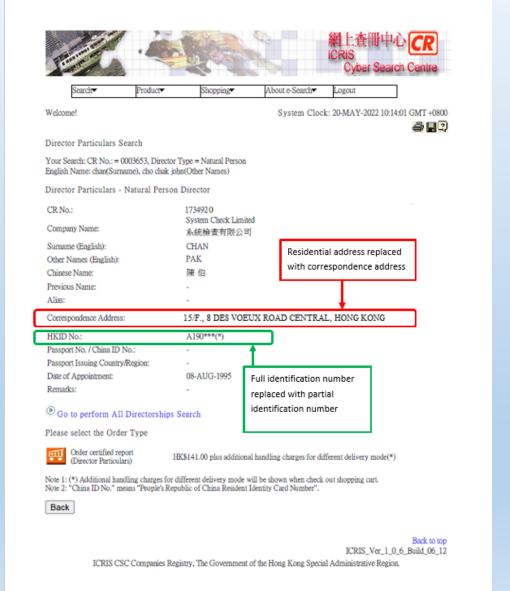


Searches on Index of Directors Company-based Directors Index Search





Searches on Index of Directors
Director Particulars Search





Searches on Index of Directors

- Director-based Directors Index Search
 - For groups with same director name and same partial ID numbers or passport numbers but different full HKID numbers or passport numbers, one extra digit will be displayed for the partial number of the related groups for easy differentiation of the directors. If release of any one extra digit cannot help differentiate the records, two extra digits will be displayed at any positions.
 - ➤ Groups of records of directors having the same full HKID number or passport number will be assigned with the same group number in the search results to differentiate from other groups with same partial number but different full numbers



Director-based Directors Index Search

Scenario (1)

Identify persons with <u>same names</u> and <u>same partial HKID numbers</u> (i.e. alphabet(s) plus the first 3 digits)

Display of Search Result

For example: Searcher inputs partial HKID number <u>A123</u>, System will group the matched records according to different criteria for searchers to identify records of different individuals more easily.

Group Number (Groups with SAME FULL Identification Number are assigned with the SAME GROUP Number)	Name in English	Name in Chinese	Partial HKID Number (Alphabet(s) and First 3 Digits)	Partial Passport Number / China ID Number	Passport Issuing Country / Region	No. of Records
1	CHAN TAI MAN	陳大文	A123*8*	-	-	2
2	CHAN TAI MAN	陳大文	A123*4*	-	-	3
3	HO SIU MING	何小明	A123***	-	-	2

- The search result shows 3 different Group Numbers, indicating that 3 different individuals holding 3 different full HKID numbers are involved.
- > The persons shown in Group Number 1 and Group Number 2 are 2 different individuals with identical name but holding 2 different full HKID numbers.
- The person shown in **Group Number 3** is obviously different from the persons in **Group Numbers 1** and 2.
- When a searcher clicks on the button in the first column, the system will display a list of relevant companies of which the person is a current director and the number of companies involved is reflected in the last column of the corresponding row.
- The person shown in Group Number 1 holds directorship in 2 companies. The person shown in Group Number 2 holds directorship in 3 companies. The person shown in Group Number 3 holds directorship in 2 companies

Director-based Directors Index Search

Scenario (2) Identify persons with different name formats but same partial HKID numbers (i.e. alphabet(s) plus the first 3 digits)

Display of Search Result

For example: Searcher inputs partial HKID number A123, System will group the matched records according to different criteria for searchers to identify records of different individuals more easily.

Group Number (Groups with SAME FULL Identification Number are assigned with the SAME GROUP Number)	Name in English	Name in Chinese	Partial HKID Number (Alphabet(s) and First 3 Digits)	Partial Passport Number / China ID Number	Passport Issuing Country / Region	No. of Records
1	CHAN TAI MAN	陳大文	A123*8*	-	-	2
1	CHAN TAI MAN JOHN	陳大文	A123*8*	-	-	1
2	CHAN TAI MAN	陳大文	A123*4*	-	-	4

- The search result shows 2 different Group Numbers, indicating that 2 different individuals holding 2 different full HKID numbers are involved.
- Although 2 different name formats are shown for records with Group Number 1, they are in fact referring to the same individual with same full HKID number and have therefore been assigned with the same Group Number.
- The person shown in Group Number 2 is holding a different full HKID number from the person in Group Number 1 and they are two different individuals.
- When a searcher clicks on the button in the first column, the system will display a list of relevant companies of which the person is a current director and the number of companies involved is reflected in the last column of the corresponding row.
- The person shown in Group Number 1 holds directorship in 3 companies. The person shown in Group Number 2 holds directorship in 4 companies.

Access to Protected Information

Highlights of Key Provisions (1)

- Pursuant to section 58(3) of the Companies Ordinance, the Registrar of Companies (the "Registrar") may, on application, disclose Protected Information to a person specified by regulations made by the Financial Secretary.
- The Financial Secretary has made the Companies (Residential Addresses and Identification Numbers) Regulation (Cap. 622N) (the "Regulation").
- Parts 1, 4 and 5 (except section 13(1)) and the Schedule to the Regulation will come into operation on 24 October 2022.
- The Regulation was published in the Gazette Notice (L.N. 98 of 2021) on 18 June 2021.



Access to Protected Information

Highlights of Key Provisions (2)

- Persons specified by section 12(1) in Part 4 of the Regulation can apply for:
 - > the latest Protected Information of a data subject in a company; or
 - > the Protected Information of a data subject reported in a registered document
- Persons specified by section 12(1) of the Regulation (other than the data subject, person authorized by a data subject and member of the company) may have the need to obtain the Protected Information in relation to statutory procedures, law enforcement, and customer due diligence of financial and business transactions (e.g. for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism purposes). Such persons are required by section 12 of the Regulation to make a statement to confirm that the Protected Information is required for the performance of their functions and would only be used for the performance of their functions.
- Section 10 of the Regulation empowers the Registrar of Companies to specify any documents for the application for disclosure of Protected Information



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information Who can apply? (1)

Specified persons are:

- (a) a data subject
- (b) a person who is authorized in writing by a data subject to obtain the information
- (c) a member of the company
- (d) a liquidator
- (e) a trustee in bankruptcy
- (f) a public officer or public body
- (g) a scheduled person
- (h) a solicitor or foreign lawyer
- (i) a certified public accountant (practising)
- (j) a financial institution or DNFBP



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information Who can apply? (2)

- a data subject
- a person who is authorized in writing by a data subject to obtain the information
 - [only has the right to access Protected Information of the data subject]
- a member of the company
 [only has the right to access Protected Information of the company]



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information Who can apply? (3)

- A liquidator means a person who is a provisional liquidator or liquidator within the meaning of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32)
- A trustee in bankruptcy means a person who is, under the Bankruptcy Ordinance (Cap. 6)-
 - (a) a provisional trustee or trustee of the property of a bankrupt; or
 - (b) an interim trustee of the property of a debtor or of any part of the property.
- A public body includes-
 - (a) any public authority or undertaking; and
 - (b) any body that has power to act in a public capacity under, or for the purposes of, any enactment.

Application for Disclosure of Protected Information Who can apply? (4)

A scheduled person means a person specified in the Schedule to the Regulation. The persons specified in the Schedule are:

- (a) an inspector as defined by section 838(1) of the Companies Ordinance
- (b) an inspector appointed under section 95(1) of the Trustee Ordinance (Cap. 29)
- (c) a recognized clearing house as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571)
- (d) a recognized exchange company as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance
- (e) a recognized exchange controller as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance
- (f) a recognized investor compensation company as defined by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance
- (g) a person directed or appointed to investigate any matter under section 11(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615)



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information Who can apply? (5)

- A solicitor means a solicitor as defined by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) who practises law in a Hong Kong firm which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance.
- A foreign lawyer means a foreign lawyer as defined by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance who practises foreign law in-
 - (a) a Hong Kong firm which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance; or
 - (b) a foreign firm as defined by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance.
- A certified public accountant (practising) has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap. 50).

Who can apply? (6)

A financial institution has the meaning given by section 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance and includes the following persons:

- (a) an authorized institution which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Banking Ordinance (Cap. 155)
- (b) a licensed corporation which has the meaning given by section 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Securities and Futures Ordinance
- (c) an authorized insurer which means an insurer authorized under the Insurance Ordinance (Cap. 41)
- (d) a licensed individual insurance agent which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Insurance Ordinance
- (e) a licensed insurance agency which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Insurance Ordinance
- (f) a licensed insurance broker company which has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Insurance Ordinance
- (g) a licensed money service operator which means the holder of a licence as defined by section 24 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance
- (h) the Postmaster General which means the Postmaster General of Hong Kong, and includes the deputy postmaster general and every assistant postmaster general
- (i) an SVF licensee which means a person who is granted a licence under section 8F of the Payment Systems and Stored Value Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 584)



Who can apply? (7)

DNFBP has the meaning given by section 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance. DNFBP means the following persons:

- (a) an accounting professional which means
 - (i) a certified public accountant or a certified public accountant (practising), as defined by section 2(1) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance
 - (ii) a corporate practice as defined by section 2(1) of the Professional Accountants Ordinance; or
 - (iii) a firm of certified public accountants (practising) registered under Part IV of the Professional Accountants Ordinance
- (b) an estate agent which means -
 - (i) a licensed estate agent as defined by section 2(1) of the Estate Agents Ordinance (Cap. 511); or
 - (ii) a licensed salesperson as defined by section 2(1) of the Estate Agents Ordinance
- (c) a legal professional which means
 - (i) a solicitor as defined by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance; or
 - (ii) a foreign lawyer as defined by section 2(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance
- (d) a TCSP licensee which means
 - (i) a person who holds a licence granted under section 53G of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance or renewed under section 53K; or
 - (ii) a deemed licensee as defined by section 53ZQ(5)



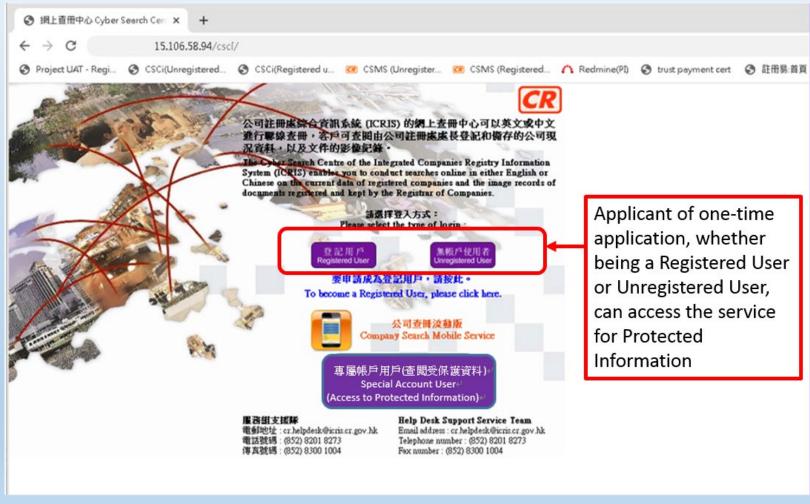
Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How to apply? (1)

Specified persons can apply for disclosure of Protected Information through the following means:

- (a) One-time application (online or in paper)
 - **≻**Online
 - By a data subject, a person who is authorized in writing by a data subject to obtain the information, or a member of the company
 - through Cyber Search Centre (www.icris.cr.gov.hk) or
 Company Search Mobile Service (www.mobile-cr.gov.hk)



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How to apply? (2)





Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How to apply? (3)

- (a) One-time application (online or in paper)
 - ➤ Paper application
 - By all types of specified persons
 - Specified forms to be used:
 - Form PS1 Application for Disclosure of Protected Information
 (By data subject / person authorized in writing by a data subject to obtain the information / member of the company)
 - Form PS2 Application for Disclosure of Protected Information
 (By liquidator / trustee in bankruptcy / public officer or public body / scheduled person)
 - Form PS3 Application for Disclosure of Protected Information
 (By solicitor or foreign lawyer / certified public accountant (practising) / financial institution or DNFBP)

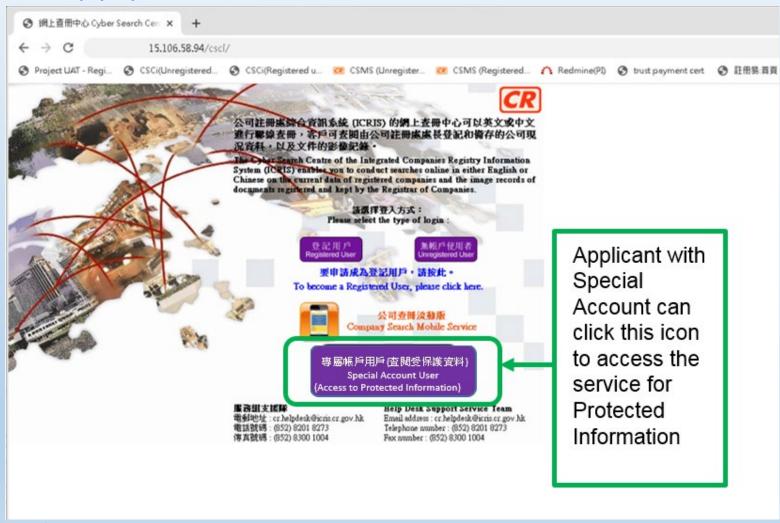


Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How to apply? (4)

- (b) Through a Special Account
 - Online only
 - Only the following designated types of specified persons being a natural person can apply for disclosure of Protected Information through a Special Account:
 - a liquidator
 - a trustee in bankruptcy
 - a public officer or public body
 - a scheduled person
 - a solicitor or foreign lawyer
 - a certified public accountant (practising)
 - a financial institution or DNFBP
 - ➢ If the designated specified person is not a natural person, application can be made by its authorised representative through the authorised representative's Special Account



How to apply? (5)





Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How to use a Special Account?

- Special account holder who is a natural person
 - can apply for Protected Information online through his/her Special Account if the holder is a designated specified person
 - can apply for Protected Information online through his/her Special Account on behalf of a designated specified person if the holder is an authorised representative of the designated specified person
- Special account holder which is not a natural person
 - cannot apply for Protected Information through its Special Account
 - has to apply for another Special Account for its authorised representative to apply for disclosure of Protected Information on its behalf
 - can only use its Special Account to manage the Special Accounts of its authorised representatives



How to apply for a Special Account?

➤Online Application

- Application can be made through
 - the Cyber Search Centre (www.icris.cr.gov.hk) or
 - the Company Search Mobile Service (www.mobile-cr.gov.hk)

➤ Paper Application

- Form PS4

"Application for Opening of Special Account relating to Protected Information by Designated Types of Specified Persons"

- to apply for opening of a Special Account

- Form PS5

"Application for Opening of Special Account for Authorised Representative by a Special Account User other than a Natural Person"

- after obtaining a Special Account



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information What supporting documents are required? (1)

Applicable to the

- one-time application for Protected Information
- application for opening of Special Accounts by designated specified persons
- application for opening of Special Account for authorised representative by a Special Account User other than a natural person



What supporting documents are required? (2)

- (a) Identification documents
 - (i) Applicant is a natural person:
 - His/her Hong Kong Identity Card; or
 - His/her passport; or
 - His/her identity card issued by a government authority outside Hong Kong
 - (ii) Applicant is other than a natural person:
 - For a body corporate: its certificate of incorporation or its equivalent
 - For a partnership or a sole proprietorship: its business registration certificate or its equivalent
 - Together with the identification documents of its authorised representative who is a natural person



What supporting documents are required? (3)

- (b) Authorisation documents
 - (i) If Applicant is a natural person who is authorized by a data subject to make an application on his/her behalf
 - an authorisation letter by the data subject
 - (i) If Applicant is other than a natural person applying for opening of Special Account for its natural person authorised representative
 - an authorisation letter by the Applicant to authorise the natural person to apply for Protected Information on its behalf in future
 - (i) If Applicant is other than a natural person applying for Protected Information by one-time application
 - an authorisation letter by the Applicant to authorise the natural person representative named in the application to apply for Protected Information on its behalf



What supporting documents are required? (4)

- (c) Other supporting documents
 - Evidence of the capacity of the Applicant as one of the types of specified persons prescribed in section 12(1) of the Regulation



What supporting documents are required? (5)

Mode of Submission of Supporting Documents

- ➤ Certified true copy of the supporting documents submitted with the application
- ➤ Present the original supporting documents in person for checking at:

Public Search Centre

Companies Registry

13th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.



What supporting documents are required? (6)

Supporting documents not submitted in original should be certified as true copy by:

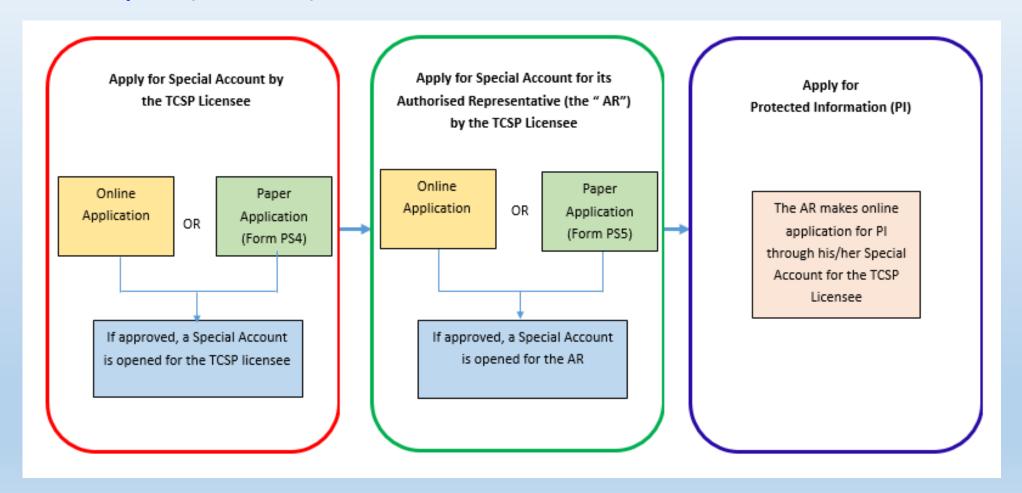
- (a) a notary public practising in Hong Kong;
- (b) a solicitor practising in Hong Kong;
- (c) a certified public accountant (practising) within the meaning of section 2 of the Professional Accountants Ordinance;
- (d) an officer of the court in Hong Kong who is authorised by law to certify documents for any judicial or other legal purpose;
- (e) a professional company secretary practising in Hong Kong;
- (f) a consular officer of Applicant's home country, in case the applicant is a non-Hong Kong resident or entity not registered in Hong Kong; or
- (g) the authority or body which issues the document.



A TCSP licensee which is a limited company intends to apply for disclosure of Protected Information through a Special Account in the future to perform its functions conferred or imposed on it as a DNFBP under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance



An example (Cont'd)





Application for Disclosure of Protected Information How much to pay?

A fee of \$10 for obtaining Protected Information of each data subject is payable by the following types of specified persons:

- ➤a solicitor or foreign lawyer
- > a certified public accountant (practising)
- ➤a financial institution or DNFBP (section 10(c)(iii) of the Regulation)



Application for Disclosure of Protected Information What can be obtained?

- A Protected Information Report on the selected data subject
- The Report
 - will be sent to the Applicant by email (for one-time application); or
 - provided in a designated area in Cyber Search Centre for downloading by the Applicant (for application through Special Account)



Updates and further information

Thematic section on "New Inspection Regime" on the Companies Registry's website

(www.cr.gov.hk/en/legislation/nir/overview.htm)



Thank You!

