

QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES 15TH FLOOR, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

> 香港金鐘道六十六號 金鐘道政府合署十五樓

In reply please quote this Ref.: 覆函請註明本處檔號:

YOUR REF. 來函檔號:

TEL. 電話: 2867 4790

FAX 圖文傳真: 8 July 2002

## Companies Registry External Circular No. 1/2002

## **Registration of Company Names**

Section 5(1) of the Companies Ordinance requires that the memorandum of every company limited by shares or by guarantee must state the name of the company and –

- (a) if the name is in English, with "Limited" as the last word of the name;
- (b) if the name is in Chinese, with "有限公司" as the last 4 Chinese characters of the name; and
- (c) if the name is both in English and Chinese, with "Limited" as the last word of the name in English and "有限公司" as the last 4 Chinese characters of the name in Chinese respectively.
- 2. The intention behind the amended wording of section 5(1), which was introduced by the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 1997, was to enable companies to register with an English name, a Chinese name or an English name **and** a Chinese name. However, in the past, applications to register a company name with a combination of English letters and Chinese characters have been submitted to the Companies Registry. A few of these have been allowed on an exceptional basis, having regard to the circumstances of the case.
- 3. Legal advice has now been received to the effect that the wording of section 5(1) does not allow a company name to have a combination of English letters and Chinese characters. Consequently, it follows that the Registrar of Companies does not have power to permit the registration of a company name which contains such a combination.

- 2 -

- 4. Accordingly, it has been necessary for the Companies Registry to review the department's policy of company name registration. With immediate effect, the current practice of permitting the registration of a company name with a combination of English letters and Chinese characters shall cease and no further applications for the registration of such company names will be accepted by the Registry.
- 5. Any enquiries concerning this circular may be directed to Miss Teresa Lai, Assistant Registry Manager (New Companies) at telephone number 2867 4790.

G W E JONES Registrar of Companies

Ref.: CR/HQ/5/8/20/2 V CR/HQ/1/50/15 II