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23 May 2000

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## **COMPANIES REGISTRY EXTERNAL CIRCULAR NO. 2/2000**

### **Names of overseas companies with simplified Chinese characters registered under Part XI of the Companies Ordinance**

In order to provide a common interface for electronic communication, the standard Chinese character set which includes the Big-5 (a commonly-used Chinese coding system) and the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) has been adopted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As the remaining capacity for adding new characters to the HKSCS is very limited, any additions will be subject to the approval of the Working Group on Characters for Chinese Computer Systems under the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee. However, as far as simplified Chinese characters in company names are concerned, further addition to the HKSCS will no longer be accepted.

2. In view of the above, with immediate effect, the newly-registered Chinese names of the overseas companies will only be maintained in the Companies Registration System of the Companies Registry in full-stroke characters even if the company names include simplified Chinese characters. For those overseas companies which include simplified Chinese characters in their names, the full-stroke version will also be printed in brackets on the Certificate of Registration or the Certificate of Registration of Change of Name of Oversea Company. As a result of the above changes in practice, the presentor or the company will be required to provide the full-stroke version of any Chinese company name in simplified characters on the specified forms F1 (for new application) or F5 (for change of name).

3. Customers who conduct searches on the Company Names and Document Indices are reminded to key in overseas company names in full-stroke Chinese characters.

4. Any enquiries concerning this circular may be directed to Miss Ivy Poon, Assistant Registry Manager (Overseas Companies) at telephone number 2867 2145.

**G. W. E. JONES**  
**Registrar of Companies**