

Legal Profession (International Services) Rules 2007

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No. S 361

LEGAL PROFESSION ACT (CHAPTER 161)

LEGAL PROFESSION (INTERNATIONAL SERVICES) RULES 2007

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 130G, 130H, 130K and 130T of the Legal Profession Act, the Minister for Law, after consulting the Attorney-General, hereby makes the following Rules:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Legal Profession (International Services) Rules 2007 and shall come into operation on 6th July 2007.

Forms

2.—(1) The forms to be used for the purposes of these Rules are those set out at the Internet website of the Legal Profession (International Services) Secretariat of the Attorney-General's Chambers at <http://www.agc.gov.sg/lps> (under "Application Forms and Fees"), and any reference in these Rules to a numbered form shall be construed as a reference to the current version of the form bearing the corresponding number which is displayed at that website.

(2) Any document required to be lodged with the Attorney-General under any

provision of the Act or these Rules shall be —

- (a) lodged in the relevant form and in the manner specified in the website referred to in paragraph (1), or in such other manner as the Attorney-General may specify; and
- (b) accompanied by such documents, particulars and information as may be specified in the relevant form.

(3) All forms used for the purposes of these Rules shall be completed in the English language and in accordance with such directions as may be specified in the form or by the Attorney-General.

(4) The Attorney-General may refuse to accept any form that is —

- (a) not completed or lodged in accordance with this rule; or
- (b) not accompanied by the appropriate fee referred to in these Rules.

(5) The Attorney-General may refuse to issue any certificate, letter or other document if the appropriate fee referred to in these Rules has not been paid.

(6) Where strict compliance with any form is not possible, the Attorney-General may allow for the necessary modifications to be made to that form, or for the requirements of that form to be complied with in such other manner as the Attorney-General thinks fit.

PART II

JOINT LAW VENTURE

Application for registration as Joint Law Venture

3.—(1) A foreign law firm and a Singapore law firm are eligible to make a joint application under section 130B of the Act for registration as a Joint Law Venture if they satisfy all of the following conditions:

- (a) the foreign law firm and the Singapore law firm must have relevant legal expertise and experience which are acceptable to the Attorney-General in any of the following areas of legal practice:
 - (i) banking law;
 - (ii) finance law;
 - (iii) corporate law;

- (iv) arbitration;
 - (v) intellectual property law;
 - (vi) maritime law;
 - (vii) any other area of legal or regional work as may be approved by the Attorney-General;
- (b) the foreign law firm has 5 or more foreign lawyers resident in Singapore, at least 2 of whom shall be equity partners in the foreign law firm or, in the case of a foreign law firm constituted as a corporation, at least 2 of whom shall be directors of such corporation;
- (c) the foreign lawyers referred to in sub-paragraph (b) must have at least 5 years of relevant legal expertise and experience in any of the areas of legal practice referred to in sub-paragraph (a);
- (d) the Singapore law firm has 5 or more Singapore lawyers, at least 2 of whom shall be equity partners in the Singapore law firm or, in the case of a law corporation, at least 2 of whom shall be directors of such law corporation;
- (e) the Singapore lawyers referred to in sub-paragraph (d) must have at least 5 years of relevant legal expertise and experience in any of the areas of legal practice referred to in sub-paragraph (a);
- (f) if the Joint Law Venture is to be constituted as a partnership, the number of equity partners in the foreign law firm and resident in Singapore shall not at any time be greater than the number of equity partners in the Singapore law firm;
- (g) if the Joint Law Venture is to be constituted as a corporation, the number of directors nominated by the foreign law firm shall not at any time be greater than the number of directors nominated by the Singapore law firm;
- (h) the foreign law firm and the Singapore law firm have entered into a written agreement to jointly manage the Joint Law Venture and, if requested by the Attorney-General, have submitted a copy of such agreement to the Attorney-General, and no material modification shall be made to the agreement without the prior written approval of the Attorney-General;
- (i) the Joint Law Venture shall maintain throughout the period of its registration adequate insurance policies concerning indemnity against loss