

Trust Companies (Exemption) Regulations

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TRUST COMPANIES ACT (CHAPTER 336, SECTIONS 15 AND 82)

TRUST COMPANIES (EXEMPTION) REGULATIONS

Rg 1

G.N. No. S 833/2005

REVISED EDITION 2006

(30th November 2006)

[1st February 2006]

Citation

- 1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Trust Companies (Exemption) Regulations.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“accounting corporation” means a company approved as an accounting corporation under the Accountants Act (Cap. 2);

“advocate and solicitor” means a person who has in force a practising certificate under the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161) or a foreign lawyer in a Formal Law Alliance or Joint Law Venture;

“charity”, in relation to a private trust company, means any trust, foundation, company or other body established solely for a purpose recognised as charitable by the governing law of the trust in respect of which the private trust company provides trust business services;

“connected person” —

(a) in relation to an individual, means —

(i) the persons listed in the Schedule; or

(ii) a firm or a corporation in which the individual or any of the persons listed in the Schedule has, in aggregate, control of not less than 20% of the voting power in the firm or corporation, whether such control is exercised individually or jointly;

(b) in relation to a firm, means another firm in which the first-mentioned firm has control of not less than 20% of the voting power in that other firm; and

(c) in relation to a corporation, means —

(i) an employee or a former employee of the corporation;

(ii) a director or former director of the corporation; or

(iii) another corporation in which the first-mentioned corporation or any of the persons mentioned in subparagraph (i) or (ii) has, in aggregate, control of not less than 20% of the voting power in that other corporation,

and a reference in these Regulations to a person connected to another person shall be construed accordingly;

“debenture” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289);

“introducing activities” means —

- (a) introducing any client to any person in relation to the provision of any trust business services provided by the person; or
- (b) recording the particulars of any client and forwarding such particulars to any person providing trust business services with the client's consent;

“law firm” means a firm of advocates and solicitors and includes a sole proprietorship and partnership of 2 or more advocates and solicitors;

“overseas person” means a person —

- (a) who is not resident, established or incorporated in Singapore; and
- (b) who has no place of business in Singapore in or from which that person carries on trust business;

“private trust company” means a corporation —

- (a) the purpose of which is solely to provide trust business services in respect of a specific trust or of specific trusts where —
 - (i) each settlor of such a trust is a connected person in relation to any other settlor of any other trust to which the corporation provides trust business services; and
 - (ii) each beneficiary of such a trust is a connected person in relation to the settlor of that trust or a charity; and
- (b) that does not solicit trust business from, or provide trust business services to, the public;

“public accountant” has the same meaning as in the Accountants Act (Cap. 2).

Forms

3.—(1) The forms to be used for the purposes of these Regulations are those set out at the Authority's Internet website at <http://www.mas.gov.sg> (under “Trust Companies”), and any reference in these Regulations to a numbered form shall be construed as a reference to the current version of the form bearing the corresponding number in that website.

(2) Where any provision of these Regulations provides for the lodgment of any document with the Authority, that document shall be lodged with the Authority in the relevant form and in the manner specified in the website referred to in paragraph (1), or in such other manner as the Authority may specify from time to time.

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

(4) The Authority may refuse to accept any form that is not completed in accordance with this regulation.

(5) Where strict compliance with any form is not possible, the Authority 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 Authority thinks fit.

(6) Where the period of time within which a document required under the Act or these Regulations to be lodged with the Authority is not specified, the document shall be lodged within 14 days after the occurrence of the event to which the document relates.

Exemption

4.—(1) For the purposes of section 15(1)(d) of the Act, the following persons shall be exempt from the requirement to hold a trust business licence in respect of the carrying on of trust business:

- (a) any private trust company;
- (b) any advocate and solicitor, or any law corporation, limited liability law partnership, Formal Law Alliance or Joint Law Venture which is approved or registered under the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161), in respect of —
 - (i) the provision of services in relation to the creation of an express trust;
 - (ii) the arrangement for any person to act as a trustee in respect of an express trust;
 - (iii) the provision of trust administration services which are procedural and non-discretionary or which relate to the drafting of legal documentation and the giving of professional legal advice in connection therewith; or
 - (iv) the carrying out of any other trust business not falling within the description in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) if the following conditions are complied with:
 - (A) the total amount of financial assets, excluding real property, settled by any client in one or more trusts in connection with the trust business does not exceed \$2 million;