

Reduction of the Levy Rate of Business Registration

The Business Registration Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2022 (“the Order”) was gazetted on 10 June 2022. Pursuant to the Order, the levy rate in relation to business and branch registration will be reduced from \$250 per annum to \$150 per annum. The above levy rate adjustment is subject to the scrutiny of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Council may amend the Order by resolution.

Implementation Details

1. The new levy rate is applicable to:
 - (a) the incorporation submissions in relation to simultaneous business registration applications made on or after 17 June 2022; and
 - (b) all other cases, if the commencement date of business or branch registration certificates is on or after 17 June 2022.
2. Please refer to the [business registration fee & levy table](#) for details of the total amount payable in respect of a certificate.

FAQ

Q1: How much levy should I pay if I make my incorporation submission to the Companies Registry under the One-stop Company and Business Registration service on or after 17 June 2022?

A1: Pursuant to the Order, the amount of levy payable is \$150 per annum.

Q2: Can I pay the levy of \$150 if I make my incorporation submission to the Companies Registry under the One-stop Company and Business Registration service on or before 16 June 2022, but the certificate of incorporation and business registration certificate are issued on or after 17 June 2022?

A2: No. For local companies incorporated under the One-stop Company and Business Registration service, the amount of levy payable is determined by reference to the date on which the related incorporation submission is submitted to the Companies Registry. Therefore, the levy payable is \$250 per annum.

Q3: How much levy should I pay if I submit an application for registration of a non-Hong Kong company to the Companies Registry on or after 17 June 2022 but the company has already established its place of business in Hong Kong on or before 16 June 2022?

A3: For non-Hong Kong companies, the amount of levy payable is determined by reference to the date of establishment of place of business in Hong Kong which should also be the date of commencement of business. Therefore, the amount of levy payable is \$250 per annum.

Q4: How much levy should I pay if I submit an application for business registration of my sole proprietorship business to the Business Registration Office on or after 17 June 2022 but I have commenced business on or before 16 June 2022?

A4: You are required to pay \$250 per annum for the levy as the amount of levy payable for a sole proprietorship business is determined by reference to the date of commencement of business but not the date of submission of the application.

Q5: Can I apply for a refund of part of the levy paid for my renewal business or branch registration certificate commencing before 17 June 2022?

A5: No. The reduction of levy only applies to renewal business or branch registration certificates with dates of commencement on or after 17 June 2022.

Q6: I have received in May 2022 my renewal business registration demand note commencing on 17 June 2022 with the levy amount of \$250 but not yet make the payment. Do I still need to pay it?

A6: No. Please hold your payment for a while. The Inland Revenue Department (“IRD”) will send by mid-June 2022 to the operators of the businesses whose renewal business or branch registration demand notes with dates of commencement falling between 17 June 2022 and 30 June 2022 (both dates inclusive) the revised renewal business or branch registration demand notes with the new amount of levy. Please pay the new levy upon receipt of the revised demand note.

Please also note that the Legislative Council may amend the Order by resolution. In the event that the relevant legislative amendment is amended by the Legislative Council, IRD would notify the affected business operators in due course.

Q7: My renewal business registration certificate commences on 17 June 2022. I have paid the levy of \$250 as demanded when I received the renewal demand note for 2022 in May 2022. How will IRD handle the levy overpaid for this renewal business registration certificate?

A7: The arrangement for handling the excess levy paid in respect of the renewal business or branch registration certificates with dates of commencement falling between 17 June 2022 and 30 June 2022 (both dates inclusive) will be announced after the expiry of the vetting period of the Order.