



To: Stamp Office Customers

STAMP OFFICE
Stamping Circular No. 02/2025
Stock Borrowing Relief – Reduction in Filing Frequency for
Return of Stock Borrowing Transactions

The purpose of this circular is to inform stock borrowers who have registered their stock borrowing and lending agreements with the Stamp Office that the filing requirement for *Return of Stock Borrowing Transactions (Form SBUL 1)* under section 19(13) of the Stamp Duty Ordinance has been revised from *a semi-annual to an annual basis* with immediate effect.

Key Changes

- Borrowers are *no longer required* to file *Form SBUL 1* for the six-month period ending *30 June 2025*.
- The next reporting period will cover the full *calendar year from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025*.

First Annual Return

Borrowers must file *Form SBUL 1* for the year ending *31 December 2025* with the Stamp Office *within one month* after the end of the reporting year (i.e. by *31 January 2026*) if:

- (a) Any stock borrowing transaction under a registered agreement occurs during the reporting year; *or*
- (b) Any stock borrowing transaction under a registered agreement remains unsettled at the end of the previous reporting period.

Note: Failure to file *Form SBUL 1* timely may result in a level 2 penalty (currently HK\$5,000) under section 19(15) of the Stamp Duty Ordinance.

Filing Methods

Form SBUL 1 is available on the IRD website (Public Forms and Pamphlets > Public Forms). Borrowers may submit:

- (a) A completed paper form by post or in person to the Stamp Office; *or*
- (b) An electronic return filled with iAM Smart on GovHK.

Enquiries

For further clarification, please contact us at 2594 3029.

Stamp Office
May 2025