

# Mechanism for enterprises with provision of construction-related professional services in Mainland to apply for exemption from compulsory quarantine arrangement

The Development Bureau said today (May 18) that in accordance with the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2020, the Government has launched the mechanism for enterprises with provision of construction-related professional services (see Note) in the Mainland to apply for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement. The corresponding departments, including the Architectural Services Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the Planning Department and the Lands Department, have started processing applications.

Currently, travellers to the Mainland would still be subject to the 14-day compulsory quarantine requirement imposed by the Mainland authorities. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is discussing with the relevant authorities in the Mainland on mutual recognition of COVID-19 testing results conducted by recognised medical laboratories, with a view to exempting the quarantine requirement for Hong Kong travellers to these places. Details of the arrangement will be announced when available.

The Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2020 commenced on April 29 this year, amending the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong Regulation (Cap. 599C) (amended Regulation). The expiry date of the amended Regulation has been extended to June 7 this year. In accordance with the newly added section 4(1)(b) in the amended Regulation, the Chief Secretary for Administration may designate any person or category of persons for exemption from the compulsory quarantine arrangement if he is satisfied that the person's or persons' travelling is necessary for purposes relating to manufacturing operations, business activities or the provision of professional services in the interest of Hong Kong's economic development.

In accordance with the above-mentioned provision, the Chief Secretary for Administration has exempted the following categories of "Construction Personnel for Provision of Professional Services in the Mainland" from the compulsory quarantine arrangement with effect from May 13 this year:

(a) either the owner of an enterprise with a valid business registration certificate issued under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and with provision of construction-related professional services in the Mainland, and up to one person employed and so authorised by the enterprise; or

(b) up to two persons employed and so authorised by such an enterprise as described in (a).

An exempted person must only travel to and stay in the city/area where the construction-related professional services are provided for the purpose of provision of the intended construction-related professional services as approved, and must take every precautionary measure to ensure personal hygiene and avoid unnecessary social contact. After returning to Hong Kong, the exempted person will be subject to medical surveillance arranged by the Department of Health for a period of 14 days. The person will be required to wear masks and check body temperature daily, and report to the Department of Health on any discomfort.

Details of the exemption arrangement and the application form are in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively. The application form can be downloaded from the website of the Development Bureau ([www.devb.gov.hk/en/public\\_forms/index.html](http://www.devb.gov.hk/en/public_forms/index.html)).

Eligible enterprises should submit the completed application form with all required supporting documents to the corresponding departments by email as listed below.

Processing department	Professional services	Email	Enquiries
Architectural Services Department	Architectural, landscape architectural, structural engineering or quantity surveying services	<a href="mailto:wongcfw@archsd.gov.hk">wongcfw@archsd.gov.hk</a>	2867 3577
Civil Engineering and Development Department	Civil or geotechnical engineering services	<a href="mailto:quarantine_exemption@cedd.gov.hk">quarantine_exemption@cedd.gov.hk</a>	2762 5460
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Electrical, mechanical, building services or electronic engineering services	<a href="mailto:exempt@emsd.gov.hk">exempt@emsd.gov.hk</a>	2333 3762
Planning Department	Town planning services	<a href="mailto:enquire@pland.gov.hk">enquire@pland.gov.hk</a>	2231 5000
Lands Department	Surveying services (other than quantity surveying services)	<a href="mailto:599Cexemption@landsd.gov.hk">599Cexemption@landsd.gov.hk</a>	2231 3187

In processing the applications, the departments may consult the relevant trade associations or professional institutes as well as the relevant bureaux/departments when necessary. The departments will issue authorisation letters to the exempted persons, setting out the conditions for exemption.

For enquiries, please call the relevant departments as listed in the above table.

Note: Construction-related professional services cover architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, surveying and town planning services.

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## **DH urges public not to buy or use topical products with undeclared controlled ingredients (with photo)**

The Department of Health (DH) today (May 18) appealed to the public not to buy or use two topical products named Zangyao Xuanduwang and Qi Du Zang Wang Gao as they were found to contain undeclared controlled drug ingredients.

Acting upon a public complaint, the DH purchased samples of the above two products for analysis. Test results from the Government Laboratory revealed that the product samples contained undeclared Part 1 poisons under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (PPO) (Cap 138):

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A joint operation with the Police was conducted against a retail stall in Sau Mau Ping today. During the operation, a 65-year-old man was arrested by the Police for suspected illegal sale and possession of Part 1 poisons and unregistered pharmaceutical products.

The DH's investigation is continuing.

Clobetasol propionate is a steroid substance for treating inflammation. Inappropriate or excessive application of steroids could cause skin problems and body-wide side effects like moon face, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, muscle atrophy, adrenal insufficiency and osteoporosis. Products containing clobetasol propionate should be used under a doctor's directions and be supplied in a pharmacy under the supervision of a registered pharmacist upon a doctor's prescription. Miconazole and ketoconazole are used for the treatment of fungal infections with side effects including local irritation and sensitivity reactions.

According to the PPO, all pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong before they can be legally sold in the market. Illegal sale or possession of unregistered pharmaceutical products and Part 1 poisons are criminal offences. The maximum penalty for each offence is a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The public should not buy or use products of doubtful composition or from unknown sources. All registered pharmaceutical products should carry a Hong Kong registration number on the package in the format of "HK-XXXXX". The

safety, quality and efficacy of unregistered pharmaceutical products are not guaranteed.

People who have purchased the products concerned should stop using them and consult healthcare professionals if in doubt or feeling unwell after use. They can submit the products to the DH's Drug Office at Room 1801, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, during office hours for disposal.



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## [LegCo House Committee elects Chairman](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council House Committee held a meeting today (May 18) and Ms Starry Lee was elected as the Chairman for the 2019-2020 session.

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## [Appointment of Chief Executive Officer of Securities and Futures Commission](#)

The Government today (May 18) announced the re-appointment of Mr Ashley Alder as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC). The re-appointment is for a term of three years, from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2023.

The appointment was approved by the Chief Executive under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571).

Mr Alder has been appointed as the CEO of the SFC since October 1, 2011, and played a pivotal role in leading the SFC in setting strategic direction

and establishing it as a fair, effective and robust regulator amidst a fast-changing and challenging financial landscape both locally and globally. His able leadership and vision led the SFC to accomplish notable achievements through a range of policy and operational reforms that are crucial to enhancing market quality whilst encouraging market development to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a premier international financial centre.

The Government is pleased that Mr Alder has accepted its invitation to continue to lead the work of the SFC and facilitate market development in his new term. With the outbreak of COVID-19, the local, regional and global financial markets have been facing unprecedented challenges, volatility and uncertainties. Continuity of leadership at the SFC would significantly boost the confidence of international and local investors about Hong Kong's financial markets and be tremendously beneficial to financial stability.

#### Profile of Mr Ashley Alder

Aged 60, Mr Alder attained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London in 1982 and graduated from the University of Cambridge with a Master of Laws degree in 1983. He worked for the SFC as its Executive Director (Corporate Finance) from 2001 to 2004. Mr Alder has assumed the position of CEO of the SFC since October 1, 2011, prior to which he was a partner and Head of Asia of Herbert Smith. He is currently Chair of the Board of the International Organization of Securities Commissions.

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## **Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (May 18), one COVID-19 confirmed patient (case number: 1053) was discharged from hospital in the past 24 hours. So far, a total of 1 025 confirmed and suspected patients have been discharged.

At present, there are 659 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 219 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 27 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in nine hospitals, among which one patient is in critical condition (case number: 595), three patients are in serious condition (case numbers: 338, 461 and 713), and the remaining 23 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.