

Information Note on the Advisory Committee on
Code of Practice
for Recognized Certification Authorities

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(Version 2.2)

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Introduction

1. The information contained in this information note (version 2.2) does not form part of the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities and it is not intended to affect your rights and obligations. It is not intended to be relied upon as a statement of the legal position and you should consult your legal adviser before acting upon the information. This information note (version 2.2) supersedes version 2.1 of the same document published in August 2011.
2. The Government Chief Information Officer (the GCIO) may from time to time amend the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (Code of Practice) published under section 33 of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553) (the Ordinance). The GCIO may consult the industry, including certification authorities (CA) recognized under sections 21 and 34 of the Ordinance, in respect of the amendments to be made to the Code of Practice. The primary channel of consultation with the industry is through the Advisory Committee on Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (the Advisory Committee) that is chaired by the GCIO. The terms of reference and membership of the Advisory Committee are set out in the following paragraphs.

Terms of Reference

3. The terms of reference of the Advisory Committee are as follows -

To advise the GCIO on matters relating to the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities published under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553), in particular in respect of –

- (a) the review of the principles, technical standards and procedures set out in the Code of Practice for the operation of recognized CAs to take account of operational experience as well as technological and other relevant developments;
- (b) the consideration of amendments to the Code of Practice in the light of the outcome of the review referred to in (a) above and the related consultation arrangements; and
- (c) any other matters which are conducive to improving the operation of the voluntary recognition scheme for CAs in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Membership

4. The membership of the Advisory Committee is as follows –

Chairman

Government Chief Information Officer

Members

Legislative Councillor returned from the Information Technology Functional Constituency

Representative(s) of recognized certification authorities

A representative from the Law Society of Hong Kong

A representative from the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Members (ad personam) appointed by the Government Chief Information Officer from:

- academia;
- business users of certification services;
- ICT professional bodies and industry; or
- other related bodies.