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Details of the new inspection regime

A new inspection regime under the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance will be implemented in 3 phases, phase 1 has already been taken effect in late August and the rest will be enforced in 2022 and 2023. The purposes of the new regime are to enhance the protection of personal information while ensuring transparency of the Companies Register and public inspection remain uninterrupted.

What information will be protected by this new regime?

- Directors – Usual residential address (“**URA**”) and full ID number (“**IDN**”)
- Company Secretaries – Full IDN
(Together “**Protected Information**”)

How the information will be protected in each phase?

The Protected Information will be withheld in different documents phase by phase. Only correspondence addresses and partial IDNs are accessible to the public upon application of full protection in 2023. After the complete implementation of the new regime, only “specified persons” such as data subject, law enforcer, CPA and solicitor can inspect the Protected Information.

Phase 1 Effective Date: 23 Aug 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • URAs and full IDNs in registers of directors and company secretaries can be replaced by correspondence addresses and partial IDNs.
Phase 2 Effective Date: 24 Oct 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Information will be replaced by correspondence addresses and partial IDNs in:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Directors index search (b) Documents filed after the commencement of phase 2
Phase 3 Effective Date: 27 Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors and company secretaries can apply for protection of documents filed prior to the commencement of phase 2.