

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

SECURITIES ORDINANCE

SECURITIES (EXCHANGE - TRADED STOCK OPTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (No.3) RULES 2000

INTRODUCTION

16. At its meeting on 18 September 2000, the Securities and Futures Commission (“the Commission”) made the Securities (Exchange - Traded Stock Options) (Amendment) (No.3) Rules 2000 (“the Amendment Rules”). (Annex 1)

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

17. The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (“the SEHK”) began trading in stock options in September 1995.
18. The Commission has, in the past, made position and reporting limits in relation to those stock options under section 146(1) of the Securities Ordinance (Cap. 333), which parallel the limits set by the SEHK Options Clearing House Limited in its Operational Clearing Procedures for Options Trading Exchange Participants.
19. The Commission recently made amendments in respect of one existing stock options class and deleted one other stock options class, as set out in Annex 1.
20. The deletion stems from the merger of Cable & Wireless HKT Limited and Pacific Century CyberWorks. The amendment stems from the renaming of China Telecom (Hong Kong) Ltd to China Mobile (Hong Kong) Ltd. The trading and position limits are necessary to facilitate market surveillance.

THE AMENDMENT RULES

21. The Amendment Rules amend the Schedule to the Rules by deleting one existing stock options class and amending one other.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

22. Both the Commission and the SEHK support the changes noted above. Public consultation is considered unnecessary as the amendments are straightforward and technical in nature.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no financial or staffing implications for the Government.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

9. The Commencement date for the Amendment Rules will be 14 February 2001.

PUBLICITY

10. The Amendment Rules will be gazetted in the Government Gazette on 12 January 2001.

ENQUIRIES

12. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Thrity Mukadam, Counsel of the Legal Services Division, at 2840-9209 or Veronica Chang, Manager of the Supervision of Markets Division, at 2840-9296.

The Securities and Futures Commission
2 January 2001

**SECURITIES (EXCHANGE - TRADED STOCK OPTIONS)
(AMENDMENT) (No. 3) RULES 2000**

(Made by the Securities and Futures Commission under section
146(1)(p) of the Securities Ordinance (Cap. 333))

1. Commencement

These Rules shall come into operation on 14 February 2001.

2. Schedule amended

The Schedule to the Securities (Exchange - Traded Stock Options) Rules (Cap. 333 sub. leg.) is amended -

(a) by repealing item 2;

(b) by repealing item 50 and substituting -

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| "50. China Mobile (Hong Kong) Ltd. stock options contract | 5,000 contracts in any one expiry month | 1,000 contracts in any one expiry month". |
|--|---|---|

Andrew Len Tao SHENG
Chairman,
Securities and Futures Commission

15 December 2000

Explanatory Note

Under section 146(1)(p) of the Securities Ordinance (Cap. 333), the Securities and Futures Commission may prescribe limits on the number of stock options contracts traded on the Unified Exchange that may be held or controlled by any person.

2. Such limits are prescribed for the stock options contracts specified in the Schedule to the Securities (Exchange - Traded Stock Options) Rules (Cap. 333 sub. leg.). That Schedule is now amended by the repeal of 1 existing options class and the amendment of 1 existing options class.