

**Bills Committee on Legislation Publication Bill (the “Bill”)**

**Information paper on the Preparation of Consolidated Version of Ordinances**

At the meeting on 9 March 2011, the Bills Committee asked the Administration to elaborate on Clause 5 which is about the preparation of consolidated versions of Ordinances with status.

2. To facilitate understanding of the technical details involved in the legislation compilation and publication process, we shall use a hypothetical example to explain the process.

3. Diagram 1 is an example of a new Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council (“LegCo”), signed and promulgated by the Chief Executive. It is published in the Gazette (Legal Supplement No. 1) under section 20(1) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap.1). The term “as made Ordinance” under Clause 2 of the Bill refers to the gazetted version of the Ordinance which reflects the version as originally passed by the LegCo and promulgated by the Chief Executive. It is deemed to be an authentic copy of the Ordinance as at the date of publication under section 98(1) of Cap.1.

**Diagram 1** — As made (Gazetted) version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Ord. No. 18 of 2015)

<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ORDINANCE NO. 18 OF 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(L.S.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">XXXXXX Chief Executive 5 November 2015</p> <p>An Ordinance to specify certain diseases as infectious diseases and to provide for preventive and control measures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1 December 2015]</p> <p>Enacted by the Legislative Council.</p> <p><b>1. Short title and commencement</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases Ordinance.</p> <p>(2) This Ordinance comes into operation on 1 December 2015.</p> <p><b>2. Interpretation</b></p> <p>In this Ordinance—</p> <p><b>Director</b> (署長) means the Director of Health;</p> <p><b>specified infectious disease</b> (指明傳染病) means an infectious disease specified in Schedule 1.</p> <p><b>3. Director may amend Schedule 1</b></p> <p>The Director may by notice published in the Gazette amend Schedule 1.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Diseases</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dengue fever</li> <li>2. Influenza A (H2)</li> <li>3. Malaria</li> <li>4. Measles</li> </ol>
---	---

4. According to section 2 of the Laws (Loose-leaf publication) Ordinance 1990, the Secretary for Justice (“SJ”) may in the loose-leaf edition give a chapter number to each Ordinance and omit any enacting, expired or spent provision from any Ordinance. Clauses 11 and 12(1)(g) of the Bill provide for similar powers. The version of an Ordinance that is included in the loose-leaf edition is therefore different from the gazetted version as at least the enacting provision is omitted. To distinguish between the gazetted version and the version compiled by SJ to facilitate public access, the term “consolidated version of Ordinance” is used to denote the version prepared by SJ and included in the loose-leaf edition.

5. As shown in Diagram 2, a chapter number (i.e. Cap. 828) is assigned to the Infectious Diseases Ordinance. Both the enacting provision (i.e. “Enacted by the Legislative Council”) and the commencement provision (i.e. section 1(2)) are omitted. The consolidated version compiled has a “unless the contrary is proved ... shall be deemed to be correct” status. (s.3 of the Laws (Loose-leaf Publication) Ordinance 1990) The public could always verify the consolidated version against the as made version of the Ordinance published in the Gazette.

**Diagram 2** — Consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 1 December 2015

<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPTER 828</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES ORDINANCE</b></p> <p>An Ordinance to specify certain diseases as infectious diseases and to provide for preventive and control measures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1 December 2015]</p> <p><b>1. Short title</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases Ordinance.</p> <p>(2) <i>(Omitted as spent)</i></p> <p><b>2. Interpretation</b></p> <p>In this Ordinance—</p> <p><b>Director</b> (署長) means the Director of Health,</p> <p><b>specified infectious disease</b> (指明傳染病) means an infectious disease specified in Schedule 1.</p> <p><b>3. Director may amend Schedule 1</b></p> <p>The Director may by notice published in the Gazette amend Schedule 1.</p> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 1</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Diseases</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dengue fever</li> <li>2. Influenza A (H2)</li> <li>3. Malaria</li> <li>4. Measles</li> </ol>
--	--

6. An Ordinance may be amended over time. In our hypothetical example, the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 is passed by LegCo to amend the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828). The amending Ordinance is gazetted in Legal Supplement No.1 and the gazetted version is the “as made” version of the amending Ordinance and is deemed to be an authentic copy of that amending Ordinance as at the date of publication.

**Diagram 3** — As made (Gazetted) version of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 (Ord. No. 8 of 2016)

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016	Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016
Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span>	Section 4 <span style="float: right;">2</span>
<p>HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION</p> <p>ORDINANCE NO. 8 OF 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(L.S.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">XXXXXX Chief Executive 5 May 2016</p> <p>An Ordinance to amend the Infectious Diseases Ordinance to provide for the specification of infectious diseases and infectious agents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[6 May 2016]</p> <p>Enacted by the Legislative Council.</p> <p><b>1. Short title and commencement</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016.</p> <p>(2) This Ordinance (except sections 3, 4 and 6) comes into operation on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.</p> <p>(3) Sections 3, 4 and 6 come into operation on 8 August 2016.</p> <p><b>2. Infectious Diseases Ordinance amended</b></p> <p>The Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 6.</p> <p><b>3. Section 2 amended (Interpretation)</b></p> <p>Section 2, after definition of <i>Director</i>—</p> <p><b>Add</b></p> <p><i>“specified infectious agent (指明傳染性病原體) means an infectious agent specified in Schedule 2.”</i></p>	<p><b>4. Section 3 amended (Director may amend Schedule 1)</b></p> <p>(1) Section 3, heading—</p> <p><b>Repeal</b></p> <p>“Schedule 1”</p> <p><b>Substitute</b></p> <p>“Schedules 1 and 2”.</p> <p>(2) Section 3—</p> <p><b>Repeal</b></p> <p>“Schedule 1”</p> <p><b>Substitute</b></p> <p>“Schedules 1 and 2”.</p> <p><b>5. Schedule 1 amended (Specified Infectious Diseases)</b></p> <p>After item 4—</p> <p><b>Add</b></p> <p>“5. Smallpox</p> <p>6. Yellow fever”.</p> <p><b>6. Schedule 2 added</b></p> <p>After Schedule 1—</p> <p><b>Add</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">“Schedule 2 <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Agents</b></p> <p>1. Ebola virus</p> <p>2. Yellow fever virus”.</p>

7. To facilitate public access to the current version of the law, we undertake the task of incorporating the amendments into the consolidated version of an Ordinance and publishing it in both the Loose-leaf edition and the BLIS. In future, we will continue publishing the consolidated versions of Ordinances in both printed and electronic format. We will explain the publication arrangements in a separate paper.

8. At any given time, there will only be one consolidated version representing the law at that time. However, one amending Ordinance could require more than one consolidated version of the principal Ordinance to be prepared for different dates, depending on the commencement arrangements of the amending Ordinance. In our example, the amendments under the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 are to be commenced on two different dates, namely on gazettal (i.e. 6 May 2016) and 8 August 2016. Diagrams 4 and 5 show the consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance on 6 May 2016 (the gazettal date) and 8 August 2016 respectively. The incorporation is marked in green and shaded in grey for easy reference.

9. After the amendments in section 5 of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 are incorporated into the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828), the consolidated version will be as follows—

**Diagram 4** — Consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 6 May 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPTER 828</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES ORDINANCE</b></p> <p>An Ordinance to specify certain diseases as infectious diseases and to provide for preventive and control measures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1 December 2015]</p> <p><b>1. Short title</b>          (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases Ordinance.          (2) <i>(Omitted as spent)</i></p> <p><b>2. Interpretation</b>          In this Ordinance—  <i>Director</i> (署長) means the Director of Health;  <i>specified infectious disease</i> (指明傳染病) means an infectious disease specified in Schedule 1.</p> <p><b>3. Director may amend Schedule 1</b>          The Director may by notice published in the Gazette amend Schedule 1.</p> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 1</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Diseases</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dengue fever</li> <li>2. Influenza A (H2)</li> <li>3. Malaria</li> <li>4. Measles</li> <li>5. Smallpox <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> <li>6. Yellow fever <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> </ol>
--	--

10. After the amendments in sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 are incorporated into the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828), the new consolidated version will be as follows—

**Diagram 5 — Consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 8 August 2016**

<p>Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[CHAPTER 828</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES ORDINANCE</b></p> <p>An Ordinance to specify certain diseases as infectious diseases and to provide for preventive and control measures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1 December 2015]</p> <p><b>1. Short title</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases Ordinance.</p> <p>(2) <i>(Omitted as spent)</i></p> <p><b>2. Interpretation</b></p> <p>In this Ordinance—</p> <p><b>Director</b> (署長) means the Director of Health;</p> <p><b>specified infectious agent</b> (指明傳染性病原體) means an infectious agent specified in Schedule 2; <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 3)</i></p> <p><b>specified infectious disease</b> (指明傳染病) means an infectious disease specified in Schedule 1.</p> <p><b>3. Director may amend Schedules 1 and 2</b></p> <p>The Director may by notice published in the Gazette amend Schedules 1 and 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Amended 8 of 2016 s. 4)</i></p>	<p>Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 1</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Diseases</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dengue fever</li> <li>2. Influenza A (H2)</li> <li>3. Malaria</li> <li>4. Measles</li> <li>5. Smallpox <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> <li>6. Yellow fever <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> </ol> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 2</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Agents</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ebola virus</li> <li>2. Yellow fever virus</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Schedule 2 added 8 of 2016 s. 6)</i></p>
--	---

**Certification by the Law Draftsman (“LD”)**

11. Under the Bill, LD can only certify consolidated versions of an Ordinance. A certification by LD will mean that LD certifies that the act of incorporation of amendments has been done correctly and thus the public could rely on that consolidated version for evidentiary purposes. With a view to facilitating the public to recognize whether a consolidated version published in the Database is certified, we will affix suitable symbols, signs or notes to a certified consolidated version.

12. As regards the need for LD’s certification that a consolidated version of an Ordinance is an authorised copy of the Ordinance, we have carefully considered the practice in other common law jurisdictions before proposing the arrangement under Clause 5. **Annex A** contains a number of examples, including Victoria and New South Wales in Australia and Canada (Federal), for members’ reference. In Victoria, an electronic version of legislation published on the Victorian Legislation Website is an authorised electronic version if (a) it is in the format authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel; (b) the words “Authorised Version” appear at the beginning of the version; and (c) the words “Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel” appear at

the foot of each page of the version. In New South Wales, there is an authorisation statement on the cover of the authorised copy of the Ordinance that the form of the Ordinance is certified to be correct. In Canada (Federal), the text of section 31 of the Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act appears at the beginning of the downloaded copy of an Act reminding users of the official status of that copy of the Act. We will draw on the experience of overseas jurisdictions and take into account the local circumstances and practice before deciding on the means to be adopted for distinguishing certified consolidated versions from uncertified ones.

13. On the other hand, no certification is required or intended for the “as made” (Gazetted) version of an Ordinance contained in the Database. A copy of an “as made Ordinance” that may be put in the Database will have the “presumed to be correct” status (Clause 7 of the Bill) while the hardcopy gazetted as made version is deemed to be authentic.

### **Status of current and past consolidated versions**

14. We shall use the above example to explain the status of different consolidated versions in the Database. We assume that the Database will be available in November 2015 (“**cut-off date**”). The first consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) shows the Ordinance as at 1 December 2015. It will be certified by LD under the Bill to have an authorised status. On the commencement of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2016, this first consolidated version will become a past version (since it will no longer reflect the law after the commencement date) but will still be kept in the Database as a past version. The subsequent consolidated versions (i.e., the ones showing the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 6 May 2016 and 8 August 2016), which are all compiled after the cut-off date, will also enjoy the authorised status.

15. Therefore, if a user reads the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) from the Database in November 2016, the user will be able to find the current consolidated version and two past consolidated versions of the Ordinance, all with authorised status.

	<b>Version Dates</b>	<b>Status</b>
Current Version	8 August 2016	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
Past Version	6 May 2016	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
	1 December 2015	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)

16. The arrangement is a little different for an Ordinance that is enacted before the cut-off date in November 2015 (with subsequent amendments to the Ordinance both before and after the cut-off date). The following table sets out the status of different consolidated versions of the Ordinance.

	<b>Version Dates</b>	<b>Status</b>
Current Version	1 July 2017	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
Past Version	1 May 2016	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
	1 March 2014	For information (without LD's certification)
	1 January 2012	For information (without LD's certification)

17. All the past consolidated versions of an Ordinance before the cut-off date will be for information only. The approach of prospectively certifying consolidated versions dating after the cut-off date is consistent with that adopted in various jurisdictions.

18. As the keeper of the statute book, we wish to facilitate research and dissemination of laws. For this purpose, when the Database is made available for public use, past consolidated versions of Ordinances (i.e. versions from 30 June 1997 to the cut-off date) stored in BLIS will also be available in the Database for users' reference.

### Enhancement to the searching functions of the Database

19. The following is a hypothetical example with a special commencement arrangement. It is assumed that the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Ord. 8 of 2018) is to come into operation at 11:00a.m. on 8 August 2018.

**Diagram 6** — As made (Gazetted) version of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Ord. No. 8 of 2018)

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018	Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018
Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span>	Section 4 <span style="float: right;">2</span>
<p>HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION</p> <p>ORDINANCE NO. 8 OF 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L.S.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">XXXXXX Chief Executive 4 May 2018</p> <p>An Ordinance to amend the Infectious Diseases Ordinance to provide for the specification of infectious agents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[8 August 2018]</p> <p>Enacted by the Legislative Council.</p> <p><b>1. Short title and commencement</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018.</p> <p>(2) This Ordinance comes into operation at 11 a.m. on 8 August 2018.</p> <p><b>2. Infectious Diseases Ordinance amended</b></p> <p>The Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) is amended as set out in sections 3 and 4.</p> <p><b>3. Section 2 amended (Interpretation)</b></p> <p>(1) Section 2, definition of <i>specified infectious disease</i>— <b>Repeal the full stop</b> <b>Substitute a semicolon.</b></p> <p>(2) Section 2, after definition of <i>specified infectious disease</i>—</p>	<p><b>Add</b></p> <p>“WHO (世衛) means the World Health Organization.”.</p> <p><b>4. Schedule 2 amended (Specified Infectious Agents)</b></p> <p>After item 2—</p> <p><b>Add</b></p> <p>“3. Any infectious agents specified by WHO”.</p>

20. After the amendments in sections 3 and 4 of the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 are incorporated into the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828), the new consolidated version will be as follows—



**Diagram 7 — Consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 11:00a.m. on 8 August 2018**

<p>Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Section 1 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHAPTER 828</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES ORDINANCE</b></p> <p>An Ordinance to specify certain diseases as infectious diseases and to provide for preventive and control measures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[1 December 2015]</p> <p><b>1. Short title</b></p> <p>(1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Infectious Diseases Ordinance.</p> <p>(2) <i>(Omitted as spent)</i></p> <p><b>2. Interpretation</b></p> <p>In this Ordinance—</p> <p><b>Director</b> (署長) means the Director of Health;</p> <p><b>specified infectious agent</b> (指明傳染性病原體) means an infectious agent specified in Schedule 2; <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 3)</i></p> <p><b>specified infectious disease</b> (指明傳染病) means an infectious disease specified in Schedule 1; <i>(Amended 8 of 2018 s. 3)</i></p> <p><b>WHO</b> (世衛) means the World Health Organization. <i>(Added 8 of 2018 s. 3)</i></p> <p><b>3. Director may amend Schedules 1 and 2</b></p> <p>The Director may by notice published in the Gazette amend Schedules 1 and 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Amended 8 of 2016 s. 4)</i></p> <hr/>	<p>Infectious Diseases Ordinance</p> <hr/> <p>Schedule 1 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 1</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Diseases</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dengue fever</li> <li>2. Influenza A (H2)</li> <li>3. Malaria</li> <li>4. Measles</li> <li>5. Smallpox <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> <li>6. Yellow fever <i>(Added 8 of 2016 s. 5)</i></li> </ol> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule 2</b> <span style="float: right;">[ss. 2 &amp; 3]</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Specified Infectious Agents</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ebola virus</li> <li>2. Yellow fever virus</li> <li>3. <b>Any infectious agents specified by WHO</b> <i>(Added 8 of 2018 s. 4)</i></li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Schedule 2 added 8 of 2016 s. 6)</i></p>
---	---

21. As an enhancement to the searching functions of the Database, we wish to include the “time” element in the Database to cater for these special commencement arrangements so that the public would know in the above example that there were two different consolidated versions of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at different times on 8 August 2018.

22. We are planning to provide point-in-time searching functions in the Database so that if a user chooses to see the version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) on 8 August 2018, two consolidated versions will pop up, one effective from 11:00a.m. on 8 August 2018 and the other valid before 11:00a.m. on 8 August 2018 (i.e. the version on 8 August 2016).

23. If there is any commencement of an Ordinance at a specified time on a particular day after the establishment of the Database, LD will certify the consolidated version of the Ordinance as the authorised copy of the Ordinance as at that specified time on that particular date. The following table shows that the consolidated version of the Infectious Diseases Ordinance (Cap. 828) as at 11:00a.m. on 8 August 2018 is certified by LD as an authorised copy of that Ordinance.

	<b>Version Dates</b>	<b>Status</b>
Current Version	8 August 2018 (Version as at 11:00a.m.)	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
Past Version	8 August 2016	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
	6 May 2016	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)
	1 December 2015	Presumed to be correct (with LD's certification)

**Department of Justice**  
**March 2011**

Victoria, Australia**About Authorised Versions****▼ What is an authorised version?**

An authorised version is:

- an authorised electronic version of legislation; or
- a printed copy of an authorised electronic version of legislation that has been printed directly from an authorised electronic version of legislation.

**▼ What is an authorised electronic version of legislation?**

An authorised electronic version of legislation is an electronic version of legislation published on the Victorian Legislation Website that is authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

An electronic version of legislation published on the Victorian Legislation Website is an authorised electronic version if:

- it is in the format authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel;
- the words "Authorised Version" appear at the beginning of the version;
- the words "Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel" appear at the foot of each page of the version.

How the authorisation is symbolized.

**▼ What makes an authorised electronic version of legislation different from other electronic versions of legislation that are available from the Victorian Legislation Website?**

Unlike, other electronic versions of legislation that are available from the Victorian Legislation Website, under section 64 of **the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984**, an authorised electronic version, or a hard copy print of that version, has the same evidentiary value as a hard copy Act or Statutory Rule printed by the Victorian Government Printer.

**▼ What kinds of legislation will be authorised electronic versions?**

An authorised electronic version will be produced for each new Act that is enacted and each new Statutory Rule that is made after 1 January 2011. cut-off date

Also, from 1 January 2011, authorised electronic versions of consolidations of Acts and Statutory Rules will be progressively added to the Law Today repository on the Victorian Legislation Website.

**▼ What distinguishes an authorised electronic version from any other electronic version of legislation available from the Victorian Legislation Website?**

An authorised electronic version will be distinguishable from other electronic versions because of the following:

- authorised versions will be located in a blue shaded container in the Statute Book and Law Today repositories;
- authorised versions will have the words "Authorised Version" appearing at the beginning of the version;
- authorised versions will have the words "Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel" appearing at the foot of each page of the version;
- authorised versions will have the word "authorised" in their file names; and
- authorised versions will have a digital signature stating that the version is authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel of Victoria.

**Authorised Version No. 102**  
**Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984**  
**No. 10096 of 1984**  
**Authorised Version incorporating amendments as at**  
**1 January 2011**

**TABLE OF PROVISIONS**

<i>Section</i>		<i>Page</i>
<b>PART I—PRELIMINARY</b>		
1	Short title	1
2	Commencement	1
3	Definitions	1
4	Application, construction and repeal provisions	2
5	Act to bind Crown	3
<b>PART II—PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ACTS</b>		
6	Construction of Acts	4
7	Sections to be substantive enactments	4
8	Amendment or repeal in same session	4
9	Citation of Acts by number	4
10	Citation of Acts by title	5
10A	Construction of power to fix commencement of Act	6
11	Time of commencement and date of passing of Acts	7
12	Time of expiry of temporary Acts	8
13	Exercise of powers between passing and commencement of Act	8
14	Provision as to effect of repeal etc. of Acts	10
15	Effect of repeal etc. of amending Act	12
16	Repeal and re-enactment	13
17	Construction of references in Acts to other enactments	13
18	References in Acts to provisions of subordinate instruments	15
19	Citation of references in Acts	15
20	Construction of references in Acts to portions of Acts or subordinate instruments	18
21	Meaning of certain expressions in Acts	18
21A	Incorporation of amendments	19

## NSW, Australia

### Status

The NSW legislation website is established under Part 6A of the *Interpretation Act 1987* as the official NSW government site for the online publication of legislation.

### Legislation authorised

Section 45C (5) of the *Interpretation Act 1987* enables the Parliamentary Counsel to certify the form of legislation that is correct. Most of the legislative content on this site has been so certified by the Parliamentary Counsel and in particular all items in:

- the In Force database (in HTML format)
- the As Made database (in PDF) dated 2000 or later.

### Legislation not authorised

The following categories of legislative content have not been so certified at this stage:

- Pre-2000 titles in PDF in the As Made database (these were scanned and have not been fully proofread and carry the risk that portions of the material may have scanned incorrectly).
- PDF versions of titles in the In Force database.
- PDF versions of maps for selected titles in the In Force database, being maps referred to in the titles and available from a map index link.
- Documents adopted by reference in any title.

These items should be treated as being reference documents only and users should exercise their own skill and care with respect to the use of the material.

### Legislation—History of E-publishing

The authorisation of the legislation on this website is the product of a long process of moving from paper-based to electronic access to legislation. This process is one common to many Australian drafting offices, and was described in a paper given at the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC) conference in Hong Kong in April 2009. [The long march: pen and paper drafting to E-publishing law](#) is an edited and updated version of that paper.

NSW, Australia

## Interpretation Act 1987 No 15

Current version for 1 March 2011 to date (accessed 14 March 2011 at 13:05)

Status information

page >>



New South Wales

### Status information

#### Currency of version

Current version for 1 March 2011 to date (accessed 14 March 2011 at 13:05). ←

Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

#### Provisions in force

All the provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have commenced. For commencement and other details see the Historical notes

#### Responsible Minister

Premier

**Authorisation:** This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the Interpretation Act 1987. ↑

File last modified 1 March 2011.

Authorisation Statement

Federal, CanadaDepartment of Justice  
CanadaMinistère de la Justice  
Canada

Canada

[Home](#) > [Important Note](#)

## Note from The Department of Justice Canada

### Consolidation Official

As of June 1, 2009, the consolidated Acts and regulations on the Justice Laws Web site are "official", meaning that they can be used for evidentiary purposes.

Amendments made to the *Statute Revision Act*, renamed the *Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act* by chapter 5 of the 2000 Statutes of Canada, in force on June 1, 2009, authorize the Minister of Justice to publish an electronic consolidation of statutes and regulations and provide that the consolidation is evidence of those statutes and regulations. The Act also provides that, in the case of an inconsistency between the consolidated statute or regulation and the original or a subsequent amendment, the original or amendment prevails.

For the text of the relevant provisions of the *Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act*, [click here](#).

### Reproductions

The Department of Justice Canada assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any reproduction derived from the legislative material on this site.

### Interpretation and Application

For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult:

the original and amending Acts as passed by Parliament, which are published in the "Assented to" Acts service, in Part III of the Canada Gazette and in the annual Statutes of Canada, and

the original and amending regulations, as registered by the Clerk of the Privy Council and published in Part II of the Canada Gazette.

The above-mentioned publications are available in most public libraries.

### Related Information

[How to link](#)

[Reproduction of Federal Law Order](#)

Last updated: 2011-03-10

Federal, Canada



CANADA

CONSOLIDATION

CODIFICATION

Legislation Revision and  
Consolidation Act

Loi sur la révision et la  
codification des textes  
législatifs

CHAPTER S-20

CHAPITRE S-20

Current to February 26, 2011

À jour au 26 février 2011

Published by the Minister of Justice at the following address:  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca>

Publié par le ministre de la Justice à l'adresse suivante :  
<http://lois-laws.justice.gc.ca>



OFFICIAL STATUS  
OF CONSOLIDATIONS

CARACTÈRE OFFICIEL  
DES CODIFICATIONS

Subsections 31(1) and (2) of the *Legislation Revision and Consolidation Act*, in force on June 1, 2009, provide as follows:

Les paragraphes 31(1) et (2) de la *Loi sur la révision et la codification des textes législatifs*, en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 2009, prévoient ce qui suit :

Published  
consolidation is  
evidence

31. (1) Every copy of a consolidated statute or consolidated regulation published by the Minister under this Act in either print or electronic form is evidence of that statute or regulation and of its contents and every copy purporting to be published by the Minister is deemed to be so published, unless the contrary is shown.

31. (1) Tout exemplaire d'une loi codifiée ou d'un règlement codifié, publié par le ministre en vertu de la présente loi sur support papier ou sur support électronique, fait foi de cette loi ou de ce règlement et de son contenu. Tout exemplaire donné comme publié par le ministre est réputé avoir été ainsi publié, sauf preuve contraire.

Codifications  
comme élément  
de preuve

Inconsistencies  
in Acts

(2) In the event of an inconsistency between a consolidated statute published by the Minister under this Act and the original statute or a subsequent amendment as certified by the Clerk of the Parliaments under the *Publication of Statutes Act*, the original statute or amendment prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

(2) Les dispositions de la loi d'origine avec ses modifications subséquentes par le greffier des Parlements en vertu de la *Loi sur la publication des lois* l'emportent sur les dispositions incompatibles de la loi codifiée publiée par le ministre en vertu de la présente loi.

Incompatibilité  
— lois