

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

**Information paper on Availability of Hong Kong Laws and the
Contents of the Database**

In response to members’ request, we have prepared a table showing the availability of Hong Kong laws in both as made and consolidated form. The term “launch date” means the date on which the Database is available for public use.

Availability of Hong Kong laws

Items for comparison	Legislation made/revise from the 1st issue of Loose-leaf to 29 June 1997	Legislation made/revise from 30 June 1997 to the day before the launch date	Legislation made/revise from the launch date
As made version (hardcopy)	Gazette (authentic)		
As made version (softcopy)	Not available (will be considered in due course)	E-gazette on GLD ¹ 's website (available since May 2000 and for info only)	Database (with official status)
Consolidated version (hardcopy)	Loose-leaf Edition of Hong Kong Laws (Issues 1 to 44 up to April 2011) (with official status)		Booklet / Direct print-out from the Database (with official status)
Consolidated version (softcopy)	Not available (will be considered in due course)	In BLIS ² , but will be migrated to the Database on its establishment (For info only)	Database or other storage media ³ (with official status) ⁴

¹ Government Logistics Department

² Bilingual Laws Information System

³ The Bill will provide for the status of the storage media supplied by the Government

⁴ Version of a legislation would only be given a status after it has been verified by the Laws Draftsman that the consolidation has been done correctly.

Contents of the Database

2. The following items would be included in the Database—
 - (a) **Consolidated version of Hong Kong Laws from 30 June 1997**
 - (i) Current consolidated version (version with official status will be properly identified)
 - (ii) Past consolidated version (version with official status will be properly identified)
 - (b) **As made version of Hong Kong Laws from May 2000**⁵
 - (i) As made version from May 2000 to the day before the launch date (for information only)
 - (A) Legal Supplement No. 1 (Ordinances)
 - (B) Legal Supplement No. 2 (Sub. Leg.)
 - (ii) As made version from the launch date (with official status)
 - (A) Legal Supplement No. 1 (Ordinances)
 - (B) Legal Supplement No. 2 (Sub. Leg.)
 - (c) **Bills to be introduced or introduced into the Legislative Council from May 2000** (for information only)
 - (i) Legal Supplement No. 3 (Blue Bills)
 - (ii) Legal Supplement No. 5 (White Bills)
 - (iii) Legal Supplement No. 6 (Private Bills)

⁵ The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Gazette is normally published on Friday. It consists of several parts—

Main Gazette - statutory notices, for appointments, departmental notices and public tenders;
Legal Supplements: No. 1 - Ordinances, *No. 2* - Regulations and *No.3* - Bills;
Special Supplement No. 4 - Periodical lists of registered professionals, etc;
Special Supplement No. 5 - Draft Bills, Executive Orders, Orders of the State Council, etc;
Supplement No. 6 - Public Notices.

- (d) **National laws applying in Hong Kong from 1 July 1997**⁶
(with official status)
- (e) **Other legislation applying in Hong Kong from 1 July 1997** (e.g. Basic Law) (with official status)
- (f) **Records of permitted amendments**
- (g) **Other materials and information that the Secretary for Justice considers useful to the users of the Database** (e.g. the current “Treaties and Bilateral Agreements” database in the BLIS)
- (h) **User’s aids**
 - (i) Information on how to use the Database (e.g. FAQs, important notices)
 - (ii) Subject index
 - (iii) Glossary of legal terms⁷
 - (iii) “What’s new?” e.g. weekly / monthly updates
 - (iv) “E-mail alert” service for subscribers
 - (v) Related legal sites

Department of Justice
April 2011

⁶ Following the existing practice of the BLIS and the Loose-leaf Edition, we would include national laws that apply in Hong Kong in the Database to facilitate research.

⁷ (ii) and (iii) are currently in BLIS.