

**L.N. 102 of 2015**

**Solicitors' Practice (Amendment) Rules 2015**

(Made by the Council of The Law Society of Hong Kong under section 73 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) subject to the prior approval of the Chief Justice)

**1. Commencement**

These Rules come into operation on the day on which the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 (22 of 2012) comes into operation.

**2. Solicitors' Practice Rules amended**

The Solicitors' Practice Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. H) are amended as set out in rules 3 and 4.

**3. Rule 2A amended (name of firm)**

After rule 2A(2)—

**Add**

“(3) Despite subrules (1) and (2), for a firm that is not a limited liability partnership within the meaning of section 7AB of the Ordinance—

- (a) if the firm has an English name, the firm must not include, as part of that name—
  - (i) the words “limited liability partnership”;
  - (ii) the abbreviation “L.L.P.” or “LLP”; or
  - (iii) any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership within the meaning of that section;

- (b) if the firm has a Chinese name, the firm must not include, as part of that name—
  - (i) the words “有限法律責任合夥”; or
  - (ii) any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership within the meaning of that section; and
- (c) if the firm has a name in a language other than English or Chinese, the firm must not include, as part of that name, any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership within the meaning of that section.”.

**4. Rule 5 amended (particulars relating to firms)**

Rule 5(1B)—

**Repeal**

“A”

**Substitute**

“Subject to rule 5(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships (Top-up Insurance) Rules, a”.

Approved this 30th day of April 2015.

Geoffrey MA  
Chief Justice

Made this 14th day of May 2015.

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## Explanatory Note

These Rules amend the Solicitors' Practice Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. H) (*principal Rules*).

2. Rule 2A of the principal Rules is amended by adding a new subrule (3) (*new provision*) to make it clear that, except for a firm as defined by rule 1A of the principal Rules (*firm*) that is a limited liability partnership within the meaning of section 7AB of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) (*limited liability partnership*), a firm—
  - (a) must not include, in its English name, the words “limited liability partnership” or the abbreviation “L.L.P.” or “LLP”, or any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership;
  - (b) must not include, in its Chinese name, the words “有限法律責任合夥”, or any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership; and
  - (c) must not include, in its any other name, any words or abbreviations that convey the message that the firm is a limited liability partnership.
3. These Rules further make it clear that rule 2A(1) and (2) of the principal Rules is subject to the new provision.

4. These Rules also amend rule 5(1B) of the principal Rules to ensure that after the coming into operation of rule 5 of the Limited Liability Partnerships (Top-up Insurance) Rules (*Top-up Insurance Rules*), there would not be any conflict or inconsistency between the requirement for provision of evidence under rule 5(1B) of the principal Rules and the requirement under rule 5 of the Top-up Insurance Rules.