

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. LS5/15-16

**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
on 6 November 2015**

**Legal Service Division Report on
Subsidiary Legislation Gazetted on 30 October 2015**

Tabling in LegCo : Council meeting of 4 November 2015

Amendment to be made by : Council meeting of 2 December 2015 (or that of 6 January 2016 if extended by resolution)

Post Office (Amendment) Regulation 2015

(L.N. 214)

L.N. 214 is made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance (Cap. 98) to amend the Post Office Regulations (Cap. 98A). The major amendments are summarized below:

- (a) increasing the fees by around 9% to 200% for 14 types of postal services (including postal box and bag rentals, recorded delivery fee, parcel demurrage charge, charge for money order for overseas payment, fee for an advice of payment for money order, etc.);
- (b) revising the rates and service conditions of three types of postal services (i.e. the Business Reply System service, the redirection service of postal packets and the "cash on delivery parcels" service);
- (c) introducing a new licence fee (at \$98) for Freepost service; and
- (d) removing the references to six obsolete postal fees.

2. According to paragraph 17 of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Brief (File Ref: CITB CR 5/4-60/1C) issued by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau dated 15 October 2015, the fees for the 14 items are increased to reflect the cumulative inflation from the respective last adjustments up to 31 December 2014. Members may refer to Annex G to the LegCo Brief for the details on the fee revision. The above postal fees were last revised in various periods ranging from July 1981 to December 2013.

3. Members may wish to note that L.N. 214 does not cover the proposed increase in the rates of the principal postage (i.e. rates of Local Mail (Letters and Packets), Surface and Air Mail (Letters and Packets) and Local Parcels) which will take effect from 1 January 2016. Under section 4(1) of Cap. 98, these rates may be determined by the Postmaster General by administrative means. According to paragraph 16 of the LegCo Brief, the overall weighted average increase in the principal postage rates is 6.2%. Members may refer to paragraphs 9 to 16 of the LegCo Brief for details on the principal postage rates and Annexes C to F to the LegCo Brief for a summary regarding the increases. These rates were last adjusted in October 2013.

4. As advised by the Clerk to the Panel on Economic Development, the Administration consulted the Panel on 26 October 2015 on the proposed amendments covered by L.N. 214. Members of the Panel also exchanged views with Hongkong Post (HKP) on various matters including improvements to postal services and competitiveness of HKP's services vis-à-vis private courier services.

5. L.N. 214 comes into operation on 1 February 2016.

6. No difficulties have been identified in the legal and drafting aspects of L.N. 214.

Prepared by

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