

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Employees Retraining Ordinance
(Chapter 423)

EMPLOYEES RETRAINING ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 2) NOTICE 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Employees Retraining Ordinance (ERO) (Chapter 423 of the Laws of Hong Kong) provides that a training body of the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) will need to be specified in Schedule 2 (the Schedule) to the ERO and that the ERB may, by notice in the Gazette, amend the Schedule. This brief informs Members that the ERB has recently (on 4 January 2016) made the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2016 (the Notice), a copy attached at the **Annex**, to amend the Schedule by adding one organisation as a training body of the ERB and repealing five training bodies from the Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

2. The ERB is an independent statutory body established in 1992 under the ERO. ERB courses are market-driven and employment-oriented. To respond flexibly to changes in the job market, the ERB provides courses and services with market demand through coordinating the activities of, allocating resources to and monitoring the performance of its training bodies. Through the provision of suitable training courses and services, the ERB aims to improve the competitiveness of the local labour force for sustainable employment, thereby contributing to the promotion of the economic and social development of Hong Kong.

3. The ERB, in collaboration with its training bodies, offers over 700 courses straddling 28 industries with employment potential under

the “Manpower Development Scheme”. The ERB also organises training courses on personal attributes and generic skills (workplace Chinese, English, Putonghua, business numeracy and application of information technology). To fully implement the “Manpower Development Scheme”, the ERB needs to establish partnership with training bodies of different backgrounds and specialisation.

4. The ERB vets and approves applications to become its training bodies on the basis of the following criteria –

- (a) organisation information and governance;
- (b) experience in youth/adult education and vocational training;
- (c) availability of relevant employers’ networks and capability and experience in providing placement services (applicable only to training providers offering placement-tied courses);
- (d) qualifications of instructors and quality of training facilities;
- (e) location of training centres; and
- (f) contribution to the “Manpower Development Scheme”.

5. After vetting the applications and supporting documents submitted by the training bodies, the Executive Office of the ERB will make recommendations to its “Quality Assurance and Review Committee” (the Committee) for approval. The Committee’s decision will need to be endorsed by the full Board of the ERB. The ERB will then add the new training bodies into the Schedule and publish them in the form of a Gazette notice. Only training bodies which are listed in the Schedule may take part in the tendering exercises for organising ERB courses.

6. To ensure the quality of courses and services, all training bodies of the ERB are required to comply with a set of administrative guidelines on the proper delivery of ERB courses and services. Key performance indicators have been formulated for assessing the performance of the training bodies. A “risk-and-performance-based” quality assurance mechanism, including annual audits, surprise inspections, class visits by teaching advisors, observation of assessments by technical advisors, training of instructors, accreditation of courses, conduct of standardised practical skills assessments, etc., has also been put in place.

7. The training bodies of ERB are listed in the Schedule which is updated by the ERB as and when necessary. As at 3 January 2016,

there were 101 training bodies on the Schedule.

Addition of One New Training Body

8. On 4 January 2016, the ERB made the Notice to amend the Schedule to include The Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong to the Schedule, after this organisation has been duly endorsed by the full Board of the ERB as its training body in accordance with the procedure as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

Repeal of Five Training Bodies

9. The Notice was also made to amend the Schedule to repeal the following five organisations as they are no longer the training bodies of the ERB -

- (a) Eating Establishment Employees General Union;
- (b) The Hong Kong Association of Hair Design;
- (c) Asia Tree Preservation Limited;
- (d) Asian Academy for Sports and Fitness Professionals Limited;
and
- (e) Association of Professional Personnel (Hotels, Food & Beverage).

NEXT STEPS

10. To give effect to the changes in paragraphs 8 to 9 above, the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2016 was made by the ERB on 4 January 2016 pursuant to section 31(2) of the ERO. The Notice will be published in the Gazette on 8 January 2016 and will be tabled at the Legislative Council on 13 January 2016.

ENQUIRIES

11. For enquiries on this brief, please contact Ms Ivory Chu, Acting Deputy Executive Director (Quality Assurance) of the ERB, at 3129 1112.

Employees Retraining Board Executive Office
5 January 2016

Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 2016

(Made by the Employees Retraining Board under section 31(2) of the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Cap. 423))

1. Employees Retraining Ordinance amended

The Employees Retraining Ordinance (Cap. 423) is amended as set out in section 2.

2. Schedule 2 amended (training bodies)

(1) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 126.

(2) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 130.

(3) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 134.

(4) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 137.

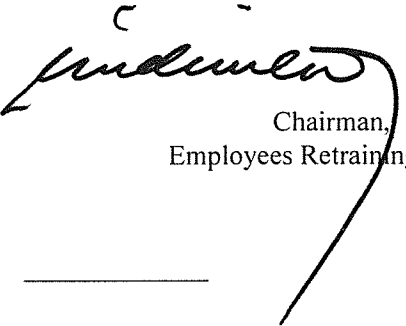
(5) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 151.

(6) Schedule 2, after item 160—

Add

“161. The Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong”.



Chairman,
Employees Retraining Board

4 Jan 2016

Explanatory Note

Schedule 2 to the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Cap. 423) contains a list of training bodies that may provide or conduct retraining courses for the purposes of the Ordinance.

2. This Notice amends the Schedule by—
 - (a) adding 1 training body to the list; and
 - (b) deleting 5 training bodies from the list.