

L. N. 178 of 1999

Post Office (Amendment) Regulation 1999

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 3 of the Post Office Ordinance (Cap. 98))

1. Commencement

This Regulation shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Secretary for Economic Services by notice in the Gazette.

2. Regulation amended

Regulation 19 of the Post Office Regulations (Cap. 98 sub. leg.) is amended-

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(a) by repealing subregulation (1);

(b) in subregulation (2)---

(i) by renumbering it as subregulation (2)(a);

(ii) in paragraph (a)---

(A) by repealing "will be issued at rates of exchange fixed from time to time by the Postmaster General" and substituting "may be issued by the Postmaster General and such money orders, if issued, will be issued at rates of exchange fixed by the Postmaster General from time to time and in any currency as he thinks fit";

(B) by repealing "\$21" and substituting "\$40 plus one half per cent of the amount remitted";

(iii) by adding---

"(b) Money orders issued in a place outside Hong Kong for payment in Hong Kong will be paid at rates of exchange fixed by the Postmaster General from time to time and in any currency as he thinks fit.";

(c) by repealing subregulation (3) and substituting---

"(3) The maximum amount for which---

(a) a money order for payment in a place outside Hong Kong may be issued in Hong Kong; or

(b) a money order issued in a place outside Hong Kong may be paid in Hong Kong, shall be the amount determined by the Postmaster General which shall not exceed \$5,000, currency of the United States of America, or the equivalent of such sum";

(d) in subregulation (4), by repealing "for payment in a place outside Hong Kong that has been remaining unpaid for 1 year after the date" and substituting "issued in Hong Kong for payment in a place outside Hong Kong or issued in a place outside Hong Kong for payment in Hong Kong that has been remaining unpaid after the last day of the 3rd month following the month";

(e) in subregulation (5), by repealing "\$21" and substituting "\$11";

(f) by repealing subregulations (6) and (7);

(g) in subregulation (8)---

(i) by repealing "\$21" and substituting "\$40";

(ii) in paragraph (a), by adding "issued in Hong Kong for payment in a place outside Hong Kong" after "money order";

(iii) in paragraph (b), by repealing the semi-colon and substituting "issued in Hong Kong for payment in a place outside Hong Kong; or";

(iv) by repealing paragraph (c).

### 3. Regulation added

The following is added---

"23A. (1) The Postmaster General may provide the Freepost service mentioned in this regulation. The Freepost service enables a person to obtain transmission through the local post, without prepayment of postage, of envelopes and cards sent to him

(2) A person desiring the facilities afforded by the Freepost service must--

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(a) first obtain a written approval from the Postmaster General which specifies a Freepost number and a Freepost format; and

(b) observe the terms and conditions specified in such written approval.

(3) Freepost envelopes and cards must conform to the Freepost format and the terms and conditions specified in the written approval referred to in subregulation (2).

(4) The postage due on such envelopes and cards transmitted to a person approved to use the Freepost service will be calculated at prepaid rates applicable to such envelopes and cards and will be collected from him on or after delivery, together with a surcharge of 60 cents for each envelope or card delivered.

(5) Freepost envelopes and cards cannot be sent by registered post or recorded delivery or be insured or marked for express delivery.

(6) Without prejudice to any other penalties prescribed in the Ordinance, a written approval referred to in subregulation (2) will be liable to cancellation in the event of default in payment of postage or surcharge due on Freepost envelopes and cards transmitted. "

Mable CHAN

Clerk to the Executive Council

Council Chamber

6 July 1999

Explanatory Note

This Regulation amends the Post Office Regulations (Cap. 98 sub. leg.) to---

(a) repeal the provisions concerning local money orders (section 2(a), (f) and (g)(iv));

(b) provide that the Postmaster General may issue money orders for payment in a place outside Hong Kong and empower him to issue and pay money orders at rates of exchange fixed by him from time to time and in any currency as he thinks fit (section 2(b) (ii) and (iii));

(c) increase the maximum amount of a money order issued or to be paid in a place outside Hong Kong from HK\$1,000 to US\$5,000 or the equivalent of such sum (section 2(c));

(d) provide that a money order issued or to be paid in a place outside Hong Kong remaining unpaid after the last day of the 3rd month following the month of issue shall be void (section 2(d));

(e) revise fee levels for the following money order services from \$21 to the new levels as follows---

#### Money Order Service New Fee Level

(i) issue of money orders for \$40 plus one half per cent of payment in a place outside the remitted amount Hong Kong (section 2(b) (ii))

(ii) advice of payment \$11 (section 2(e))

(iii) stop payment of a money order for payment in a place outside Hong Kong \$40 (section 2(g) (i))

(iv) issue of duplicate of a money order for payment in a place outside Hong Kong \$40 (section 2(g) (i))

(v) refund of a void money order for payment in a place outside Hong Kong \$40 (section 2(g) (i));

(f) cancel the fee for request for information on the payment of a money order (section 2(f)); and

(g) add a new regulation 23A (section 3) relating to the Freepost service. The Freepost service enables a person to obtain transmission through the local post without prepayment of postage subject to a charge for such service.