

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

(Cap. 159 sub. leg. G)

Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2014 (Commencement) Notice

1. The Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2014 (the “Amendment Rules”) were gazetted on 13 June 2014. No amendments were made during the negative vetting period which expired on 15 October 2014.
2. The amendments were set out in the attached previous Legislative Council Brief.
3. Pursuant to section 1 of the Amendment Rules, the President of the Law Society appointed 13 July 2015 as the Commencement Date of the Amendment Rules.

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Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2014

Background

1. The Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2013 were intended to amend the Third Schedule to the Solicitors (General) Costs Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. G), which apply to all solicitors' non-contentious business except for any such business which is provided for or regulated by the Solicitors (Trade Marks and Patents) Costs Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg. I) made under section 74 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance ("LPO") (Cap. 159).
2. The Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2013 published in the Gazette on 21 June 2013 as Legal Notice No. 110 of 2013 were not made by the Costs Committee under section 74 of the LPO. Accordingly, a fresh set of amendment Rules, Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2014 ("the Rules") have now been made by the Costs Committee under that section.

The Rules

3. Rule 3 of the Rules repeals paragraph 1 of the Third Schedule, which provides for costs for copying documents, and substitutes it with a new paragraph 1 to -
 - (a) remove obsolete types of copies (such as stencilled or carbon copy);
 - (b) provide that copies may be provided in the form of "photographic copy, printed (including laser printed) copy or scanned printed copy"; and
 - (c) specify the costs for providing copies printed in black ink or colour ink and in different quantities.
4. Rule 3 of the Rules also introduces a new paragraph 6A to the Third Schedule, which provides that for the purpose of the new paragraph 1 referred to in paragraph 3 above, if two or more pages of a document are reduced in size and printed on one page, the costs for copying is to be charged as one page.
5. The Rules will come into operation on a day to be appointed by the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong by notice published in the Gazette.