

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. LS54/16-17

**Paper for the House Committee Meeting  
on 7 April 2017**

**Legal Service Division Report on  
Subsidiary Legislation Gazetted on 31 March 2017**

**Tabling in LegCo** : Council meeting of 12 April 2017

**Amendment to be made by** : Council meeting of 10 May 2017 (or that of 31 May 2017 if extended by resolution)

**Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) (Amendment)  
Rules 2016 (Commencement) Notice** **(L.N. 49)**

By L.N. 49, the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong ("Law Society") has appointed 3 July 2017 as the day on which the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) (Amendment) Rules 2016 (L.N. 173 of 2016) come into operation.

2. L.N. 173 of 2016 was made by the Council of the Law Society with the prior approval of the Chief Justice to amend the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap. 159M). The main purposes of L.N. 173 of 2016 are to enhance the operation of the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund, clarify the operation of certain provisions in Cap. 159M and make other miscellaneous amendments to update Cap. 159M.

3. Members may wish to note that with the commencement of L.N. 173 of 2016 on 3 July 2017, the Solicitors' Practice (Amendment) Rules 2016 (L.N. 174 of 2016) will, by virtue of rule 1 of the said Amendment Rules, also come into operation on the same date. L.N. 174 of 2016 makes a textual amendment in the Chinese text of rule 2B(3)(d)(iii) of the Solicitors' Practice Rules (Cap. 159H) from "中國委任的見證人員" to "中國委托公證人".

4. A subcommittee has been formed to study L.N. 173 of 2016 and L.N. 174 of 2016 ("the two Amendment Rules"). Members may refer to the report of the Subcommittee (LC Paper No. CB(4)369/16-17) for details.

5. According to the Legislative Council Brief (no reference number provided) prepared by the Law Society on 27 March 2017, on the commencement date of the two Amendment Rules, a circular explaining the amendments would be issued to all members of the Law Society.

6. As advised by the Clerk to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services, the Panel has not been consulted on L.N. 49.

7. No difficulties have been identified in the legal and drafting aspects of L.N. 49.

Prepared by

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5 April 2017