

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Employees Retraining Ordinance
(Chapter 423)

EMPLOYEES RETRAINING ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 2)(No. 2) NOTICE 2017

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 8 May 2017, made the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2)(No. 2) Notice 2017 (the Notice), a copy of it is attached at the **Annex**, to amend the Schedule by repealing two 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 around 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 end April 2017, there were 90 training bodies on the Schedule.

Repeal of Two Training Bodies

8. On 8 May 2017, the ERB made the Notice to amend the Schedule to repeal the following two organisations as they are no longer the training bodies of the ERB -

- (a) Knowledge Education Centre; and
- (b) Hong Kong Storehouses, Transportation & Logistics Staff Association.

NEXT STEPS

9. To give effect to the changes in paragraph 8 above, the Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2)(No. 2) Notice 2017 was made by the ERB on 8 May 2017 pursuant to section 31(2) of the ERO. The Notice will be published in the Gazette on 12 May 2017 and will be tabled at the Legislative Council on 17 May 2017.

ENQUIRIES

10. For enquiries on this brief, please contact Dr Michael Fung, Deputy Executive Director (Quality Assurance) of the ERB, at 3129 1105.

Employees Retraining Board Executive Office
10 May 2017

Employees Retraining Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) (No. 2) Notice 2017

(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 117.

(2) Schedule 2—

Repeal item 148.


Chairman,
Employees Retraining Board

8 May 2017

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 deleting 2 training bodies from
the list.