

Companies Registry News Update: Implementation of Phase 2 of Unique Business Identifier

On **27 December 2023**, the implementation of the **Phase 2 of Unique Business Identifier (“UBI”)** commenced.

In order to sustain Hong Kong’s leading position as an international financial centre, the Government decided to adopt **Business Registration Number (“BRN”)** (i.e. the first eight digits of the Business Registration Certificate number) assigned by the Business Registration Office of the Inland Revenue Department as the UBI of companies and entities.

For entities under the administration of the Registrar of Companies (the “**Registrar**”), the Company Registry (the “**Registry**”) undertook to implement the UBI by two phases. The first phase was implemented for Limited Partnership Funds on 1 November 2021.

The **second phase** of UBI has been implemented simultaneously with the launch of the Registry’s revamped Integrated Companies Registry Information System, and extended to cover the following:

- **companies** incorporated or registered under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622);
- **open-ended fund companies** incorporated or registered under Part IVA of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571);
- **limited partnerships** registered under the Limited Partnerships Ordinance (Chapter 37);
- **registered trustees corporations** incorporated under the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Chapter 306); and
- **other entities** formed or registered under various Ordinances administrated by the Registrar.

Key summary of Phase 2 of UBI is as follow:

- **BRN** would be **adopted** as the “**No.**” on the “**Certificate of Incorporation**”, “**Certificate of Registration**”, or “**Certificate of Change of Name**” (collectively the “**Certificates**”) issued by the Registry. For limited companies and entities incorporated or registered before the implementation of UBI, the Registry would issue a **letter about the replacement of existing company registration number (“CR No.”) by BRN** to each of these companies / entities, but would not re-issue Certificates for replacing the existing ones;
- **BRN**, instead of CR No, would have to be **quoted** on specified forms and documents delivered to the Registry;
- BRN would be the key number for searching and identification by the Registry;
- **117 specified forms** and an **administrative form (Form AD – Rectification of Typographical or Clerical Error in Registered Document)** have been revised;
- An **Information Sheet** as evidence of the change to use BRN as an identification number of every company would be made available for public inspection; and
- A **Letter of Confirmation** would be issued by the Registry as evidence alternatively upon application.

To view the full details of the Registry's external circulars in relation to the following:

- Revision of Specified Forms and Administrative Form for implementation of Phase 2 of UBI: please click [HERE](#)
- Implementation of Phase 2 of UBI for Entities under the Administration of the Registrar: please click [HERE](#)