

**Transitional Arrangements for Travel Agents, and One-off Bridging Arrangements for Tourist Guides and Tour Escorts**

The new regulatory regime of the travel industry established under the Travel Industry Ordinance (Cap. 634) (the Ordinance) will come into full effect on 1 September 2022. If you currently hold a valid travel agent licence issued by the Travel Agents Registry (TAR) or a valid tourist guide pass or tour escort pass issued by the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC), please pay attention to the following information on transitional and bridging arrangements, with a view to continuing to hold your travel agent licence, tourist guide licence, or tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime.

**Section A: Travel Agent Licence**

<b>Expiry Dates of Travel Agent Licences</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
On or before 30 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TAR</b> to renew the licence not more than two months and not less than one month before the expiry of the licence. The renewed licence<sup>1</sup> will remain valid on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing licence (if the pre-existing licence expires earlier than 1 December 2022, the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022).</li> </ul>
Between 31 August 2022 and 30 October 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TAR</b> to renew the pre-existing licence on or before 31 August 2022;</li> <li>• make an application for the renewal of the pre-existing licence to TAR not more than two months and not less than one month before the expiry of the pre-existing licence;</li> </ul>

---

<sup>1</sup> If the licensee of the pre-existing licence also holds a duplicate licence, the duplicate licence will be taken to be a valid business permit under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the duplicate licence (if the duplicate licence expires earlier than 1 December 2022, the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022).

<b>Expiry Dates of Travel Agent Licences</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the renewed pre-existing licence<sup>1</sup> will be taken to be a travel agent licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing licence; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to the <b>Travel Industry Authority (TIA)</b> to renew the pre-existing licence on or after 1 September 2022;</li> <li>• the pre-existing licence<sup>1</sup> will remain valid on and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to TIA to renew the pre-existing licence between 2 October 2022 and 1 November 2022<sup>2</sup>;</li> <li>• at the time of making an application for the renewal of the licence, the relevant person must have completed the “authorized representative” courses<sup>3</sup> for travel agents organised by TIA.</li> </ul>
Between 31 October 2022 and 30 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing licence<sup>1</sup> will remain valid on and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to TIA to renew the pre-existing licence between 2 October 2022 and 1 November 2022<sup>2</sup>;</li> <li>• at the time of making an application for the renewal of the licence, the relevant person must have completed the “authorized representative” courses<sup>3</sup> for travel agents organised by TIA.</li> </ul>
On or after 1 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing licence<sup>1</sup> will remain valid on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing licence;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to TIA to renew the pre-existing licence not more than two months and not less than one month before the expiry of the pre-existing licence<sup>2</sup>;</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> If the licensee intends to continue travel agent business at the local place of business, the licensee must also apply to TIA to renew the relevant pre-existing duplicate licence.

<sup>3</sup> For details of the “authorized representative” courses, please visit the TIA website.

<b>Expiry Dates of Travel Agent Licences</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at the time of making an application for the renewal of the licence, the relevant person must have completed the “authorized representative” courses<sup>3</sup> for travel agents organised by TIA.</li> </ul>

**Section B: Tourist Guide Pass (Not applicable to Tourist Guide Passes for Non-English-and-Chinese-speaking Tourist Guides)**

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
<p>The two-year renewal period after the expiry of the tourist guide passes expires on or before 31 August 2022</p>	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the tourist guide pass on or before 1 August 2022; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>apply to <b>TIA</b> for a new tourist guide licence on or after 1 September 2022, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>4</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>having passed the licensing examination of tourist</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Since tourist guide pass holders have already held a certificate for the relevant courses recognised by TIC and such courses are specified by TIA as pre-examination training courses, they will be regarded as having completed the pre-examination training courses specified by TIA, with no need to enrol in the relevant courses when applying to TIA for a tourist guide licence.

<sup>5</sup> TIA will announce the details of the certificate of competency in first aid later. Basically, those who have completed a first aid course or seminar recognised by TIC and those who have completed a first aid course under Item C of TIC’s Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Tourist Guides within two years prior to 1 September 2022 and prior to making an application will be regarded as holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid, or another similar certificate, issued by an institution specified by TIA. In addition, if the number of hours, scope of content, assessment, etc. of a first aid course recognised by TIC exceed those of the certificate courses of competency in first aid to be specified by TIA, an applicant who holds the relevant certificate of competency in first aid which is valid when making an application will also be regarded as holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid, or another similar certificate, issued by an institution specified by TIA.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	guides <sup>6</sup> specified by TIA.
Between 30 September 2020 and 31 July 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the tourist guide pass on or before 1 August 2022;</li> <li>• the renewed tourist guide pass will be taken to be a tourist guide licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the tourist guide pass; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIA</b> for a new tourist guide licence on or after 1 September 2022 and within two years after the expiry of the tourist guide pass, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>4</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. having completed the <b>streamlined</b> <sup>7</sup> <del>FOUO</del> specially organised by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having passed the <b>streamlined licensing examination of tourist guides</b><sup>8</sup> specially organised by TIA.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
31 August 2022, 30 September 2022 and 31 October 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the pre-existing tourist guide pass on or before 31 August 2022 and within three months before the expiry of the pre-existing tourist guide pass;</li> <li>• the renewed pre-existing tourist guide pass will be taken to be a tourist guide licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing tourist guide pass; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tourist guide pass will be taken to be a tourist guide licence under the new regulatory regime on</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> TIA will announce the details of the licensing examination of tourist guides later.

<sup>7</sup> TIA will announce the details of the streamlined first aid courses later.

<sup>8</sup> TIA will announce the details of the streamlined licensing examination of tourist guides later.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<p>and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date (i.e. from 2 December 2022 to 1 December 2024), subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>9</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having completed the <b>flexible</b> Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme for Tourist Guides<sup>10</sup> specified by TIA within the specified CPD period.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Those who <b>fail</b> to renew their tourist guide licence within the above-mentioned period must apply to <b>TIA</b> for a tourist guide licence afresh, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup></li> </ol>

<sup>9</sup> Since tourist guide pass holders have already held a certificate for the relevant courses recognised by TIC and such courses are specified by TIA as training courses, they are not required to complete any training course or pass any licensing examination of tourist guides specified by TIA when applying to TIA to renew their tourist guide licence.

<sup>10</sup> The holder of a pre-existing tourist guide pass must complete Item B “Professional Ethics” under the CPD Scheme (regardless of whether Item B is under the existing regulatory regime or the new regulatory regime) on or before 1 December 2022. If the holder of a pre-existing tourist guide pass has not completed Item A “Consolidation and Updating of Knowledge” under the CPD Scheme (regardless of whether Item A is under the existing regulatory regime or the new regulatory regime) by the expiry date of their licence on 1 December 2022, the remaining requirements under Item A will be carried over into the first six months of the next CPD period after the renewal of the licence. If the holder of a pre-existing tourist guide pass has not completed Item C “Self-selected Courses” under the CPD Scheme (regardless of whether Item C is under the existing regulatory regime or the new regulatory regime) by the expiry date of their licence on 1 December 2022, the remaining requirements under Item C will be carried over into the first twelve months of the next CPD period after the renewal of the licence. In addition, a licensee will only be regarded as having completed their CPD Scheme if the licensee has completed Items A and C of the outstanding requirements carried over from the previous CPD period, and Items A, B, and C of the current CPD period, when making the next application to renew the licence.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<p>issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. having passed the licensing examination of tourist guides<sup>6</sup> specified by TIA.</li> </ol>
30 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tourist guide pass will be taken to be a tourist guide licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date (i.e. from 2 December 2022 to 1 December 2024), subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>9</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having completed the <b>flexible</b> CPD Scheme for Tourist Guides<sup>10</sup> specified by TIA within the specified CPD period.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Those who <b>fail</b> to renew their tourist guide licence under the above-mentioned conditions must apply to <b>TIA</b> for a tourist guide licence afresh, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having passed the licensing examination of tourist guides<sup>6</sup> specified by TIA.</li> </ol>
On or after 31 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tourist guide pass will be taken to be a tourist guide licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing tourist guide pass;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date. The relevant requirements mainly include<sup>9</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having completed the CPD Scheme for Tourist</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<p>Guides<sup>11</sup> as specified by TIA within the specified CPD period (i.e. within the validity period of the pre-existing tourist guide pass).</p> <p>Those who <b>fail</b> to complete the CPD Scheme for Tourist Guides specified by TIA within the specified CPD period must apply to <b>TIA</b> for a tourist guide licence afresh, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having passed the licensing examination of tourist guides<sup>6</sup> specified by TIA.</li> </ol>

**Section C: Tourist Guide Pass for Non-English-and-Chinese-speaking Tourist Guides (applicable to tourist guides who obtain such a pass under TIC’s Accreditation System for Non-English-and-Chinese-Speaking Tourist Guides (formerly known as the Waiver Programme for Non-English-and-Chinese-Speaking Tourist Guides) and who are not allowed to use Cantonese, Mandarin or English when receiving inbound package tours)**

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes for Non-English-and-Chinese-speaking Tourist Guides</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
30 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIC has extended the expiry dates of all tourist guide passes for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides valid on 29 June 2022 to 31 August 2024, with all conditions imposed on tourist guide passes for non-</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> TIA will announce the details of the CPD Scheme for Tourist Guides later. Basically, those who have completed any activities during the relevant CPD period under TIC’s CPD Scheme for Tourist Guides before 1 September 2022 are regarded as meeting the corresponding requirements under TIA’s CPD Scheme for Tourist Guides.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tourist Guide Passes for Non-English-and-Chinese-speaking Tourist Guides</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<p>English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides unchanged;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tourist guide pass for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides will be taken to be a tourist guide licence (foreign language) under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing tourist guide pass for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date. The relevant requirements mainly include<sup>12</sup>:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having completed the streamlined CPD Scheme for (Foreign Language-Speaking) Tourist Guides as specified by TIA within the specified CPD period (i.e. within the validity period of the pre-existing tourist guide pass for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides<sup>13</sup>).</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

---

<sup>12</sup> Since the holders of tourist guide passes for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides have already passed the accreditation examination for non-English-and-Chinese-speaking tourist guides organised by TIC, and the examination is specified by TIA as a licensing examination of (foreign language-speaking) tourist guides, they are not required to complete any training course or pass any licensing examination of tourist guides specified by TIA when applying to renew their licence.

<sup>13</sup> TIA will announce the details of the streamlined CPD Scheme for (Foreign Language-Speaking) Tourist Guides later.



## Section D: Tour Escort Pass

Expiry Dates of Tour Escort Passes	Suggestions
The two-year renewal period after the expiry of the tour escort passes expires on or before 31 August 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the tour escort pass on or before 1 August 2022; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIA</b> for a new tour escort licence on or after 1 September 2022, subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>14</sup>:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having passed the licensing examination of tour escorts<sup>15</sup> specified by TIA.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> Since tour escort pass holders have already held a certificate for the relevant courses recognised by TIC and such courses are specified by TIA as pre-examination training courses, they will be regarded as having completed the pre-examination training courses specified by TIA, with no need to enrol in the relevant courses when applying to TIA for a tour escort licence.

<sup>15</sup> TIA will announce the details of the licensing examination of tour escorts later.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tour Escort Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
Between 30 September 2020 and 31 July 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the tour escort licence on or before 1 August 2022;</li> <li>• the renewed tour escort pass will be taken to be a tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the tour escort pass; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIA</b> for a new tour escort licence on or after 1 September 2022 and within two years after the expiry of the tour escort pass. The relevant requirements mainly include<sup>14</sup>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. having completed the <b><u>streamlined first aid courses</u></b><sup>7</sup> specially organised by TIA; and</li> <li>2. having passed the <b><u>streamlined licensing examination of tour escorts</u></b><sup>16</sup> specially organised by TIA.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
31 August 2022, 30 September 2022 and 31 October 2022	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply to <b>TIC</b> to renew the pre-existing tour escort pass on or before 31 August 2022 and within three months before the expiry of the pre-existing tour escort pass;</li> <li>• the renewed pre-existing tour escort pass will be taken to be a tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing tour escort pass; or</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tour escort pass will be taken to be a tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> TIA will announce the details of the streamlined licensing examination of tour escorts later.

<b>Expiry Dates of Tour Escort Passes</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
	<p>within two years after the expiry date (i.e. from 2 December 2022 to 1 December 2024), subject to the requirements in the Ordinance, which mainly include<sup>17</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA.</li> </ul>
30 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tour escort pass will be taken to be a tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 and the expiry date will be extended to 1 December 2022;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date (i.e. from 2 December 2022 to 1 December 2024). The relevant requirements mainly include<sup>17</sup>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
On or after 31 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pre-existing tour escort pass will be taken to be a tour escort licence under the new regulatory regime on and after 1 September 2022 until the expiry of the pre-existing tour escort pass;</li> <li>• the licensee must apply to <b>TIA</b> to renew the licence within three months before the expiry of the licence or within two years after the expiry date. The relevant requirements mainly include<sup>17</sup>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ holding a valid certificate of competency in first aid<sup>5</sup> issued by an institution specified by TIA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

---

<sup>17</sup> Since tour escort pass holders have already held a certificate for the relevant courses recognised by TIC and such courses are specified by TIA as training courses, they are not required to complete any training course or pass any licensing examination of tour escorts specified by TIA when applying to TIA to renew their tour escort licence.