

LEGISLATION WATCH

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The **Money-changing and Remittance Businesses (Exemption from Section 9B) Notification 2006** (GN No S 530/2006, wef 8 September 2006) provides that the Monetary Authority of Singapore (the Authority) has exempted any person who becomes a substantial shareholder of American Express International Inc. from having to obtain approval of the Authority in accordance with s 9B of the Money-changing and Remittance Businesses Act (Cap 187).

The **Animals and Birds (Prevention of Avian Disease in Non-Commercial Poultry) Rules 2006** (GN No S 534/2006, wef 12 September 2006) provide, amongst other things, that —

- (a) no person shall keep more than ten non-commercial poultry in any premises except with the approval of the Director-General, Agri-Food and Veterinary Services (the Director-General); and
- (b) where the Director-General or an authorised officer is satisfied that there is an outbreak or imminent outbreak of any avian disease, or thinks it necessary and expedient for the prevention of an outbreak or spread of any avian disease, he may issue a directive to any person who breeds or keeps non-commercial poultry to require the person to take such measures as may be specified for the containment, or for the prevention of an outbreak or spread, of the avian disease.

The **Delegation of Powers (Ministry of National Development) (No 2) (Amendment) Notification 2006** (GN No S 538/2006, wef 13 September 2006) amends the Delegation of Powers (Ministry of National Development) (No 2) Notification 2005 (GN No S 535/2005) to provide that the Minister for National Development has deputed the Minister of State, Ministry of National Development to exercise the powers of the Minister set out in the following provisions:

- (a) Section 24C(3) of the Town Councils Act (Cap 329A); and
- (b) Rules 18(1) and 18(2) of the Town Councils (Polling for Lift Upgrading Works) Rules 2005 (GN No S 772/2005).

The Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports has, with effect from 15 September 2006, appointed the Pertapis Centre for Women and Girls at 42 Surin Avenue, Singapore 535638 —

- (a) to be an approved school and an approved home for the purposes of s 56(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap 38) *vide* the **Notification relating to Approved School and Approved Home — Certificate of Appointment** (GN No S 545/2006);
- (b) to be an approved institution for the purposes of the Probation of Offenders Act (Cap 252) *vide* the **Notification relating to Approved Institution** (GN No S 546/2006); and
- (c) to be a place of safety for the purposes of Part XI of the Women's Charter (Cap 353) *vide* the **Women's Charter (Place of Safety) (No. 2) Order 2006** (GN No S 547/2006).

The **Rubber Industry (Exemption) Order 2006** (GN No S 555/2006, wef 22 September 2006) provides that the provisions of the Rubber Industry Act (Cap 280) shall not apply to any person who brokers in, purchases or sells rubber by means of a futures contract within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap 289).

The **Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations 2006** (GN No S 558/2006, wef 1 October 2006) amend the Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2004 (GN No S 13/2004) —

- (a) to provide the types of medical examinations that any person arriving in or departing from Singapore is to undergo at such places as the Director of Medical Services may direct; and
- (b) to include Avian influenza as an infectious disease specified for the purposes of regs 3 and 4 of the Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2004.

The **Medicines (Oral Dental Gums) (Specification) (Amendment) Order 2006** (GN No S 573/2006, wef 9 October 2006) amends the Medicines (Oral Dental Gums) (Specification) Order (Cap 176, O 19) to clarify that oral dental gum (when used in the context of the Order) does not include any chewing gum which is manufactured or imported into Singapore solely for research and development purposes by a person who is registered under the Control of Manufacture Act (Cap 57) in respect of the manufacture of chewing gum.

The **Legal Profession (Practising Certificate) (Amendment) Rules 2006** (GN No S 578/2006, wef 1 November 2006) amends the Legal Profession (Practising Certificate) Rules (Cap 161, R 6) principally to provide that an application for a practising certificate shall be made —

- (a) in such form as Registrar of the Supreme Court (the Registrar) may require;
- (b) using the practising certificate electronic filing system in accordance with any practice direction for the time being issued by the Registrar.

The **Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2006** (GN No S 587/2006, wef 16 October 2006) amend the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (Cap 161, R 15) principally to provide —

- (a) that a person may apply to the Board of Legal Education (the Board) for an exemption from any of the requirements in rules 8(2)(ii)(A), 9(1)(a), 9(2)(a) or r 9(2A)(a) or r 9A(1)(b) if —
 - (i) the person is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore;
 - (ii) in the case of exemption from any of the requirements in —
 - (A) rule 8(2)(ii)(A), the person has attained at least lower second class honours or the equivalent thereof in relation to the degree referred to therein; or
 - (B) rules 9(1)(a), 9(2)(a) or r 9(2A)(a) or r 9A(1)(b), as the case may be, the person has been ranked by the institution of higher learning referred to therein as being amongst the highest 70%, in terms of academic performance, of the total number of the graduates in the same batch referred to therein; and
 - (iii) either the person —
 - (A) is a solicitor of England and Wales or of Hong Kong; or
 - (B) has, after obtaining the degree referred to in sub-paragraph (ii), been engaged in work of a legal nature for at least three years and obtained relevant legal experience; and
- (b) that in deciding whether to grant or refuse an exemption, the Board may —
 - (i) require the applicant to appear before an interview panel appointed by the Board under r 10A of the Legal Profession Rules (R 3);
 - (ii) consider the report of the interview panel; and
 - (iii) consider the academic performance, work experience and work performance of the applicant, and such other qualifications of the applicant or any other factor that the Board thinks fit.

The **Legal Profession (Amendment) Rules 2006** (GN No S 588/2006, wef 16 October 2006) amend the Legal Profession Rules (Cap 161, R 3) to provide —

- (a) that the applicant for an exemption under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (R 15) shall —
 - (i) if required by the Board of Legal Education (the Board), appear before an interview panel appointed by the Board at such time and place as the Board may notify him;
 - (ii) produce to the Board any certificate or a certified copy thereof relating to the qualifications by virtue of which he seeks the exemption and any other document as the Board may require;
- (b) that the Board may from time to time appoint one or more interview panels consisting of at least 2 members and each interview panel shall consider and report to the Board on all applications for exemption under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (R 15) referred to it by the Board; and
- (c) for the form of an application for an exemption and the form of the certificate of exemption granted by the Board under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules.

The **Notification relating to the Criminal Procedure Code — Deputy Public Prosecutors and Assistants** (GN No S 597/2006, wef 20 October 2006) specifies that the Attorney-General has appointed —

- (a) the Deputy Public Prosecutors to assist him and to act as his deputies in the performance of the functions and duties of the Public Prosecutor under the Code set out in Pt I of the Schedule thereto; and
- (b) the following persons to assist him in the performance of the functions and duties of the Public Prosecutor under the Code set out in Pt II of the Schedule thereto:
 - (i) the Assistant Public Prosecutors;
 - (ii) all gazetted police officers;
 - (iii) all Inspectors of Police;
 - (iv) all senior officers of customs appointed under s 4(4) of the Customs Act (Cap 70);
 - (v) all immigration officers of the rank of Inspector and above; and
 - (vi) the Director, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors and all officers of the Legal Services Department, Ministry of Manpower, who have been designated by that Ministry as prosecuting officers.

The **Education Endowment Scheme (Edusave Merit Bursaries) (Amendment) Regulations 2006** (GN No S 602/2006, wef 1 November 2006) amend the Education Endowment Scheme (Edusave Merit Bursaries) Regulations (Cap 87A, Rg 5) to provide that one of the conditions that a pupil of a primary or secondary school or a junior college or a full-time pupil of a training institute has to fulfil before being eligible for the Edusave Merit Bursary in any year is if the total amount of the gross monthly incomes of his parents, and of every of his siblings who is living with him in the same household, is less than \$4,000 for that year.

Act brought into operation in October

The **Accountants (Amendment) Act 2006** (Act 11 of 2006) (wef 6 October 2006 *vide* GN No S 575/2006)

Revision of Act

The Law Revision Commissioners have published, in loose-leaf form, the Companies Act (Cap 50) as in force on 1 October 2006 (wef 31 October 2006 *vide* GN No S 596/2006).