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**Regulations: Legal
Practitioners Ordinance,
Practice Directions and Rules**

CIRCULAR 23-330 (COM)

1 June 2023

**23-330 (COM) APPLICATIONS TO REMOVE CONDITION
IMPOSED ON
PRACTISING CERTIFICATES UNDER SECTION 6(6) OF
THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE**

**Legal Practitioners Ordinance
Section 6(6) Applications**

1. Section 6(6) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (“LPO”) requires the Council to be satisfied that a solicitor has been bona fide employed in the practice of a solicitor in Hong Kong for at least two years prior to his or her application for a practising certificate not subject to the condition imposed under that section. No solicitor can practise on his or her own account or in partnership until a practising certificate without the condition imposed under section 6(6) of the LPO has been obtained.

Section 6(6) of the LPO provides that:-

- “(6) It shall be a condition of a practising certificate issued for the first time on or after 1 August 1976 to any solicitor who does not satisfy the Council that since being admitted as a solicitor he has been bona fide employed in the practice of a solicitor in Hong Kong for at least 2 years prior to his application for such practising certificate, that he shall not practise as a solicitor on his own account or in partnership until he satisfies the Council that since being admitted as a solicitor he has been bona fide employed in the practice of a solicitor in Hong Kong for at least 2 years.”
2. Sections 6(6B) and 6(6C) of the LPO which are to come into operation on 3 July 2023 provide that:-
 - “(6B) Notwithstanding the compliance with the 2 year employment requirement in subsection (6), a solicitor who makes an application for the first issue of a practising certificate without the condition imposed under subsection (6) on or after the commencement of section 2 of the Law Amendment and Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance 2003 (Ord. No.14 of 2003) shall not be issued with such practising certificate unless he also satisfies the Council that, prior to the date of his application, he has successfully completed in accordance with the guidelines as may



be issued by the Society from time to time a mandatory course in practice management provided or approved by the Society.

(6C) The Council may, where it considers appropriate, exempt an applicant wholly or partly, with or without conditions, from the mandatory course requirement in subsection (6B).”

Cross reference is made here to [Circular 23-111 \(SD\)](#) dated 2 March 2023 on Mandatory Practice Management Course (“Mandatory Course”) and its Guidelines. For any enquiries relating to Circular 23-111 (SD), please contact the Director of Standards and Development at dsd@hklawsoc.org.hk.

3. The procedure for applications under section 6(6) of the LPO to be made on or after 3 July 2023 has been revised accordingly.
4. An applicant is required to provide, by way of a statutory declaration and supporting documents, such information as to establish that he or she
 - (i) has been in a bona fide employment in the practice of a solicitor in Hong Kong (that is, in a Hong Kong firm of solicitors) for a continuous period of two years; and
 - (ii) has successfully completed the Mandatory Course referred to in section 6(6B) of the LPO or has been granted (a) an automatic exemption from taking the Mandatory Course or (b) an exemption from taking the Mandatory Course.
5. A non-refundable administration charge of HK\$2,000.00 is payable in respect of applications made under section 6(6) of the LPO.
6. Please click [here](#) for the revised Procedure for making an application under Section 6(6) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (effective 3 July 2023).
7. Please click [here](#) for a sample statutory declaration. For your enrolment record of the Mandatory Course or relevant RME Elective, please login and check at the Members’ Zone of the Law Society’s website or contact enquiry@hklawacademy.org.
8. Members may wish to cross-reference to [Circular 23-329 \(COM\)](#) for applications under section 6(6A) of the LPO.
9. Circular 20-610 (COM) is superseded.