

Mandatory Use of iCMS by Legally Represented Litigants

Meeting with the Law Society of Hong Kong



9 April 2026

Overview

- User registration and utilisation of iCMS
- Implementation timetable
- Proposed implementation arrangements
- Facilitating measures

User Registration

User registration (as of 31 March 2026)

- Total registered users: **961**
- Registered law firms: **761** (~**82%** of 928 law firms)
- Growth rate surged to 5-8% per month since December 2025

Utilisation by Court Level

Overall statistics (as of 28 February 2026)

- New cases initiated via iCMS: 820 000 (**72.0%**)
- Documents filed via iCMS: 1 364 100 (**46.4%**)
- Overall take-up rate (new cases via iCMS):
January 2023: ~13% → February 2026: ~**72%**

New cases initiated via iCMS **by all court users** at levels of court

- High Court: 8.9%
- District Court: 10.6%
- Magistrates' Courts: 75.1%
- Small Claims Tribunal: 72.4%

Statistics on Utilisation by Law Firms for High Court Cases (28 June 2025 - 31 March 2026)

Case commencement

- 204 new cases via iCMS (**19.1%**)
- 862 in paper mode

Document filing

- 11 488 documents filed via iCMS (**29.1%**)
- 27 969 filed outside iCMS

Implementation Timetable

Tentative Target Time	Key Milestone
Q2 2026	Consult stakeholders on the draft e-Practice Direction (e-PD) on the mandatory use of iCMS by legally represented litigants
June 2026	Transitional arrangement for case commencement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A law firm which files for case commencement for an iCMS-enabled case type at the High Court* will be required to do it via iCMS for the first time, if it has not done so before <p><i>(Note: filing of documents to existing cases are not subject to this transitional arrangement)</i></p>

* iCMS-enabled case types at the High Court:

- civil appeal cases (CACV) in the Court of Appeal
- commercial cases (HCCL), construction and arbitration cases (HCCT), intellectual property cases (HCIP), personal injuries cases (HCPI) and civil action cases (HCA) in the Court of First Instance

Implementation Timetable

Tentative Target Time	Mandatory Use for iCMS-enabled Case Types	Court Level
October 2026	Filing for case commencement	High Court
November 2026		District Court
December 2026		Court of Final Appeal Magistrates' Courts
January 2027	Filing to existing cases	High Court
February 2027		District Court
March 2027		Court of Final Appeal Magistrates' Courts

Proposed Implementation Arrangements

- The Judiciary consulted key stakeholders in January 2024 on the proposed arrangements
- Majority views were supportive of the implementation approach, and raised suggestions mainly on exemptions and exceptions
- As proposed during the consultation, the Judiciary will **prescribe relevant practices and procedures for implementation through e-PD**, and amend the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Ordinance (Cap. 638) in the longer term so as to provide a clear legal basis for pursuing the initiative

Proposed Implementation Arrangements

- We are planning to mandate the use of iCMS by law firms for **all iCMS-enabled case types by phases**, starting with filing for case commencement, followed by filing to existing cases of different court levels
- Taking into account stakeholders' comments and overseas references, the **exemptions and exceptions** would include:
 - (a) technical problems rendering e-filing temporarily infeasible;
 - (b) urgent applications;
 - (c) certain documents or category of documents (e.g. documents involving confidential information); and
 - (d) filing on the Court's direction in any other circumstances

Facilitation Measures: Training

Enhanced regular training

- 77 briefing-cum-hands-on sessions conducted (January 2023 - March 2026)
- About 1 000 representatives from 470 law firms attended
- Starting from March 2026, sessions have increased to once every two weeks
- Further enhance frequency to once per week starting May 2026

Collaboration with Law Society

- Three Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions held in October 2024, May 2025 and June 2025
- Will invite Law Society to collaborate further on holding one or more sessions in the months ahead

Facilitation Measures: Technical Support

Pro-active technical support

- Starting from October 2025, law firms can **make appointment with the Judiciary** for on-site or in-office support for initiating their first iCMS case in the High Court
- Starting from June 2026, will provide **on-site support on case commencement** during office hours at the Training Centre of the High Court Building

Facilitation Measures: Outreaching work & Streamlining Registration

Targeted outreach

- Reached out to 384 non-iCMS-registered law firms (December 2025 - January 2026)
- Second round of calls to 213 firms (February - March 2026)
- Offering on-site assistance for registration and use
- Only ~90 remaining firms not registered
- Continue with outreaching efforts

Streamlined registration

- Process revamped and simplified in February 2026
- Outreaching team can complete registration and activate accounts on the spot

The End