



香港旅遊業議會
TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL
OF HONG KONG
Incorporated with limited liability

IMPORTANT

DIRECTIVE

Issue Date: 20 March 2008

Ref: BOD171/20032008/M/PW

**Regulations relating to application for a travel agents licence
Resolution No.171
(Directive category: General)**

According to the Travel Agents Ordinance (TAO), any person carrying on business as an outbound travel agent or inbound travel agent must obtain a travel agents licence from the Registrar of Travel Agents (RTA). Any person who contravenes the TAO may be liable to a fine and imprisonment.

With a view to ensuring that members will not breach the TAO, the Board of Directors has decided that all applicants for TIC membership which have indicated on their application form that they will carry on outbound or inbound business must provide proof that an application for a licence has been made to the RTA before their application for membership will be approved.

With regard to existing members of the TIC, the Board has resolved that:

- 1. For those members which do not have a valid travel agents licence but have indicated on their membership application/renewal form or any other written communication with the TIC that their nature of business includes outbound or inbound business, they shall lodge a licence application with the RTA immediately and submit proof of the application to the TIC within one week from the date of notice from the TIC. Failure to submit proof of the application by the deadline may lead to suspension of membership unless the members concerned can provide an explanation or proof that is satisfactory to the TIC.**
- 2. For those members which have lodged an application for a travel agents licence with the RTA but are not granted the licence within 10 weeks from the date of application, their membership may be suspended by the TIC. If their membership is suspended, it will be reinstated by the TIC when the RTA advises that the licence will be granted. Their membership will otherwise continue to be suspended until it lapses at the expiry of membership on 30 June of the relevant year.**

Members are strongly advised to pay special attention to the following points which are related to the regulations above:

1. The name of the member the membership of which has been suspended by the TIC will be removed from the “Find a Travel Agent” section of the TIC’s website until the membership is reinstated.
2. According to Article 11(1)(d) of the Articles of Association of the TIC, if the RTA refuses to grant the member a travel agents licence under the TAO, its membership with the TIC may be terminated.
3. With regard to members which are found to be conducting outbound or inbound business without a travel agents licence:
 - (1) It is an ongoing practice that all cases of suspected unlicensed trading are referred to the RTA for action. The RTA may forward the cases to the police for investigation; and
 - (2) According to Article 11(5)(h), the membership of the members concerned may be summarily suspended if the Board has reason to believe that it is in the public interest to do so.

This Directive takes immediate effect.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG



Joseph Tung
Executive Director