

18 July 2022

By email

Circular letter to

- **All Unified Carrier Licensees authorised to provide mobile services**
- **All Services-Based Operator Licensees authorised to provide mobile virtual network operator services**
- **All Class Licensees for offer of telecommunications services under section 8(1)(aa) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) registered for the offer of mobile services**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Supply and Offer of Telecommunications Services
through Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards
subject to Real-name Registration Requirement**

The Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation (Cap. 106 AI) (“Regulation”)¹ took effect on 1 September 2021 to implement the real-name registration (“RNR”) programme for SIM cards which applies to a holder of a Unified Carrier Licence (“UCL”) or Services-based Operator (“SBO”) Licence, or person authorised under the Class Licence for Offer of Telecommunications Services under section 8(1)(aa) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) (“CLOTS”) who supplies or offers local mobile services through SIM cards primarily for person-to-person communications (“the Programme”).

For the purpose of providing practical and administrative guidance to the relevant licensees for implementation of the Programme, the Communications Authority (“CA”) issued the “Guidelines on Implementation of Real-name Registration for SIM Cards” (“RNR Guidelines”)² pursuant to

¹ Full text of the Regulation is available at: <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap106AI>.

² Full text of the RNR Guidelines is available at: <https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/569/gn152021.pdf>.

section 14 of the Regulation in August 2021.

To ensure proper implementation of the Programme by existing mobile service providers intending to supply or offer a local telecommunications service through SIM cards subject to the Regulation, the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”) has put in place a **new administrative requirement**.

Under the new administrative requirement, if (a) a UCL or SBO licensee authorised for the provision of mobile services; or (b) a CLOTS licensee registered with the CA for the offer of mobile services is currently not supplying or offering a local telecommunications service through SIM cards subject to the Regulation but intends to do so, the licensee is required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of OFCA that it has put in place a registration system which is in compliance with the Regulation and RNR Guidelines before supplying or offering such service.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a UCL, SBO or CLOTS licensee who has already demonstrated to the satisfaction of OFCA that it has put in place a registration system for its service plan SIM cards in compliance with the Regulation and RNR Guidelines intends to supply or offer a telecommunications service through pre-paid SIM cards subject to the Regulation, the licensee is still required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of OFCA that the registration system for its pre-paid SIM cards is in compliance with the Regulation and RNR Guidelines before supplying or offering such service through pre-paid SIM cards, and vice versa.

Should there be enquiries on the above, please contact Regulatory Section 21 at 2961 6598 (for SBO Licence and the CLOTS) or Regulatory Section 22 at 2961 6435 (for UCL).

Yours faithfully,

(Desmond Young)
for Director-General of Communications