

# SFC Enhances Facilitative Measures for Visiting Professionals



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On 15 July 2025, the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) issued a [circular](#) announcing enhanced measures to facilitate visiting professionals conducting regulated activities (RA) or providing virtual asset (VA) services in Hong Kong.

This update aims to provide greater flexibility for Itinerant Professionals (ITPs) while maintaining robust regulatory oversight under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (SFO) and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (AMLO).

## Why It Matters

The enhancements allow licensed corporations (LCs) and licensed VA service providers (LPs) in Hong Kong to leverage overseas specialists from within their group structures for short-term, high-impact roles. By extending the permissible period for these engagements, supports increased agility while maintaining regulatory compliance.

Firms should consider reviewing existing arrangements to ensure compliance and capitalize on this flexibility, as non-adherence may trigger regulatory scrutiny, while proactive adoption can streamline operations and foster international collaboration.

## Key Enhancements

The core change is the **extension of the maximum period** for ITPs to **conduct activities in Hong Kong** from **30 days to 45 days** per calendar year.

ITPs are visiting professionals from overseas group companies of an LC or licensed LP. They may apply for a representative license that allows them to:

- Visit Hong Kong on business for up to **45 days per calendar year**
- Conduct RA under the SFO on behalf of the LC
- Provide VA services under the AMLO on behalf of the LP.
- Carry out supporting activities including: **client meetings, advisory sessions, other relevant RA or operational support** depending on their licensed activity(ies).

## Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the ITP framework, key requirements remained unchanged:

- Interactions are limited to Professional Investors only and must be chaperoned
- ITPs must be under the direct supervision of a Responsible Officer supervision – see Section 4.4.3.2(c) of the Guidelines on Competence

- The LC or LP must provide a formal undertaking for the ITP.
- Appropriate training must be provided
- The existing application process continues to apply.

## Considerations for Firms

Firms leveraging this framework should ensure:

- Internal policies and compliance procedures are **updated** to reflect the new 45-day limit
- Adequate **tracking and documentation** is in place for each ITP's visits and activities
- **Training and oversight** requirements are clearly defined and consistently implemented.

These enhancements underscore the SFC's commitment to supporting global business needs while upholding Hong Kong's regulatory integrity. Firms are encouraged to act now to fully benefit from the extended framework and avoid potential regulatory missteps.

## How can Waystone Help

Waystone can support the ITPs application process if your business requires visiting professionals from overseas group companies of a LC or LP.

We offer a full suite of [Corporate Compliance Solutions](#) tailored to the needs of businesses expanding into or operating within Hong Kong. Our team is committed to helping you strengthen your compliance framework, so you can focus on growing your business with confidence.

To learn more about how Waystone can support your corporate compliance needs, please reach out to your usual Waystone representative or our [APAC Compliance Solutions](#) team via below.

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