

Public Utility Services – 2007 Liberalization Measures

1. What is the definition medium-sized cities in the Mainland?

According to the *Law of Urban Planning of the People's Republic of China*, "medium-sized city" means a city that has a non-agricultural population of 200,000 or more, but less than 500,000, in its urban and inner suburban districts. For details please see http://fdi.gov.cn/pub/FDI/zcfg/law_ch_info.jsp?docid=47531.

Registered Gas Supply Company (Construction and operation of fuel gas network)

2. What is the scope of business of a “Gas Supply Company”?

“Gas Supply Company” means a company which as a business, imports, manufactures or supplies town gas, liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas or any mixture of such gases, whether in the form of a liquid or vapour.

3. How to apply for registration as a gas supply company?

Application for registration as Registered Gas Supply Company shall be submitted, in writing to the Gas Authority, by hand or by registered mail including relevant information and a prescribed fee of HK\$18,940 (for each application) to Gas Standards Office, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, 3 Kai Shing Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong. The application fees are not refundable.

4. What is the qualification for registration as a gas supply company?

According to Regulation 4 of the Gas Safety (Registration of Gas Supply Companies) Regulations Cap. 51, a company is qualified to be registered as a gas supply company if, having regard to the scope of the company's proposed business operations and the liabilities the company may incur in the course of carrying on the business of a gas supply company, the company has sufficient material resources to carry on business as a gas supply company.

5. What is the duty of registered gas supply company?

It shall be the duty of every registered gas supply company to ensure, in carrying on its business as a gas supply company, the health and safety at work of all its employees and to conduct its operations in a safe manner so that members of the public are not exposed to undue risks from gas. The duty extends include:

- (a) the provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health;
- (b) arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the carrying on of its business as a gas supply company;
- (c) the provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees;
- (d) as far as reasonably practicable as regards any place of work under its control, the maintenance of it in a condition that is safe and without risks to health and the provision and maintenance of means of access to and egress from it that are safe and without such risks; and
- (e) the provision and maintenance of a working environment for its employees that is safe and without risks to health.