

**Mainland and Hong Kong
Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Tourism and Travel Related Services

Travel Agency and Tour Operators

- 1. What are the capital and annual turnover requirements for Hong Kong travel agencies to set up business in the Mainland under CEPA?**

According to the CEPA Supplement X, with effect from 1 January 2014, no restriction with regard to annual business turnover is imposed on travel agencies in the Mainland which are set up and invested by Hong Kong Service Suppliers. The requirements with respect to business premises, business facilities and minimum capital requirement for registration of travel agencies in the Mainland set up by Hong Kong Service Suppliers are the same as those for Mainland enterprises, amongst which the minimum capital requirement for registration is RMB 300,000.

- 2. What kind of businesses can Hong Kong travel agents operate in the Mainland under CEPA? Are there any specific restrictions?**

Under CEPA, Hong Kong travel agents can operate inbound tours, domestic tours and apply for the operation of group tours to Hong Kong and Macao for residents registered with permanent residence of the original provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities in the Mainland. As regards outbound group tours, the Agreement on Trade in Services (the Agreement) signed on 27 November 2015 further lifted the relevant restrictions. According to the Agreement, with effect from 1 June 2016, the restriction on the number of Mainland-Hong Kong joint venture travel agents operating outbound group tours for Mainland residents is lifted. Furthermore, up to five Hong Kong travel agents established on a wholly-owned basis are allowed to operate outbound group tours for Mainland residents on a pilot basis, and the place of establishment of the five travel agents is no longer confined to the Guangdong Province. These two liberalisation measures further open up the tourism market of the Mainland, facilitating further development of the Hong Kong travel

trade in the Mainland market.

3. **From 1 March 2025 onwards, Mainland visitors participating in international cruise itineraries involving port-of-call in the Mainland cruise ports can travel to Hong Kong in transit to join all sorts of cruise itineraries, by presenting their passports and confirmation documents of the relevant cruise itineraries. How many days would the cruise passengers be able to transit in Hong Kong permit-free?**

The new measure is about extending the current transit policy for Mainland passport holders to cover those entering Hong Kong for joining international cruise itineraries involving Mainland port(s)-of-call. In other words, they may be granted a stay of 7 days for each entry into Hong Kong.