

18 December 2015

**Notice of an application for a block exemption order in relation to certain liner shipping agreements**

On 17 December 2015, the Competition Commission (“Commission”) received an application for a block exemption order under section 15 of the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (“Ordinance”) from the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (“HKLSA”).

Section 15 of the Ordinance permits the Commission to issue a block exemption order where it is satisfied that a category of agreements falls within the scope of the exclusion for agreements enhancing overall economic efficiency in section 1 of Schedule 1 to the Ordinance. General guidance on applications for a block exemption order is available in the Commission’s *Guideline on Applications for a Decision under Sections 9 and 24 (Exclusions and Exemptions) and Section 15 Block Exemption Orders*.

The HKLSA’s summary of their application is available on the Commission’s website ([www.compcomm.hk](http://www.compcomm.hk)).

In line with the Commission’s press release of 28 October 2015 outlining further arrangements for dealing with Applications, the Commission has indicated to HKLSA that it would be unlikely to initiate enforcement action in respect of the agreements which form the subject of HKLSA’s application, while it is considering the application. The Commission is satisfied that the conditions for providing such an indication (as set out in the press release of 28 October 2015) are fulfilled in this case.

Parties which are interested in discussing this application with the Commission may contact the Commission to make appropriate arrangements by email at: [Applications@compcomm.hk](mailto:Applications@compcomm.hk). Parties should quote the Commission’s case number (BE/0004) in the subject line of their email.