

01 August 2008

**BY FAX**

*Circular letter to all Fixed Telecommunications Network Service Licensees, Fixed Carrier Licensees, Fixed Carrier (Restricted) Licensees, Mobile Carrier Licensees and Mobile Carrier (Restricted) Licensees*

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Implementation of Unified Carrier Licence (UCL)**

We are pleased to inform you that the new licensing regime for UCL has started operation as from today (1<sup>st</sup> August 2008).

With the implementation of UCL, the Telecommunication Authority (“TA”) will no longer issue the fixed carrier licence (“FCL”)<sup>1</sup>, the fixed carrier (restricted) licence (“FCRL”), the mobile carrier licence (“MCL”) and the mobile carrier (restricted) licence (“MCRL”) (collectively referred to as “fixed / mobile carrier licences” hereafter) which have been specified under the Telecommunications (Carrier Licences) Regulation. For the provision of fixed, mobile or converged services<sup>2</sup>, the TA will issue UCL only.

All existing fixed / mobile carrier licences issued by the TA shall remain valid until they expire. The licence holders may apply to the TA for UCLs to replace their existing licences upon expiry. Alternatively, the licence holders may apply to the TA for conversion of their existing licences before expiry to UCLs on a voluntary basis.

For more information on the implementation of the new licensing regime under UCL, you are advised to read through the Statement entitled “Licensing Framework of

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<sup>1</sup> FCL includes both fixed carrier licence and fixed telecommunications network services (“FTNS”) licence in this letter.

<sup>2</sup> The existing Space Station Carrier Licence (“SSCL”), which allows the licensee to establish, possess, maintain, use and operate a space station or earth station for telemetry, tracking, control and monitoring of a space object and for space radiocommunications, is not covered under the UCL regime. That is to say, the TA will continue to issue SSCL.

Unified Carrier Licence” issued by the TA on 9 May 2008<sup>3</sup> as well as the application guidelines, application form and sample licence for UCL published by the TA today (which can be downloaded from the web site of Office of the Telecommunications Authority (“OFTA”) at <http://www.ofa.gov.hk/en/fmc/main.html>).

On 10 June 2008, we proposed an arrangement for alignment of the tariff publication requirement under the existing fixed carrier licence (FCL) and mobile carrier licence (MCL) with that under the UCL, and consulted the concerned licence holders on the specified format and the associated procedure for filing tariffs to the TA. Having received no adverse comments on the said format and procedure for filing tariffs, the “Standard Procedure and Format for Filing Tariffs to OFTA” (“Filing Procedure”) as attached to the circular letter dated 10 June 2008 has been adopted by the TA and published on the web site of OFTA (at <http://www.ofa.gov.hk/en/howto/ucl.html>). Existing holders of FCLs and MCLs may return their licences to the TA for amendment of their licence conditions so that they may align their tariff publication requirement with that of the UCL. Holders of FCLs and MCLs whose licences are duly amended, as well holders of UCL, will have to follow the Filing Procedure in filing tariffs to OFTA.

Should you have any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

( S T Cheuk )  
for Director-General  
of Telecommunications

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<sup>3</sup> The arrangements for migration of all fixed / mobile carrier licences to UCLs, including the transplanting of specific rights and obligations from an existing licence to a UCL issued for replacement or conversion of the existing licence, have been set out in details in the UCL Statement. In particular, paragraphs 109 – 121 of the UCL Statement addressed the issues on the replacement of the four FTNS / fixed carrier licences issued in 1995 and expiring in June 2010 and paragraphs 122 – 130 addressed the issues on the conversion of the existing MCLs to UCLs.