

Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards

Telecommunications Users and Consumers Advisory Committee

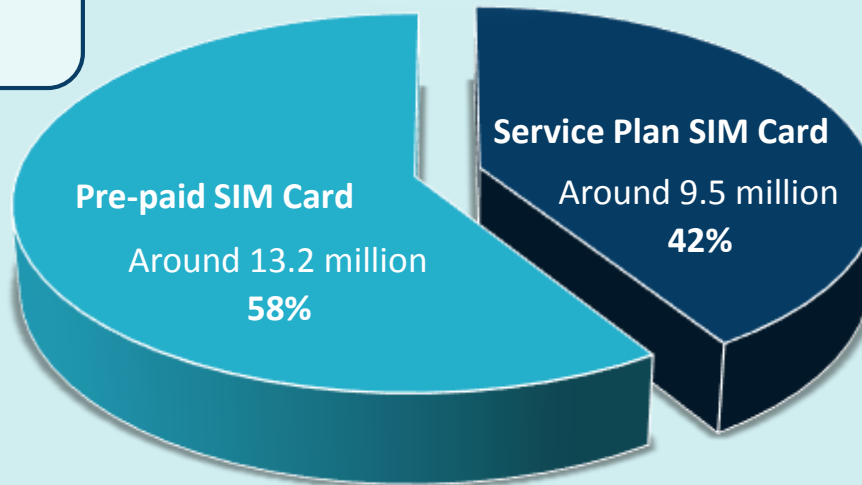
16 June 2021



SIM Services in Hong Kong

Collection of personal particulars of users is **NOT** required

Over 22.7 million *(as of January 2021)*
mobile subscriptions



Personal particulars of users have already been collected for business needs

Introduction of the Real-name Registration Programme

Real-name registration is a common practice which has been implemented in 155 jurisdictions globally



- ✓ Plug the loophole, with more effective enforcement against and prevention of serious crime
- ✓ Maintain the integrity of telecom services and protect legitimate users

The Government conducted a public consultation from 30 January to 20 March 2021



The Regulation is made under the Telecommunications Ordinance (TO) to implement real-name registration of SIM cards

Enactment of the Regulation under the TO to implement Real-name Registration Programme

Legal Framework

- ✓ The Government tabled the Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation at the Legislative Council on 9 June 2021
- ✓ The new Regulation will come into operation on 1 September 2021



Executive Body

- ✓ The **Communications Authority (CA)** is consulting the industry on the implementation issues of real-name registration of SIM cards, for inclusion in the Guidelines being drafted
- ✓ The CA will consider the comments received before finalising the Guidelines. The Guidelines will take effect together with the new Regulation on 1 September 2021

Phased Implementation

1 September 2021

- Commencement of the Regulation

2021

2022

24 February 2023

- Unregistered pre-paid SIM cards are deactivated

2023

1 March 2022

- New pre-paid and service plan SIM cards have to be registered before use
- Registration starts for existing pre-paid SIM cards

Phase 1
(181 days)

Phase 2
(360 days)

Key Features of the Real-name Registration Programme

SIM cards subject to registration

- SIM cards provided by **local licensees** for use **in Hong Kong** to supply telecommunications services
- SIM cards primarily used for **machine type connections** are **excluded**

Pre-paid SIM Card

Individual User

- A **maximum of 10** registered SIM cards for each licensee

Organisation User

- A **maximum of 25** registered SIM cards for each licensee

Service Plan SIM Card

- No registration limit
- Existing service plan SIM cards are **not** required to register
(including renewal of service agreements and replacement of damaged SIM cards, etc.)

Key Features of the Real-name Registration Programme (Cont'd)

Individual users are required to register the following personal particulars before the SIM cards can be activated

Identity document number

(Hong Kong identity card or other identity document)

Date of birth



Full name in English and Chinese (as applicable)

A copy of the identity document

- Registration of SIM card **users aged below 16** is required to be endorsed by an adult aged 18 or above together with the personal particulars of the adult

Key Features of the Real-name Registration Programme (Cont'd)

Organisation users are required to register the following information before the SIM cards can be activated

**Business / Branch
Registration
Certificate**

**A copy of the
Business / Branch
Registration
Certificate**



**Name of the Business or
Corporation**

**Personal particulars of
the responsible person of
the Business or
Corporation**

Registration Channels

- To facilitate users in making registration of pre-paid SIM cards, it is proposed in the draft Guidelines that operators should provide **one or more** of the following registration channels –



- ✓ online registration via a mobile phone using the pre-paid SIM card to be registered

- ✓ online registration via a mobile app



- ✓ online registration via a computer by accessing the thematic website of the licensee

- ✓ in-person registration at retail shops of the licensee



Handling of Registered Information



Required to keep a record of the registered information until the expiry of **1 year** after the SIM card is deregistered



Required to comply with the data protection principles of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) for the registered information collected from the users



Required to provide SIM registration records to law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for requests made under a warrant or urgent requests made without a warrant

- ✓ LEAs refers to the Customs and Excise Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Immigration Department and the Independent Commission Against Corruption



Responsibility of Telecommunications Operators

Thank you

