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Tax Newsflash

Hong Kong Tax News Passage of Hong Kong Corporate Treasury Centre rules

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill 2015 was passed by the Legislative Council on 26 May 2016. This eagerly awaited legislation introduces rules designed to attract foreign companies to establish their corporate treasury centres (CTCs) in Hong Kong to provide centralized treasury management services to companies in their groups. This should help reinforce Hong Kong's position as a competitive finance and corporate treasury hub.

The key features of the Bill that are relevant to CTCs and other Hong Kong taxpayers carrying on intragroup financing businesses, which are largely unchanged from that presented to the Legislative Council for First Reading on 16 December 2015, are as follows:

 Hong Kong Profits Tax concession at 8.25% (half rate of the prevailing Hong Kong Profits Tax rate) for a qualifying CTC on profits from certain qualifying corporate treasury activities.

- Deduction for interest paid by a Hong Kong taxpayer that carries on an intragroup financing business in Hong Kong (other than a financial institution but not necessarily a CTC) on loans from foreign associated corporations, if certain conditions are met.
- Interest income of a Hong Kong taxpayer (other than a financial institution but not necessarily a CTC) that arises through or from the carrying on of an intragroup financing business in Hong Kong deemed to be Hong Kong sourced, taxable receipts.

As the Bill has remained largely unchanged, Deloitte's observations on the CTC rules in <u>Tax</u> <u>Analysis Issue H66/2015 on 11 December 2015</u> would still be relevant. As such, please refer to this article for greater detail and insight on the new rules.

Effective dates:

- The CTC rules and interest deductibility rules should take effect retrospectively from 1 April 2016 once the relevant law is published in the Gazette, which is expected to be 3 June 2016 (commencement date).
- The deeming provision on interest income would only take effect on the date when the relevant law is published on the commencement date.

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