

The following is a list of unlicensed overseas companies, suspected scam websites and phishing scams which have come to the attention of the SFC.

Most of these unlicensed companies either represent themselves as having operations in Hong Kong by using the address of a mail forwarding facility or settle their transactions through a bank account in Hong Kong, when in fact they do not have any actual operations in Hong Kong. Alternatively, they may operate from overseas and contact potential investors in Hong Kong whilst not having been licensed in Hong Kong. While some of them may be boiler room operations, others may merely have failed to comply with licensing requirements.

Investors should exercise extreme caution when dealing with companies that are not licensed in any jurisdiction.

Suspected scam websites may either be scamsters using their websites to offer too-good-to-be-true investment opportunities (e.g. offering pre-IPO stocks of fabricated companies at huge discounts, or funds with guaranteed multiple returns) which do not actually exist, or fraudulent copycat websites which imitate the websites of reputable financial institutions to lure investors to part with their money and/or disclose personal information which the fraudsters may use to swindle investors.

Similar to fraudulent copycats, phishing is a term used to describe scamsters imitating legitimate financial institutions, notably banks, in emails to entice recipients to disclose their credit card/bank account numbers as well as their respective passwords/ Personal Identification Numbers (PINs).

Recently, it has come to the SFC's attention that boiler room activities, scam websites and phishing have become more active. If you wish to find out more about these scams, please refer to the subsections "Boiler Room Operations", "Scam Websites" and "Fraudulent Copycat Websites and Phishing Scams". You can also read the investor alert lists of overseas regulators in the "Boiler Room Operations" subsection.

Bernard Simpson Consultants

Gives addresses of:

Room 1, Floor 1, Straits Trading Building 2 Lebuh Pasar Besar Kuala Lumpur 50050 Malaysia

Level 40, Tower 2, Petronas Twin Towers Kuala Lumpur 50088 Malaysia Plaza Sentral 9th Floor JI Jenderal Sudirman No 47 Jakarta 12930 Indonesia

Centro Corporativo Internacional Avenida 6/8, Calle 26 Piso 3, San Jose Costa Rica

3001 Trade Tower, 159-1 Samsung-Dong Gangnam-Gu Seoul 135-729 Korea

Name used: Thomas Harte, Richard Good, Alex Lee, Damien White and John Clifford

(The company maintains a website with the domain names: www.bernardsimpson.net and www.bscmail.net. It also has a bank account in Hungary and appears to target Hong Kong investors.)

Added on 27 November 2003 Last updated on 21 July 2005

Devlin Stern & Associates

Gives an address of:

3705 Bank of America Tower, Suite 522 No. 12 Harcourt Road Hong Kong

(Names used: David G. Stern, Samuel G. Goldberg and Frederick Santos Lee)

(It maintains a website with the domain name: www.devlinstern.com)

Added on 21 July 2005

Landmark Trade Services Ltd

Gives an address of:

8/F, Bank of America Tower 12 Harcourt Road Central, Hong Kong

(It appears to be associated with Pricestone Group SI in Spain.)

Added on 21 July 2005

The Kaikatsu Group

Gives an address in Japan:

Tokyo Ginko Kyokai Building 1-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo, 100-0005, Japan

Gives an address in Hong Kong but is not located there:

16/F, Langham Place Office Tower 555 Shanghai Street, Mongkok Kowloon, Hong Kong

(It maintains a website with the domain name: www.kaikatsu-group.com. Financial Supervisory Agency (FSA) of Japan has verified that The Kaikatsu Group does not have a licence or authorization regarding securities, investment advisor and investment trust.)

Added on 6 July 2005 Updated on 21 July 2005