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-betrue 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.

Landmark Trade Services Ltd

Gives a registered office address of:

Omar Hodge Building, Wickhams Cay I, P.O. Box 362, Road Town, Tortola British Virgin Islands

Gives a correspondence address of:

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

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

Added on 21 July 2005 Last updated on 30 November 2005

Rockwell & Bond S A

Gives an address of:

Suite 1402, 14/F First e-bank Tower 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1200 Philippines

(Names used: James Young, David Watson, Ray Baxter, Jack Osborne, Thomas Miller, Vick Sweeny)

(The company also represents that it operates from Panama. It uses bank accounts in Hong Kong and the Philippines in the name of Rockwell and Bond Limited and Rockwell and Bond Inc. respectively.)

Added on 28 January 2003 Last updated on 16 November 2005