



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.

eBay (not related to eBay Inc., USA)

(Claims to represent eBay sending emails to certain members of the public because their accounts had been used to make fake bids at eBay. Recipients are required to provide information for account verification.)

Added on 22 June 2005

LaSalle Bank (not related to LaSalle Bank, USA)

(Claims to represent LaSalle Bank sending emails to certain members of the public requesting them to provide information within a certain period by clicking on an attached hyperlink. Otherwise, recipients' credit cards will be locked.)

Added on 29 June 2005

The Stockton Group

Gives addresses of:

502 Ohashi-Building
1-16 Kanda-Sakumacho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-0025
Japan

Cheung Kong Centre
2 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong

(The company maintains a website with the domain name:
www.stocktongroup.net)

Added on 29 June 2005