
Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Bill 2024

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Bill 2024

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A BILL

To

Amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance to give profits tax concessions for certain assessable profits from an eligible intellectual property income; to provide for the treatment of losses in relation to assessable profits chargeable to profits tax at more than one concessionary tax rate; and to provide for related matters.

Enacted by the Legislative Council.

1. Short title

This Ordinance may be cited as the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Ordinance 2024.

2. Inland Revenue Ordinance amended

The Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) is amended as set out in sections 3 to 14.

3. Section 14 amended (charge of profits tax)

Section 14(5), after “14ZV(7)(b)”—

Add

“or section 4 of Schedule 17FD”.

4. Section 19C amended (treatment of losses after 1 April 1975)

(1) Section 19C(1), (2), (4) and (5)—

Repeal

“section 19CB”

Substitute

“sections 19CB and 19CF”.

(2) Section 19C(6)(e)—

Repeal the full stop

Substitute a semicolon.

(3) After section 19C(6)(e)—

Add

“(f) if, because of a concession provision (as defined by section 19CA), a person is exempt from payment of tax, or chargeable to tax at 0%, in respect of the person’s assessable profits derived from the activities or transactions specified in the concession provision for the basis period of the person for a year of assessment, the amount of any loss sustained from any of those activities or transactions by the person is not available for set off against—

(i) any of the person’s assessable profits for that basis period; and

- (ii) any of the person's assessable profits for the basis period for any subsequent year of assessment.”.

5. Section 19CA amended (treatment of unabsorbed losses under sections 19CAB and 19CAC: interpretation)

- (1) Section 19CA, heading, after “19CAC”—

Add

“(concessionary trading receipts chargeable to tax at same rate and normal trading receipts)”.

- (2) Section 19CA, definition of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (c)—

Repeal

“and”.

- (3) Section 19CA, definition of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (d)—

Repeal the semicolon

Substitute

“; and”.

- (4) Section 19CA, definition of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*, after paragraph (d)—

Add

“(e) if the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts fall within the description in section 3(1) and (2) of Schedule 17FD—the amount of the concessionary portion of the assessable profits ascertained in accordance with section 10 of that Schedule;”.

- (5) Section 19CA, definition of *concession provision*, paragraph (h)—

Repeal

“or”.

- (6) Section 19CA, definition of *concession provision*, paragraph (i)—

Repeal the semicolon

Substitute

“; or”.

- (7) Section 19CA, definition of *concession provision*, after paragraph (i)—

Add

“(j) section 3 of Schedule 17FD;”.

- (8) Section 19CA, definition of *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (c)—

Repeal

“; and”

Substitute a semicolon.

- (9) Section 19CA, definition of *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts*, paragraph (d)—

Repeal the semicolon

Substitute

“; and”.

- (10) Section 19CA, definition of *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts*, after paragraph (d)—

Add

“(e) if the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts fall within the description in section 3(1) and (2) of Schedule 17FD—any loss ascertained in accordance with section 19D and section 10 of that Schedule;”.

6. Sections 19CC to 19CG added

After section 19CB—

Add

“19CC. Treatment of unabsorbed losses under sections 19CD and 19CE: interpretation

In this section and sections 19CD and 19CE—

adjustment factor (調整分數), in relation to a year of assessment, means the factor calculated in accordance with the formula—

$$\frac{A}{B}$$

where: **A** in relation to any concessionary trading receipts, means the concessionary tax rate that applies to the receipts for that year of assessment; and

B in relation to any concessionary trading receipts other than those referred to in A, means the concessionary tax rate that applies to the receipts for that year of assessment that is lower than A;

chargeable concessionary trading receipts (應課稅的獲特惠的營業收入) has the meaning given by section 19CA;

concession provision (寬減條文) has the meaning given by section 19CA;

concessionary tax rate (特惠稅率), in relation to any concessionary trading receipts for a year of assessment, means the rate specified in the relevant

concession provision at which the receipts are chargeable to profits tax for that year of assessment;
concessionary trading receipts (獲特惠的營業收入) has the meaning given by section 19CA;
unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts (關乎獲特惠的營業收入的未吸納虧損) has the meaning given by section 19CA.

19CD. Treatment of unabsorbed losses: concessionary trading receipts chargeable to tax at lower rate

- (1) This section applies if, for a year of assessment—
 - (a) a person has chargeable concessionary trading receipts;
 - (b) there is an unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts of the person; and
 - (c) the concessionary tax rate applicable to the receipts described in paragraph (b) is lower than the concessionary tax rate applicable to the receipts described in paragraph (a).
- (2) If the amount of the unabsorbed loss does not exceed the amount arrived at by multiplying the chargeable concessionary trading receipts by the adjustment factor for the year of assessment (*adjusted higher rate amount*)—
 - (a) for the purpose of ascertaining the assessable profits of the person for the year of assessment—the chargeable concessionary trading receipts are to be reduced by the amount arrived at by dividing the amount of the unabsorbed loss by the adjustment factor; and

- (b) for other purposes—the amount of the unabsorbed loss is taken to be zero.
- (3) If the amount of the unabsorbed loss exceeds the adjusted higher rate amount—
 - (a) for the purpose of ascertaining the loss sustained by the person for the year of assessment—
 - (i) the amount of the unabsorbed loss is to be reduced by the adjusted higher rate amount; and
 - (ii) the balance of the unabsorbed loss is to be dealt with in accordance with sections 19C and 19CF; and
 - (b) for other purposes—the chargeable concessionary trading receipts are taken to be zero.

19CE. Treatment of unabsorbed losses: concessionary trading receipts chargeable to tax at higher rate

- (1) This section applies if, for a year of assessment—
 - (a) a person has chargeable concessionary trading receipts;
 - (b) there is an unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts of the person; and
 - (c) the concessionary tax rate applicable to the receipts described in paragraph (b) is higher than the concessionary tax rate applicable to the receipts described in paragraph (a).

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- (2) If the amount of the unabsorbed loss does not exceed the amount arrived at by dividing the chargeable concessionary trading receipts by the adjustment factor for the year of assessment (*adjusted lower rate amount*)—
- (a) for the purpose of ascertaining the assessable profits of the person for the year of assessment—the chargeable concessionary trading receipts are to be reduced by the amount arrived at by multiplying the amount of the unabsorbed loss by the adjustment factor; and
 - (b) for other purposes—the amount of the unabsorbed loss is taken to be zero.
- (3) If the amount of the unabsorbed loss exceeds the adjusted lower rate amount—
- (a) for the purpose of ascertaining the loss sustained by the person for the year of assessment—
 - (i) the amount of the unabsorbed loss is to be reduced by the adjusted lower rate amount; and
 - (ii) the balance of the unabsorbed loss is to be dealt with in accordance with sections 19C and 19CF; and
 - (b) for other purposes—the chargeable concessionary trading receipts are taken to be zero.

19CF. Set off: concessionary trading receipts chargeable to tax at 2 different rates

- (1) If—
 - (a) in accordance with section 19C(1), (2), (4) or (5), a loss is to be set off against assessable profits for a year of assessment; and
 - (b) the loss is sustained, and the assessable profits arise, in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which different concessionary tax rates apply,

this section applies for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the loss so set off and the resulting reduction in the assessable profits.

- (2) Subsection (3) applies if, for a year of assessment, the concessionary tax rate applicable to the concessionary trading receipts in respect of which the loss is sustained is lower than the concessionary tax rate applicable to the concessionary trading receipts in respect of which the assessable profits arise.

- (3) If—
 - (a) the amount of the loss does not exceed the amount of the assessable profits as multiplied by the adjustment factor—
 - (i) for the purpose of ascertaining the assessable profits—the amount of the assessable profits is taken to be reduced by the amount arrived at by dividing the amount of the loss by the adjustment factor; and
 - (ii) for other purposes—the loss is taken to have been fully set off; and

- (b) the amount of the loss exceeds the amount of the assessable profits as multiplied by the adjustment factor—
 - (i) for the purpose of the set off—the loss is taken to have been set off to the extent of the amount arrived at by multiplying the amount of the assessable profits by the adjustment factor; and
 - (ii) for other purposes—the amount of the assessable profits is taken to be zero.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if, for a year of assessment, the concessionary tax rate applicable to the concessionary trading receipts in respect of which the loss is sustained is higher than the concessionary tax rate applicable to the concessionary trading receipts in respect of which the assessable profits arise.
- (5) If—
 - (a) the amount of the loss does not exceed the amount of the assessable profits as divided by the adjustment factor—
 - (i) for the purpose of ascertaining the assessable profits—the amount of the assessable profits is taken to be reduced by the amount arrived at by multiplying the amount of the loss by the adjustment factor; and
 - (ii) for other purposes—the loss is taken to have been fully set off; and
 - (b) the amount of the loss exceeds the amount of the assessable profits as divided by the adjustment factor—

- (i) for the purpose of the set off—the loss is taken to have been set off to the extent of the amount arrived at by dividing the amount of the assessable profits by the adjustment factor; and
- (ii) for other purposes—the amount of the assessable profits is taken to be zero.

(6) In this section—

adjustment factor (調整分數) has the meaning given by section 19CC;

concessionary tax rate (特惠稅率) has the meaning given by section 19CC;

concessionary trading receipts (獲特惠的營業收入) has the meaning given by section 19CA;

loss (虧損) includes part of a loss.

19CG. Application of sections 19CAB, 19CAC, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE and 19CF if both concessionary trading receipts (chargeable to tax at different rates) and normal trading receipts are involved

(1) If—

- (a) a loss is sustained in respect of concessionary trading receipts;
- (b) assessable profits arise in respect of normal trading receipts; and
- (c) more than one concessionary tax rate applies to the concessionary trading receipts,

subsection (2) applies in relation to the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts.

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- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), sections 19CAB and 19CB(2), if applicable, are to apply—
- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (b) if there is any amount of the assessable profits still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the remaining amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts,and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.
- (3) If—
- (a) a loss is sustained in respect of normal trading receipts;
 - (b) assessable profits arise in respect of concessionary trading receipts; and
 - (c) more than one concessionary tax rate applies to the concessionary trading receipts,
- subsection (4) applies in relation to the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts.

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- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), sections 19CAC and 19CB(3), if applicable, are to apply—
- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (b) if there is any amount of the loss still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the remaining amount of the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies,and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.
- (5) If—
- (a) a loss is sustained in respect of concessionary trading receipts;
 - (b) assessable profits arise in respect of both concessionary trading receipts and normal trading receipts; and
 - (c) more than one concessionary tax rate applies to the concessionary trading receipts,

subsections (6) and (7) apply in relation to the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts.

- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5), sections 19CAB and 19CB(2), if applicable, are to apply—
- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (b) if there is any amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the remaining amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts,and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the normal trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.
- (7) If there is any amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts still remaining after applying sections 19CAB and 19CB(2) in accordance with subsection (6), sections 19CD, 19CE and 19CF, if applicable, are to apply—

- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the remaining amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
- (b) if there is any amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts and any amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the remaining amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies,
and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.
- (8) If—
 - (a) a loss is sustained in respect of both normal trading receipts and concessionary trading receipts;

- (b) assessable profits arise in respect of concessionary trading receipts; and
 - (c) more than one concessionary tax rate applies to the concessionary trading receipts,
- subsections (9) and (10) apply in relation to the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts.
- (9) For the purposes of subsection (8), sections 19CAC and 19CB(3), if applicable, are to apply—
- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (b) if there is any amount of the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the remaining amount of the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies,
- and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the normal trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.

- (10) If there is any amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts still remaining after applying sections 19CAC and 19CB(3) in accordance with subsection (9), sections 19CD, 19CE and 19CF, if applicable, are to apply—
- (a) first in relation to—
 - (i) the amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the remaining amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (b) if there is any amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts and any amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts still remaining afterwards, then in relation to—
 - (i) the remaining amount of the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies; and
 - (ii) the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts to which the next highest concessionary tax rate applies,and so on until either the amount of all the loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, or the amount of the assessable profits in respect of the concessionary trading receipts, is reduced to, or taken to be, zero.

- (11) If the Commissioner is satisfied that it is impracticable to apply subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) or (10) in a particular case, the amounts of the loss and the assessable profits are to be determined in a manner that the Commissioner considers reasonable in the circumstances.
- (12) For the purposes of applying sections 19CAB and 19CAC to this section—
- (a) a reference in this section to a loss in respect of concessionary trading receipts is to be read as if it is a reference to an unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts;
 - (b) a reference in this section to a loss in respect of normal trading receipts is to be read as if it is a reference to an unabsorbed loss in respect of the normal trading receipts;
 - (c) a reference in this section to assessable profits in respect of concessionary trading receipts is to be read as if it is a reference to chargeable concessionary trading receipts; and
 - (d) a reference in this section to assessable profits in respect of normal trading receipts is to be read as if it is a reference to chargeable normal trading receipts.
- (13) In this section—
- concessionary tax rate* (特惠稅率) has the meaning given by section 19CC;
- concessionary trading receipts* (獲特惠的營業收入) has the meaning given by section 19CA;
- loss* (虧損) has the meaning given by section 19CF(6);

normal trading receipts (一般營業收入) has the meaning given by section 19CA.”.

7. Part 6G added

After Part 6F—

Add

“Part 6G

Eligible IP Income and its Tax Treatment

40AY. Schedule 17FD: concessionary tax treatment and nexus requirement for ascertaining concessionary portion

- (1) Schedule 17FD contains provisions about the tax treatment of eligible IP income within the meaning of that Schedule.
- (2) Schedule 17FD applies in respect of a year of assessment beginning on or after 1 April 2023.

40AZ. Power to amend Schedule 17FD

- (1) The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury may, by notice published in the Gazette, amend Schedule 17FD.
- (2) A notice published under subsection (1) may contain any incidental, supplemental, evidential, consequential, savings and transitional provisions that are necessary and expedient in consequence of the amendments made under that subsection.”.

8. Section 51C amended (business records to be kept)

- (1) Section 51C(5)(c)—

Repeal

“etc.).”

Substitute

“etc.);”.

- (2) After section 51C(5)(c)—

Add

“(d) section 22 of Schedule 17FD (eligible IP income: concessionary tax treatment and nexus requirement for ascertaining concessionary portion).”.

9. Section 63H amended (amount of provisional profits tax)

Section 63H(1D), after “14ZV(7)(b)”—

Add

“or section 4 of Schedule 17FD”.

10. Section 80 amended (penalties for failure to make returns, making incorrect returns, etc.)

- (1) After section 80(2ZB)—

Add

“(2ZC) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with section 21 of Schedule 17FD commits an offence and is liable on conviction to—

- (a) a fine at level 3; and
- (b) a further fine of treble the undercharged amount.”.

- (2) Section 80(6)(c)—

Repeal

“etc.).”

Substitute

“etc.);”.

- (3) After section 80(6)(c)—

Add

“(d) section 22 of Schedule 17FD (eligible IP income: concessionary tax treatment and nexus requirement for ascertaining concessionary portion).”.

11. Section 82A amended (additional tax in certain cases)

- (1) After section 82A(1J)—

Add

“(1K) If—

- (a) a person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with section 21 of Schedule 17FD; and
 - (b) no prosecution for an offence under section 80 has been instituted in respect of the same facts,
- the person is liable to be assessed under this section to additional tax of an amount not exceeding treble the undercharged amount.”.

- (2) After section 82A(4)(a)(i)(G)—

Add

“(H) for additional tax to be assessed under subsection (1K)—the alleged failure to comply with section 21 of Schedule 17FD;”.

12. Schedule 17FD added

After Schedule 17FC—

Add

“Schedule 17FD

[ss. 14, 19CA, 40AY,
40AZ, 51C, 63H,
80 & 82A]

Eligible IP Income: Concessionary Tax Treatment and Nexus Requirement for Ascertaining Concessionary Portion

Part 1

Preliminary

1. Interpretation of Schedule 17FD

(1) In this Schedule—

application for a standard patent (R) (轉錄標準專利的申請) and *standard patent (R) application* (轉錄標準專利申請) have the meaning given by section 3 of Cap. 514;

Cap. 490 (《第490章》) means the Plant Varieties Protection Ordinance (Cap. 490);

Cap. 514 (《第514章》) means the Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514);

concessionary portion (特惠部分)—see section 10 of this Schedule;

concessionary tax rate (特惠稅率)—see section 3(3) of this Schedule;

corresponding local patent (相應本地專利) has the meaning given by section 6(3) of this Schedule;

corresponding local plant variety right (相應本地植物品種權利) has the meaning given by section 6(3) of this Schedule;

date of filing (提交日期) means—

- (a) in relation to a patent application that is filed with, or a patent that is granted by, a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong—
 - (i) if the patent application, or the application for the patent, is an international application that has validly entered its national phase in a patent office—the international filing date accorded to the international application for the purposes of Article 11 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty; or
 - (ii) in any other case—the date of filing accorded to the patent application, or the application for the patent, by the patent office with which the application is filed;
- (b) in relation to a standard patent (R) application or a standard patent (R)—
 - (i) if the corresponding designated patent application within the meaning of section 4(2)(b) of Cap. 514 is an international application that has validly entered its national phase in the corresponding designated patent office—the international filing date accorded to the international application for the purposes of Article 11 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty; or

- (ii) in any other case—
 - (A) for a standard patent (R) application—the date of filing of the corresponding designated patent application; or
 - (B) for a standard patent (R)—the deemed date of filing (within the meaning of section 38 of Cap. 514) of the application for the standard patent (R);
- (c) in relation to a standard patent (O) application or a standard patent (O)—the date of filing accorded under section 37M(2) or 37Z(2) of Cap. 514 to the standard patent (O) application or application for the standard patent (O); or
- (d) in relation to a short-term patent application or a short-term patent—
 - (i) for a short-term patent application or an application for a short-term patent based on an international application designating the People’s Republic of China that has entered its national phase in the People’s Republic of China—the international filing date referred to in section 125(5) of Cap. 514 that is deemed to be the date of filing of the short-term patent application or application for the short-term patent; or
 - (ii) in any other case—the date of filing accorded under section 114(2) or 116 of Cap. 514 to the short-term patent application or application for the short-term patent;

designated patent office (指定專利當局) has the meaning given by section 4(1) of Cap. 514;

divisional patent application (專利的分開申請) means—

- (a) in relation to a patent application that is made under Cap. 514—
 - (i) if the patent application is a standard patent (R) application—a request to enter a record of a divisional patent application filed under section 22(1) of Cap. 514;
 - (ii) if the patent application is a standard patent (O) application—a divisional standard patent (O) application filed under section 37Z of Cap. 514; or
 - (iii) if the patent application is a short-term patent application—a divisional short-term patent application filed under section 116 of Cap. 514; or
- (b) in relation to a patent application that is filed with a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong—an application for a divisional patent filed under the law, instruments or rules of the patent office applicable to that application;

eligible intellectual property (具資格知識產權) means any of the following intellectual property that is generated from an R&D activity—

- (a) an eligible patent;
- (b) an eligible plant variety right;
- (c) a copyright subsisting in software under the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528) or under the law of any place outside Hong Kong;

eligible IP income (具資格知識產權收入)—see section 7 of this Schedule;

eligible patent (具資格專利)—see section 8 of this Schedule;

eligible person (具資格人士) means a person who is entitled to derive eligible IP income from an eligible intellectual property;

eligible plant variety right (具資格植物品種權利)—see section 9 of this Schedule;

eligible R&D expenditure (具資格研發開支)—see section 13 of this Schedule;

Hong Kong resident person (香港居民人士) has the meaning given by section 50AAC(1);

non-eligible expenditure (不具資格開支)—see section 14 of this Schedule;

non-Hong Kong resident person (非香港居民人士) has the meaning given by section 50AAC(1);

patent office (專利當局), in relation to a place outside Hong Kong, means a competent authority in that place that receives or processes patent applications, or grants patents;

R&D activity (研發活動) has the meaning given by section 2 of Schedule 45;

R&D fraction (研發分數)—see section 12 of this Schedule;

specified date (指明日期) means the date of expiry of a period of 24 months after the commencement date of the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Ordinance 2024 (of 2024);

- specified period* (指明期間), in relation to an eligible person to whom any eligible IP income accrues, means the period—
- (a) beginning on 1 April 2023 or on an earlier date elected by the eligible person; and
 - (b) ending on the last day of the eligible person's basis period for the year of assessment during which the income accrues.
- (2) In this Schedule, the following expressions have the meanings given by section 2(1) of Cap. 514—
- application for a short-term patent* (短期專利的申請) and *short-term patent application* (短期專利申請);
- application for a standard patent (O)* (原授標準專利的申請) and *standard patent (O) application* (原授標準專利申請);
- international application* (國際申請);
- Patent Cooperation Treaty* (《專利合作條約》);
- short-term patent* (短期專利);
- standard patent (O)* (原授標準專利);
- standard patent (R)* (轉錄標準專利);
- substantive examination* (實質審查).
- (3) For the purposes of this Schedule—
- (a) a person is to be regarded as associated with another person if, as between them, the participation condition is met under section 50AAG; and
 - (b) a reference to an associated person is to be read accordingly.

- (4) In this Schedule—
- (a) a reference to a patent granted by a patent office of a place outside Hong Kong, includes—
 - (i) the registration of a utility model by the patent office;
 - (ii) a utility certificate issued by the patent office; and
 - (iii) an inventor's certificate issued by the patent office,and a patent application filed with a patent office of a place outside Hong Kong is to be construed accordingly; and
 - (b) a reference to a divisional patent application includes all subsequent divisional patent applications in respect of that application.

2. Consistency with OECD 2015 Report

- (1) This Schedule is to be read in the way that best secures consistency with the requirements and guidance in Chapter 4 of the OECD 2015 Report.

- (2) In this section—

OECD 2015 Report (《經合組織2015年報告》) means the Countering Harmful Tax Practices More Effectively, Taking into Account Transparency and Substance, Action 5 - 2015 Final Report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2015.

Part 2

Tax Concession for Eligible IP Income

3. Concessionary portion of assessable profits from eligible IP income subject to concessionary tax rate

(1) This section applies in relation to the assessable profits of an eligible person from an eligible IP income for a year of assessment.

(2) If—

(a) the eligible IP income is derived from an eligible intellectual property; and

(b) an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule in respect of the eligible intellectual property,

then, subject to Part 4 of this Schedule, the concessionary portion of the assessable profits is chargeable to tax at the concessionary tax rate specified in subsection (3).

(3) The concessionary tax rate is 5%.

4. Election for purposes of section 3 of this Schedule

(1) The election to apply the concessionary tax rate in relation to the concessionary portion of the assessable profits of an eligible person from an eligible IP income is to be made—

(a) in respect of an eligible intellectual property; and

(b) in writing.

(2) The election, once made, is irrevocable.

5. Election: granted patents and divisional patent applications

If an election has been made under section 4 of this Schedule in respect of an eligible patent that is a patent application (*original patent application*), the election is to be regarded as having also been made, for the purposes of section 3 of this Schedule, in respect of—

- (a) the patents granted in pursuance of the original patent application; and
- (b) the divisional patent applications of the original patent application and the patents granted in pursuance of such divisional patent applications.

6. Election: eligible patent or eligible plant variety right with date of filing on or after specified date

(1) This section applies to an election under section 4 of this Schedule in respect of any of the following eligible intellectual property the date of filing of which is on or after the specified date—

- (a) an eligible patent that is not—
 - (i) a standard patent (O);
 - (ii) a standard patent (O) application;
 - (iii) a short-term patent; or
 - (iv) a short-term patent application;
- (b) an eligible plant variety right that is not—
 - (i) a grant as defined by section 2 of Cap. 490; or
 - (ii) an application as defined by section 2 of Cap. 490.

- (2) An election under section 4 of this Schedule is not valid unless, in addition to meeting the requirements of that section—
- (a) for an election made in respect of the eligible patent—there is a corresponding local patent; or
 - (b) for an election made in respect of the eligible plant variety right—there is a corresponding local plant variety right.
- (3) In this section—
- corresponding local patent*** (相應本地專利), in relation to an eligible patent in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, means—
- (a) a standard patent (O);
 - (b) a standard patent (O) application;
 - (c) a short-term patent; or
 - (d) a short-term patent application,
- the subject of which is the same invention as the invention that is the subject of the eligible patent;
- corresponding local plant variety right*** (相應本地植物品種權利), in relation to an eligible plant variety right in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, means—
- (a) a grant; or
 - (b) an application,
- the variety of which is the subject variety of the eligible plant variety right.
- (4) In the definition of ***corresponding local patent*** in subsection (3), a reference to the same invention—

- (a) for a standard patent (O) or a standard patent (O) application—is to be construed in the same way as it is construed for the purposes of section 37C(2) of Cap. 514; and
 - (b) for a short-term patent or a short-term patent application—is to be construed in the same way as it is construed for the purposes of section 110(1A) of Cap. 514.
- (5) In the definition of *corresponding local plant variety right* in subsection (3), the following expressions have the meanings given by section 2 of Cap. 490—
- application* (申請);
 - grant* (授權證);
 - variety* (品種).

7. Meaning of *eligible IP income*

- (1) In this Schedule, an eligible IP income is an income of any one or more of the following descriptions—
- (a) income derived from an eligible intellectual property in respect of—
 - (i) the exhibition or use of, or a right to exhibit or use, (whether in or outside Hong Kong) the property; or
 - (ii) the imparting of, or undertaking to impart, knowledge directly or indirectly connected with the use (whether in or outside Hong Kong) of the property;
 - (b) income derived from the sale of an eligible intellectual property;
 - (c) if the price of a sale of a product or service includes an amount that is attributable to an

- eligible intellectual property—such portion of the income from that sale as, on a just and reasonable basis, is attributable to the value of the property (*embedded IP income*);
- (d) amount of insurance, damages or compensation derived in relation to an eligible intellectual property.
- (2) For the purpose of ascertaining the embedded IP income under subsection (1)(c), the income attributed to the eligible intellectual property is to be calculated in the way that best secures consistency with the requirements and guidance in the OECD rules.
- (3) In subsection (2)—
- OECD rules** (《經合組織規則》) means—
- (a) the commentary on the business profits article as defined by section 50AAC(1); and
- (b) the Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on 10 January 2022.

8. Meaning of *eligible patent*

- (1) In this Schedule, an eligible patent is—
- (a) a patent—
- (i) that is granted under Cap. 514 or granted by a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong; and
- (ii) if the date of filing of the application for the patent is on or after the specified date—that is not a standard patent (R); or

- (b) a patent application—
 - (i) that is made under Cap. 514 or filed with a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong; and
 - (ii) if the date of filing of the patent application is on or after the specified date—that is not a standard patent (R) application.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b)(i), if the patent application is an international application, the reference to the patent application being filed with a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong is a reference to the patent application having validly entered its national phase in the patent office in which the national phase is entered.

9. Meaning of *eligible plant variety right*

In this Schedule, an eligible plant variety right is—

- (a) a right—
 - (i) that is granted under Cap. 490; or
 - (ii) that corresponds to the right mentioned in subparagraph (i) and subsists under the law of any place outside Hong Kong; or
- (b) an application—
 - (i) that is an application as defined by section 2 of Cap. 490; or
 - (ii) that corresponds to the application mentioned in subparagraph (i) and subsists under the law of any place outside Hong Kong.

Part 3

Concessionary Portion of Assessable Profits from Eligible IP Income

10. Ascertaining concessionary portion

The concessionary portion of the assessable profits from an eligible IP income is to be ascertained in accordance with the following formula—

$$P = I \times F$$

where: P means the concessionary portion;

I means the assessable profits from the eligible IP income; and

F means the R&D fraction applicable to those assessable profits.

11. Ascertaining assessable profits from eligible IP income

The assessable profits from an eligible IP income is to be ascertained in accordance with the following formula—

$$I = A - B - C + D$$

where: I means the assessable profits from the eligible IP income;

A means the eligible IP income;

B means the outgoings and expenses to the extent that they are incurred during the basis period for the year of assessment (*relevant basis period*) to produce A;

- C means the allowances allowed under Part 6, to the extent that the relevant assets counted for the allowances are used during the relevant basis period to produce A; and
- D means the balancing charge to be made under Part 6, to the extent that the relevant assets counted for the balancing charge are used during the relevant basis period to produce A.

12. Ascertaining R&D fraction

- (1) For any assessable profits from an eligible IP income, the R&D fraction applicable to those profits is to be ascertained in accordance with the following formula—

$$F = \frac{EE \times 130\%}{EE + NE}$$

where: F means the R&D fraction;

EE means the eligible R&D expenditure incurred in respect of the eligible intellectual property to which the eligible IP income relates (*subject intellectual property*); and

NE means the non-eligible expenditure incurred in respect of the subject intellectual property.

- (2) An R&D fraction is to be regarded as 100% if the percentage ascertained in accordance with subsection (1) is more than 100%.

13. Meaning of EE: eligible R&D expenditure

- (1) Any expenditure (including capital expenditure) incurred by an eligible person during the specified period for an R&D activity that—
 - (a) is connected to the eligible intellectual property to which the eligible IP income relates (*subject intellectual property*); and
 - (b) is carried out—
 - (i) by the eligible person;
 - (ii) on behalf of the eligible person by a person that is not associated with the eligible person; or
 - (iii) in Hong Kong on behalf of the eligible person by an associated person of the eligible person that is a Hong Kong resident person,

is, subject to subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), an eligible R&D expenditure incurred in respect of the subject intellectual property.
- (2) The following expenditures are not to be regarded as eligible R&D expenditures—
 - (a) interest payments;
 - (b) payments for any land or building, or for any alteration, addition or extension to any building;
 - (c) any expenditure (including capital expenditure) incurred by the eligible person for obtaining the subject intellectual property or any right in respect of the property (whether by acquisition, licensing, amalgamating with another company or otherwise) from another person.

- (3) Subsection (4) applies if—
- (a) the subject intellectual property or any right in respect of the property is or was vested in a company that is a Hong Kong resident person (*original owner*) (whether by acquisition, licensing, amalgamating with another person or otherwise);
 - (b) the eligible person—
 - (i) obtained the property or any right in respect of the property by amalgamating with the original owner; or
 - (ii) acquired all equity interests in the original owner and subsequently acquired, or obtained a licence for, the property from the original owner; and
 - (c) the original owner has sufficient records of the expenditures it incurred in respect of the property, so that the eligible person would still be able to comply with section 51C (as modified by section 22(2) and (3) of this Schedule) in respect of the expenditures even if—
 - (i) the references to the eligible person in subsections (1) and (2)(c) were regarded as including the original owner; and
 - (ii) as a result, the expenditures became eligible R&D expenditures.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (2)(c) apply as if the references to the eligible person in those subsections included the original owner.

- (5) If, in addition to the subject intellectual property, an eligible R&D expenditure is also connected to other items of intellectual property (including other items of eligible intellectual property), the expenditure is to be apportioned between the subject intellectual property and those other items on a just and reasonable basis.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5), an expenditure is apportioned between the subject intellectual property and other items on a just and reasonable basis if the amount apportioned to the subject intellectual property represents the extent to which the expenditure was incurred in respect of the property.

14. Meaning of NE: non-eligible expenditure

- (1) Each of the following expenditures is, subject to subsections (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6), a non-eligible expenditure incurred in respect of the eligible intellectual property to which the eligible IP income relates (*subject intellectual property*)—
 - (a) any expenditure (including capital expenditure) incurred by the eligible person during the specified period for obtaining the subject intellectual property or any right in respect of the property (whether by acquisition, licensing, amalgamating with another company or otherwise) from another person;
 - (b) any expenditure (including capital expenditure) incurred by the eligible person during the specified period for an R&D activity that—
 - (i) is connected to the subject intellectual property; and

- (ii) is carried out—
 - (A) on behalf of the eligible person by an associated person of the eligible person that is a non-Hong Kong resident person; or
 - (B) outside Hong Kong on behalf of the eligible person by an associated person of the eligible person that is a Hong Kong resident person.
- (2) The following expenditures are not to be regarded as non-eligible expenditures—
 - (a) interest payments;
 - (b) payments for any land or building, or for any alteration, addition or extension to any building.
- (3) Subsections (4) and (5) apply if—
 - (a) the subject intellectual property or any right in respect of the property is or was vested in a company that is a Hong Kong resident person (*original owner*) (whether by acquisition, licensing, amalgamating with another person or otherwise);
 - (b) the eligible person—
 - (i) obtained the property or any right in respect of the property by amalgamating with the original owner; or
 - (ii) acquired all equity interests in the original owner and subsequently acquired, or obtained a licence for, the property from the original owner; and
 - (c) the original owner has sufficient records of the expenditures it incurred in respect of the

property, so that the eligible person would still be able to comply with section 51C (as modified by section 22(2) and (3) of this Schedule) in respect of the expenditures even if—

- (i) the references to the eligible person in subsection (1) were regarded as including the original owner; and
 - (ii) as a result, the expenditures became non-eligible expenditures.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies as if the references to the eligible person in that subsection included the original owner.
 - (5) In calculating the total amount of non-eligible expenditures, the expenditure incurred by the eligible person during the specified period for obtaining the subject intellectual property or any right in respect of the property from the original owner is to be deducted.
 - (6) If, in addition to the subject intellectual property, a non-eligible expenditure is also connected to other items of intellectual property (including other items of eligible intellectual property), the expenditure is to be apportioned between the subject intellectual property and those other items on a just and reasonable basis.
 - (7) For the purposes of subsection (6), an expenditure is apportioned between the subject intellectual property and other items on a just and reasonable basis if the amount apportioned to the subject intellectual property represents the extent to which the expenditure was incurred in respect of the property.

Part 4

Exception to Section 3 of this Schedule: Tax Treatments under Certain Circumstances and Conditions

15. Meaning of abandonment, cancellation, declination, lapse, unconditional revocation and withdrawal, etc.

- (1) In this Part, a reference to the abandonment, refusal, unconditional revocation or withdrawal of a patent or patent application is to be construed—
 - (a) in relation to a patent granted, or a patent application made, under Cap. 514—in accordance with Cap. 514; and
 - (b) in relation to a patent granted by, or a patent application filed with, a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong—in accordance with the law, instruments or rules of the relevant patent office, court or competent authority applicable to the abandonment, refusal, unconditional revocation or withdrawal of the patent or patent application.
- (2) In this Part, a reference to the cancellation, declination, lapse or withdrawal of a plant variety right or plant variety right application, or a reference to a plant variety right or plant variety right application being no longer in subsistence, is to be construed—
 - (a) in relation to a plant variety right granted, or a plant variety right application made, under Cap. 490—in accordance with Cap. 490; and

(b) in relation to a plant variety right granted, or a plant variety right application made, under the law of any place outside Hong Kong—in accordance with the law of that place applicable to the plant variety right or plant variety right application.

(3) In subsection (2)—

plant variety right (植物品種權利) means a right mentioned in section 9(a)(i) or (ii) of this Schedule;

plant variety right application (植物品種權利申請) means an application mentioned in section 9(b)(i) or (ii) of this Schedule.

16. Tax treatment under certain circumstances

(1) The tax treatment under subsection (2) applies for a year of assessment (***relevant year***) in relation to the concessionary portion of the assessable profits of an eligible person from an eligible IP income derived from an eligible intellectual property, in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, unless during the relevant year, none of the circumstances specified in section 17 of this Schedule occurs in relation to the eligible intellectual property.

(2) The tax treatment is—

(a) section 3 of this Schedule does not apply in relation to the eligible IP income derived from the eligible intellectual property for the relevant year and subsequent years of assessment;

(b) all concessionary portions of the assessable profits from the eligible IP income subject to the concessionary tax rate under section 3 of this Schedule for the years of assessment preceding

the relevant year (*relevant concessionary portions*) are to be regarded as trading receipts of the trade, profession or business of the eligible person for the relevant year; and

- (c) for the purpose of computing the tax payable on the trading receipts referred to in paragraph (b)—the assessor is to take into account the tax that has already been charged on the relevant concessionary portions at the concessionary tax rate under section 3 of this Schedule.

17. Circumstances for purposes of section 16 of this Schedule

- (1) For the purposes of section 16 of this Schedule, in relation to an eligible intellectual property that is an eligible patent, the circumstances are—
 - (a) if the eligible patent is a patent—the eligible patent is unconditionally revoked; and
 - (b) if the eligible patent is a patent application—the eligible patent is abandoned, refused or withdrawn.
- (2) For the purposes of section 16 of this Schedule, in relation to an eligible intellectual property that is an eligible plant variety right, the circumstances are—
 - (a) if the eligible plant variety right is a right mentioned in section 9(a) of this Schedule—the eligible plant variety right is cancelled or no longer subsists; and
 - (b) if the eligible plant variety right is an application mentioned in section 9(b) of this Schedule—the eligible plant variety right lapses, is declined or withdrawn or no longer subsists.

18. Tax treatment: eligible intellectual property with date of filing on or after specified date

- (1) This section applies in relation to the concessionary portion of the assessable profits of an eligible person from an eligible IP income derived from any of the following eligible intellectual property, in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, the date of filing of which is on or after the specified date—
 - (a) an eligible patent;
 - (b) an eligible plant variety right.
- (2) The tax treatment under subsection (3) applies in relation to the concessionary portion for a year of assessment (*relevant year*), unless during the relevant year, all the conditions specified in section 19 of this Schedule applicable to the eligible intellectual property have been met.
- (3) The tax treatment is—
 - (a) section 3 of this Schedule does not apply in relation to the eligible IP income derived from the eligible intellectual property for the relevant year and subsequent years of assessment;
 - (b) all concessionary portions of the assessable profits from the eligible IP income subject to the concessionary tax rate under section 3 of this Schedule for the years of assessment preceding the relevant year (*relevant concessionary portions*) are to be regarded as trading receipts of the trade, profession or business of the eligible person for the relevant year; and

- (c) for the purpose of computing the tax payable on the trading receipts referred to in paragraph (b)—the assessor is to take into account the tax that has already been charged on the relevant concessionary portions at the concessionary tax rate under section 3 of this Schedule.

19. Conditions for purposes of section 18 of this Schedule

- (1) For the purposes of section 18 of this Schedule, in relation to an eligible intellectual property that is an eligible patent, in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, the conditions are—
 - (a) if the eligible patent is a short-term patent—a request for substantive examination of the eligible patent has been made in the year of assessment immediately following the year of assessment in which—
 - (i) any election under section 4 of this Schedule is made in respect of the eligible patent; or
 - (ii) the short-term patent is granted, whichever is the later; and
 - (b) if the eligible patent is a patent granted by, or a patent application filed with, a patent office of any place outside Hong Kong—
 - (i) if the corresponding local patent of the eligible patent is a standard patent (O)—the corresponding local patent has not been unconditionally revoked;
 - (ii) if the corresponding local patent of the eligible patent is a short-term patent—

-
- (A) the corresponding local patent has not been unconditionally revoked; and
 - (B) a request for substantive examination of the corresponding local patent has been made in the year of assessment immediately following the year of assessment in which—
 - (I) any election under section 4 of this Schedule is made in respect of the eligible patent; or
 - (II) the short-term patent is granted, whichever is the later; and
 - (iii) if the corresponding local patent of the eligible patent is a standard patent (O) application or short-term patent application—the corresponding local patent, or any of its divisional patent applications, has not been abandoned, refused or withdrawn.
- (2) For the purposes of section 18 of this Schedule, in relation to an eligible intellectual property that is an eligible plant variety right mentioned in section 9(a)(ii) or (b)(ii) of this Schedule, in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, the conditions are—
- (a) if the corresponding local plant variety right of the eligible plant variety right is a grant as defined by section 2 of Cap. 490—the corresponding local plant variety right has not been cancelled; and

- (b) if the corresponding local plant variety right of the eligible plant variety right is an application as defined by section 2 of Cap. 490—
 - (i) the corresponding local plant variety right has not been withdrawn and has not lapsed; and
 - (ii) the Registrar of Plant Variety Rights has not declined to make a grant in respect of the corresponding local plant variety right.

20. Tax treatment for divisional patents

- (1) For the purposes of sections 5 and 16 of this Schedule, if—
 - (a) an election has been made under section 4 of this Schedule in respect of an eligible patent that is a patent application (*original patent application*);
 - (b) a divisional patent application has been made in pursuance of the original patent application;
 - (c) the original patent application is abandoned, refused or withdrawn; and
 - (d) a patent is granted in pursuance of the divisional patent application,section 16(2)(b) of this Schedule does not apply in relation to the part of the concessionary portion of the assessable profits derived from the original patent application attributable to the patent mentioned in paragraph (d) (*relevant part*).
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the relevant part is to be calculated in the way that best secures consistency with the requirements and guidance in the OECD rules.

(3) In subsection (2)—

OECD rules (《經合組織規則》) has the meaning given by section 7(3) of this Schedule.

21. Notification by eligible person

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) there is a notifiable matter in relation to an eligible intellectual property in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule; and
- (b) the concessionary tax rate is applicable to the concessionary portion of the assessable profits of an eligible person from an eligible IP income derived from the eligible intellectual property for a year of assessment.

(2) The eligible person must notify the Commissioner in writing of the notifiable matter within 4 months after the end of the basis period for the year of assessment in which the notifiable matter takes place, unless the eligible person has already been required to furnish a return under section 51(1).

(3) In this section—

notifiable matter (須具報事宜), in relation to an eligible intellectual property in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of this Schedule, means any of the following—

- (a) an occurrence of any of the circumstances specified in section 17 of this Schedule;
- (b) a failure to meet any of the conditions specified in section 19 of this Schedule.

Part 5

Keeping of Records

22. Records to be kept

- (1) Section 51C applies, with the modifications specified in subsections (2) and (3), in relation to an eligible person who makes an election under section 4 of this Schedule that the concessionary tax rate is applicable to the concessionary portion of the assessable profits of the eligible person from an eligible IP income for a year of assessment.
- (2) The eligible person must retain records of transactions, acts or operations relating to the eligible IP income under section 51C at least until the later of the following—
 - (a) the expiry of 7 years after the completion of those transactions, acts or operations; or
 - (b) the expiry of 7 years after making the election mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) The eligible person must keep records of the following, in addition to records within the meaning of section 51C(3) and (4)—
 - (a) information sufficient to establish that the income concerned is an eligible IP income;
 - (b) details of all corresponding expenditures incurred;
 - (c) details of the eligible intellectual property to which the income relates;

- (d) if an apportionment is made under section 13(5) or 14(6) of this Schedule—information sufficient to establish that the apportionment is made on a just and reasonable basis.
- (4) To avoid doubt, the records mentioned in subsection (3) are records of transactions, acts or operations relating to the eligible IP income.
- (5) Section 80 applies to a failure to comply with section 51C as modified by subsections (2) and (3) in the same way as section 80 applies to a failure to comply with section 51C.
- (6) In this section—
corresponding expenditures (相應開支), in relation to an eligible IP income, means all of the following expenditures—
 - (a) eligible R&D expenditures incurred in respect of the eligible intellectual property to which the income relates;
 - (b) non-eligible expenditures incurred in respect of the eligible intellectual property to which the income relates;
 - (c) any other expenditures incurred in producing the income.

23. Transitional arrangement for eligible person with insufficient records

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) an eligible IP income accrues to an eligible person during the period—
 - (i) beginning on 1 April 2023; and

- (ii) ending on the last day of the eligible person's basis period for the year of assessment beginning on 1 April 2025; and
 - (b) the eligible person is unable to ascertain the R&D fraction applicable to the income under Part 3 of this Schedule because there are insufficient records.
- (2) For ascertaining the R&D fraction and keeping records, the eligible person may elect that sections 13, 14 and 22 of this Schedule apply on the following basis—
 - (a) the references to “specified period” in sections 13(1) and 14(1)(a) and (b) of this Schedule are to be regarded as references to the period of 3 years ending on the last day of the eligible person's basis period for the year of assessment during which the eligible IP income accrues;
 - (b) the references to “subject intellectual property” in sections 13(2)(c) and 14(1)(a) of this Schedule are to be regarded as references to any intellectual property as defined by section 15H(1);
 - (c) the following provisions of this Schedule are to be omitted—
 - (i) section 13(1)(a), (3), (4), (5) and (6);
 - (ii) section 14(1)(b)(i), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7);
 - (iii) section 22(3)(d).”.

13. Schedule 17J amended (qualifying amalgamations—special tax treatment)

- (1) Schedule 17J, section 24(3)—

Repeal

“and 19CB”

Substitute

“, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE, 19CF and 19CG”.

- (2) Schedule 17J, section 24(6), definition of *pre-amalgamation loss*, paragraph (a)(ii) and (b)(ii)—

Repeal

“or 19CB”

Substitute

“, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE, 19CF or 19CG”.

- (3) Schedule 17J, section 25(2)—

Repeal

“and 19CB”

Substitute

“, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE, 19CF and 19CG”.

- (4) Schedule 17J, section 25(5), definition of *pre-amalgamation loss*, paragraph (a)(ii) and (b)(ii)—

Repeal

“or 19CB”

Substitute

“, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE, 19CF or 19CG”.

14. Schedule 45 amended (deduction of R&D expenditures)

Schedule 45—

Repeal

“Schs. 17FC & 17J”

Substitute

“Schs. 17FC, 17FD & 17J”.

Explanatory Memorandum

The objects of this Bill are to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) (*Ordinance*) to—

- (a) give profits tax concessions for certain assessable profits from an eligible intellectual property income;
- (b) provide for the treatment of losses in relation to assessable profits chargeable to profits tax at more than one concessionary tax rate; and
- (c) provide for related matters.

2. The Bill contains 14 clauses.

3. Clause 1 sets out the short title.

4. Clause 6 adds new sections 19CC to 19CG to the Ordinance, in order to deal with the set off of losses where profits and losses are subject to different profits tax rates. This is occasioned by the introduction of a new profits tax concession regime for certain assessable profits from an eligible intellectual property income under the Bill, and therefore the possibility of more than one concessionary profits tax rate available under the Ordinance. The new sections 19CC to 19CG contain the following provisions—

- (a) the new section 19CC provides for the interpretation of defined terms including that of *adjustment factor*;
- (b) the new section 19CD provides for the treatment of unabsorbed losses where some concessionary trading receipts as defined by section 19CA of the Ordinance (*concessionary trading receipts*) that sustain unabsorbed losses are chargeable to profits tax at a

- lower rate than the rate for other chargeable concessionary trading receipts;
- (c) the new section 19CE provides for the treatment of unabsorbed losses where some concessionary trading receipts that sustain unabsorbed losses are chargeable to profits tax at a higher rate than the rate for other chargeable concessionary trading receipts;
 - (d) the new section 19CF provides for the set off of concessionary trading receipts that are chargeable to profits tax at 2 different concessionary tax rates as defined by the new section 19CC;
 - (e) the new section 19CG provides for the rules by which sections 19CAB, 19CAC, 19CB, 19CD, 19CE and 19CF are to apply when dealing with the treatment of unabsorbed losses under different scenarios in which—
 - (i) a loss is sustained, and assessable profits arise, in respect of both concessionary trading receipts and normal trading receipts as defined by section 19CA of the Ordinance; and
 - (ii) more than one concessionary tax rate applies to the concessionary trading receipts.
5. In connection with the addition of the new sections 19CC to 19CG by Clause 6—
- (a) clause 4(3) adds a new paragraph (f) to section 19C(6) of the Ordinance so that if a person is exempt from profits tax because of a concession provision as defined by section 19CA of the Ordinance in respect of the person's assessable profits derived from the activities or transactions for the basis period for a year of assessment, any loss sustained from those

activities or transactions is not available for set off against the person's assessable profits for that basis period, and the basis period for any subsequent years of assessment; and

- (b) clause 5 amends the definitions of *chargeable concessionary trading receipts*, *concession provision* and *unabsorbed loss in respect of the concessionary trading receipts* in section 19CA of the Ordinance in order to adapt those defined terms for the purposes of the new sections 19CC to 19CG.
6. Clause 7 adds a new Part 6G to the Ordinance, which includes new section 40AY to introduce a new Schedule 17FD dealing with eligible IP income and its tax treatment.
7. Clause 12 adds the new Schedule 17FD to the Ordinance, in which—
- (a) Part 1 of the Schedule contains preliminary provisions. Section 1 of the Schedule introduces the defined terms including those of *date of filing*, *eligible intellectual property*, *eligible IP income*, *eligible patent*, *eligible person*, *eligible plant variety right*, *eligible R&D expenditure* and *R&D activity*. Section 2 of the Schedule provides that the Schedule is to be read in the way that best secures consistency with the requirements and guidance in Chapter 4 of the Countering Harmful Tax Practices More Effectively, Taking into Account Transparency and Substance, Action 5 - 2015 Final Report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2015;

- (b) Part 2 of the Schedule contains provisions on tax concession for eligible IP income. Section 3 of the Schedule contains operative provisions on the concessionary tax treatment and specifies the concessionary tax rate as 5%. Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Schedule provide for the election required for the application of the concessionary tax rate. Section 7, 8 and 9 of the Schedule respectively provide in detail for the meaning of the terms *eligible IP income*, *eligible patent* and *eligible plant variety right*;
- (c) Part 3 of the Schedule contains provisions on ascertaining the concessionary portion of the assessable profits from an eligible IP income. Sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Schedule respectively provide for the formula for ascertaining the concessionary portion, the assessable profits from an eligible IP income and the R&D fraction. Sections 13 and 14 of the Schedule provide in detail for the meaning of eligible R&D expenditure and non-eligible expenditure for ascertaining the R&D fraction under section 12 of the Schedule;
- (d) Part 4 of the Schedule contains provisions on the tax treatments under certain circumstances or conditions, which are exceptions to the application of the concessionary tax rate under section 3 of the Schedule—
 - (i) section 15 of the Schedule explains the meaning of the references to abandonment, cancellation, declination, lapse, unconditional revocation and withdrawal, etc. that appear in that Part;
 - (ii) sections 16 and 17 of the Schedule provide for the tax treatment when certain circumstances occur, such as the abandonment, cancellation,

- declination, lapse, unconditional revocation and withdrawal, etc. of the eligible intellectual property in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of the Schedule;
- (iii) sections 18 and 19 of the Schedule provide for the tax treatment in relation to certain eligible intellectual property in respect of which an election is made under section 4 of the Schedule under certain conditions, in particular—
 - (A) for a non-Hong Kong eligible intellectual property—the abandonment, refusal, unconditional revocation or withdrawal of, or the absence of a request for substantive examination of, the corresponding local patent or corresponding local plant variety right, as the case may be, that is required for that non-Hong Kong eligible intellectual property; or
 - (B) for an eligible intellectual property that is a short-term patent—the absence of a request for substantive examination of that eligible intellectual property;
 - (iv) section 20 of the Schedule provides for the tax treatment when divisional patent applications are involved; and
 - (v) section 21 of the Schedule provides for notification by an eligible person of any of the occurrence of the circumstances, or the failure to meet any of the conditions, set out respectively in sections 17 and 19 of the Schedule; and

- (e) Part 5 of the Schedule contains provisions on the keeping of records by an eligible person and transitional provisions for an eligible person with insufficient records.
8. Clauses 10(1) and 11 respectively amend sections 80 and 82A of the Ordinance to extend the existing penalties and the imposition of additional tax to the contravention of sections 21 and 22 of the new Schedule 17FD.
9. Clauses 3, 4(1), 8, 9, 10(3), 13 and 14 provide for amendments consequential to the addition of the new sections 19CC to 19CG and the new Schedule 17FD, including the addition of references to the new provisions in suitable places.