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Hong Kong to Relax Strategic Commodities Import and Export Regulations

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The Hong Kong Government has gazetted the Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Regulations (Amendment of Schedule 1) Order 2008, it will be tabled at the Legislative Council on 10 December 2008. Once the legal procedure is completed, the Order will come into effect on a day to be appointed by the Director-General of Trade and Industry.

The Order seeks to bring Hong Kong's import and export regulations back in-line with the international non-proliferation regimes (viz. the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, etc.). The changes include additions, expansions and relaxation of many detailed controls on munitions, nuclear processing equipment, materials, chemicals, micro-organisms, toxins, manufacturing equipment, electronics, telecommunications, information security, sensors, lasers, navigation, avionics, submarines, and aerospace

For Information Security, one control is relaxed:

- 5A002 - Relax the control on portable or mobile radiotelephones and similar client wireless devices with cryptographic function for civil use.

Other changes of note are (3A001(a)(5)) the relaxation of control over analogue-to-digital converter integrated circuits with resolution of 12 bits or more (usable in commercial applications such as cellular systems, broadband systems and digital radio systems) and (3A001(e)(4)) the addition of control on certain solar cell, cell-interconnect-coverglass assemblies, solar panels and solar arrays.

More Information

[Strategic Trade Controls Circular No. 14/2008](#)

[Highlights of the Import and Export \(Strategic Commodities\) Regulations \(Amendment of Schedule 1\) Order 2008](#)
[Strategic Commodities Control System](#)

Copyright, Privacy, Obscenity and Free Speech in a Media-Rich World

[<web-link for this article>](#)

An article in Out-Law.com, a website specialising in IT and e-commerce legal issues, referenced a Hong Kong privacy case when discussing "[Is filming someone in the street a breach of privacy?](#)". The discussion comes during the public consultation on the review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) and almost coincides with [another Police investigation](#) into nude (actually topless) photos on the internet. All this attention on obscenity and privacy is a reflection of the pressures that the massive growth in information and communications is putting on Society's morals and attitudes.

The Out-Law article reports that a 40-year-old woman is suing a Croatian TV station after it filmed her in public and then featured her in a documentary about obesity. It notes that UK law on this is unclear, but cites the "Japanese Mushroom Head" case in Hong Kong earlier this year, where a woman was photographed without her knowledge and featured in a magazine article that ridiculed her dress sense.

The case currently under investigation by Hong Kong Police involves images of a bare-chested woman posing in various public locations in Tai Po (大埔) published on a uwants.com forum. It has been classified as a case of publishing an indecent article, although it was in an adult area of the forum. This type of exhibitionism has been enabled by the internet, and it is another area where Society's morals are struggling to catch up.

It is clear that different people hold a wide range of views on what personal information (including images) they want to record and, optionally, make public, and the view might change according to the circumstances. Similarly, there are many views on public decency and obscenity, and the location can change the standards. In the current situation, laws intended for other purposes are sometimes used to try to address these emerging issues. In the [Edison Chen scandal](#), copyright law is being used against the perpetrators, but copyright was originally intended as a trade: creators get exclusive rights for a limited period and Society benefits from the creations when copyright expires and they pass into the public domain. Why should that be used for images that were intended solely for private enjoyment?

The issues surrounding privacy, copyright and obscenity are interwoven, and directly affect free speech, as these examples show, so the review of the COIAO is flawed because it considers just one of these in isolation.

More Information

[Is filming someone in the street a breach of privacy? A tricky legal question](#)

[Why Should the Government Curtail Free Speech When ISPs Will Do It?](#)

[Inquiry after semi-nude photos taken in Tai Po posted online](#)

[Topless in Tai Po, in this weather?](#)

[Is filming someone in the street a breach of privacy?](#)

[Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance](#)

[Local Issue of Human Rights](#)

[Privacy and Obscenity: Hong Kong's Showbiz Sex Scandal](#)

Academic Translators May Miss "Deeper" Levels of (Sexual) Meaning

[<web-link for this article>](#)

The German-language academic publication, Max Planck Research, ran into trouble with the Chinese text on the cover of their issue focussing on China. Although their sinologist vetted the

text, he missed the suggestive sexual nature, since compared to advertising posters from Mong Kok. One translation says:

"We spend a lot of money to have [girls] to be in house during daytime. Our mama sans, Ga Mei and KK, present you with young and beautiful girls. Stylish and good mannered beauties from the North [of China]. Sexy and hot, young housewives. Flirty and enchanting, available today."

A more formal translation reads:

With high salaries, we have cordially invited for an extended series of matinées KK and Jiamei as directors, who will personally lead jade-like girls in the spring of youth, Beauties from the north who have a distinguished air of elegance and allure, Young housewives having figures that will turn you on; Their enchanting and coquettish performance will begin within the next few days.

The Max Planck Institute issued an apology, saying, "To our sincere regret, however, it has now emerged that the text contains deeper levels of meaning, which are not immediately accessible to a non-native speaker." It would seem that the Sinologist in question has led a remarkably sheltered life, and a walk round a Chinese city, or, indeed, any city, would be highly educational. Unfortunately for users of foreign languages, using a human translator is not a solution to the [dangers of machine translation](#) previously reported.

More Information

[Max Planck Institute punts 'hot, young housewives'](#)

[Eminent scientific journal gets hit for sex](#)

[Beware of Translation Software](#)

[Burlesque Matinée at the Max Planck Gesellschaft](#)

[Burlesque Matinée at the Max Planck Gesellschaft](#)

Hong Kong Police Fight Drug Abuse Online

[<web-link for this article>](#)

The Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau has introduced a squad of four officers, a sergeant and three constables, tasked with combating the juvenile drug problem by posing as young Web surfers chatting with internet users and checking Facebook. The intention is to prevent the internet from being used as a tool to sell illegal drugs or to send invitations for drug parties. The Bureau Senior Superintendent Evelyn Lam Man-sai said that the team would have both deterrent and educational effects. She said that the officers would warn internet users found discussing drugs about the harmful effects of taking illegal drugs without revealing they are Police officers.

While every effort should be made to engage and guide young people, the officers will need to be well-versed in teen sub-culture and teh 1337 \$p3311!/V9 to blend in.

More Information

[New police cyber squad fights youth drug abuse](#)

BSI Publishes Standard for Legal Admissibility and Evidential Weight of Electronic Information

[<web-link for this article>](#)

The British Standards Institute has just published BS 10008, a couple of months late for September their target date. The standard aims to ensure that any electronic information required as evidence of a business transaction is afforded the maximum evidential weight. The areas covered include:

- The management of electronic information over long periods, including through technology changes, where information integrity is a vital business
- How to manage the various risks associated with electronic information
- How to demonstrate the authenticity of electronic information
- The management of quality issues related to document scanning processes.
- The provision of a full life history of an electronic object throughout its life.

Some commentators criticised the draft standard, published in May 2008, for failing to meet its' aim of applicability to all classes of digital object, saying that the focus is on documents, and, in some sections primarily digitised versions of paper documents.

Alan Shipman, Chairman of the BSI committee responsible for the development of BS 10008, said: "The new standard is an important step in ensuring the admissibility of evidence in the UK. It has been developed by a wide range of experts in the field of document management as a specification of good practice".

The BSI's Code of Practice on the same topic (BIP 0008) will be updated in accordance with BS 10008. Implementation of the recommendations given in the latest edition of the CoP will assist with compliance of BS 10008.

Both BS 10008 and the CoP are referenced in the Section 46 of the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000: Code of Practice on Records Management, so it is certain that this standard will have an effect on organisations handling digital evidence related to UK cases.

More Information

[BS 10008:2008 Evidential weight and legal admissibility of electronic information. Specification](#)

[British Standard explains how to store data for use as evidence](#)

[BSI British Standards welcomes public comments on new standard on legal admissibility and evidential weight of electronic information](#)

[BS 10008 - time is running out](#)

[British standard published on digital information as evidence](#)

[New UK standard for electronic evidence](#)

[UK Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)

Dutch, Swiss and US Researchers use Chinese MD5 Collision and Game Machines to Create Fake SSL Certificates

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In 2004 Xiaoyun Wang and Hongbo Yu presented a collision for MD5. Earlier this month at the 25th annual Chaos Communication Congress in Berlin, Alexander Sotirov, Marc Stevens, Jacob Appelbaum, Arjen Lenstra, David Molnar, Dag Arne Osvik and Benne de Weger presented their use of the collision to create a rogue Certification Authority (CA) certificate trusted by all common web browsers. This certificate allows them to impersonate any website on the Internet, including banking and e-commerce sites secured using the HTTPS protocol.

The team used more than 200 PlayStation 3 consoles running in a Linux cluster to generate millions of possible certificates. Once they found a pair that had a special collision in the MD5 hash, they requested a legitimate website certificate from a CA that relies only on MD5 to generate signatures. By copying the signature into a rogue certificate authority credential, they had the ability to generate widely accepted website certificates for any site of their choosing.

The consequences of this flaw are far-reaching, but not entirely catastrophic. A few hundred game consoles are not a ridiculously expensive investment, but criminals could probably access far more computing power cheaply on an illegal botnet. Well-organised criminals could certainly reproduce the result, and start producing their perfect SSL forgeries. However, browser developers can mitigate the flaw with their next update, by either marking certificates that rely on MD5 in their trust chain as unsafe, or by removing the affected CA's from the list of trusted authorities, or both. Users can also modify their CA certificate trust settings themselves, though, realistically, few will do so.

More Information

[MD5 considered harmful today, Creating a rogue CA certificate](#)

[MD5 Considered Harmful Today, Creating a rogue CA certificate \(slides\)](#)

[25th Chaos Communication Congress \(25C3\)](#)

[Boffins bust web authentication with game consoles](#)



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