

Regulatory Framework for Opening, Operating and Closing a Business

Disclaimer: Any information rendered in this document is for general references only and should not be considered as legal advice. Users are strongly advised to seek independent legal advice if they are in doubt of their legal position.

Utility Services - Internet

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
<i>Regulatory Monitoring of Tariffs and Service Quality</i>		
1.	Per the regulatory framework, the regulatory agency required to oversee the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wholesale connectivity tariffs• Interconnection agreements between internet service providers	➤ Sections 7F and 36A, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
<i>Monitoring of Service Quality</i>		
2.	Per the regulatory framework, the Competition Commission and Communications Authority are required to initiate investigations for anticompetitive practices, whereas the Competition Tribunal can impose fines for anticompetitive practices	➤ Cap. 619 Competition Ordinance
<i>Rights of way</i>		
3.	Provisions regulating rights of way for internet service providers to install and maintain their equipment on public and private lands	➤ Sections 14(1), 14(1A) and 14(1AA), Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
4.	Regulatory provisions stipulating requirements for operators owning passive infrastructure to share access for the last mile with internet service providers	➤ Section 36AA, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
5.	Regulatory provisions stipulating requirements for operators owning active infrastructure to share access for the last mile with internet service providers	➤ Section 36AA, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
<i>Open Infrastructure</i>		
6.	Regulatory provisions guaranteeing both local loop unbundling and line access	➤ Sections 36A and 36AA, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
7.	Regulatory framework allows utility partnerships for infrastructure sharing	➤ Sections 36AA(1) and 36AA(4), Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
8.	Asymmetric regulations for dominant operators or operators with significant market power that establish remedial actions	➤ Sections 7Q(1), 7Q(4) and 36A, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance ➤ Sections 21 to 23, Cap. 619 Competition Ordinance
<i>Mechanisms on Service Quality Assurance</i>		
9.	Regulatory framework stipulates sanctions, and/or remedies applicable to utilities to ensure reliable internet supply (limit internet service outages or slowdowns)	➤ Sections 36B(1)(a) and 36C, Cap. 106 Telecommunications Ordinance
<i>Liability Regimes</i>		
10.	The regulatory framework stipulates liability for personal data protection breaches, including the right to pursue compensation	➤ Sections 50, 50A, 64 and 66, Cap. 486 Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
Cybersecurity Coordination		
11.	Per the regulatory framework, the agency responsible for cybersecurity coordination at national level have the mandate to define and implement risk assessment strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcet.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcet ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
12.	Per the regulatory framework, the agency responsible for cybersecurity coordination at national level have the mandate to carry out security audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcrypt.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcrypt ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
13.	The regulatory framework establishes procedures for the agency responsible for cybersecurity coordination at national level to lead collective response involving both public and private stakeholders in handling cybersecurity incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcrypt.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcrypt ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
14.	Per the regulatory framework, the agency responsible for cybersecurity coordination at national level have the mandate to enforce cybersecurity laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcrypt.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcrypt ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
Cybersecurity Safeguards		
15.	The regulatory framework establishes mandatory cybersecurity standards and cybersecurity safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcet.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcet ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
16.	The regulatory framework requires the establishment of at least one computer security incident response team responsible for handling cybersecurity incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/international-financial-centre/fintech/research-and-applications/cybersecurity-fortification-initiative-cfi/ ➤ https://www.sfc.hk/-/media/EN/assets/components/codes/files-current/web/guidelines/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading/guidelines-for-reducing-and-mitigating-hacking-risks-associated-with-internet-trading.pdf ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/tcd.html ➤ https://cyberdefender.hk/en-us/ ➤ https://www.hkcrypt.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcrypt ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/doc/PG%20for%20ISIH_EN.pdf ➤ https://www.ia.org.hk/en/legislative_framework/files/Guideline_on_Cybersecurity_English.pdf ➤ https://www.pcpd.org.hk/english/resources_centre/publications/files/guidance_note_dbn_e.pdf ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html

No.	Regulatory Framework	Link
<i>Practices supporting international trade in services – Digital and Sustainable Trade</i>		
17.	Electronic contracts issued in a foreign country legally enforceable under the legal framework	➤ Cap. 553 Electronic Transactions Ordinance
18.	Electronic signature issued in a foreign country legally enforceable under the legal framework	➤ Cap. 553 Electronic Transactions Ordinance
19.	The legal framework establishes principles of personal data protection that regulate cross-border data flows	➤ Data Protection Principles, Schedule 1 to Cap. 486 Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
<i>Regulatory Restriction on international trade – Digital Trade</i>		
20.	The legal framework does not require companies to obtain a specialised government license to offer goods or services digitally, beyond the general business license	Licensing requirements of starting a business in Hong Kong is set out in the webpage below, which does not include any specialised requirements for companies to engage in electronic commerce: ➤ https://www.gov.hk/en/business/supportenterprises/businesstopics/licensing.htm
21.	The legal framework requires specific data transfer agreements or a formal consent from data subjects prior to the cross-border transfers of personal data	➤ Data Protection Principles, Schedule 1 to Cap. 486 Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance
22.	The legal framework imposes penalties for businesses that fail to comply with online consumer protection provisions concerning cross-border consumers	➤ Cap. 362 Trade Descriptions Ordinance

Public Services that Facilitate Trade

[Including services provided by government bureaux and departments, and other public organisations]

Disclaimer: There are other digital public services that aim to facilitate business and compliance in Hong Kong. Please refer to the webpages of individual bureaux / departments / public organisations for details.

Utility Services - Internet

No.	Public Services	Link
<i>Electronic Application</i>		
1.	Possible to apply for a new commercial internet connection through a fully online process	<p>Links for online applications are available, the below are some examples but not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ https://www.hkt-sme.com/en/business-broadband/#eform-product➤ https://www.hkbnes.com/web/gigafast-business-broadband/?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=hp_google_sem&utm_campaign=HKBN_ES_Brand_Button➤ https://www.smartonesolutions.com.hk/en/contactus/?kind=14&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI-cuK1uHYiQMVvl0PAh2LbiLhEAAYASAAEgLHOPD_BwE➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/detail/business-broadband-service.html➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/products-and-services/broadband?t=1731482955854

No.	Public Services	Link
2.	Possible to track online the status of the connection process for a new commercial internet connection	<p>Links for online applications are available, the below are some examples but not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.hkt-sme.com/en/business-broadband/#eform-product ➤ https://www.hkbnes.com/web/gigafast-business-broadband/?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=hp_google_sem&utm_campaign=HKBN_ES_Brand_Button ➤ https://www.smartonesolutions.com.hk/en/contactus/?kind=14&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI-cuK1uHYiQMVvl0PAh2LbiLhEAAYASAAEgLHOPD_BwE ➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/detail/business-broadband-service.html ➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/products-and-services/broadband?t=1731482955854
<i>Electronic Payment</i>		
3.	Possible to pay the fee for a new fixed broadband connection through electronic payment methods	<p>Links for electronic payment are available, the below are some examples but not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.hkt-sme.com/faq/what-are-the-available-payment-channels-3/?lang=en ➤ https://www.hkbn.net/personal/support/en/accounts-billing ➤ https://ecsp.smartone.com/ecsp ➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/category/payment-method.html ➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/payment-methods?t=1731483004609

No.	Public Services	Link
4.	Possible to pay for the monthly internet bill through electronic payment methods	<p>Links for electronic payment are available, the below are some examples but not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.hkt-sme.com/faq/what-are-the-available-payment-channels-3/?lang=en ➤ https://www.hkbn.net/personal/support/en/accounts-billing ➤ https://ecsp.smartone.com/ecsp ➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/category/payment-method.html ➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/payment-methods?t=1731483004609
<i>Information on Existing Infrastructure and Planned Works</i>		
5.	<p>Shared database for the network lines of multiple utilities, such as electricity, water, and internet</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>The database of internet (telecom) will only be established in Stage 2 of the UUIS Implementation (tentatively in 2026-27).</p>	➤ Underground Utilities Information System (UUIS)
6.	<p>Publicly available online platform with information about the planned works on utility networks that are carried out in Hong Kong</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>UUIS has kept the excavation permit records of planned works on utilities network for reference by registered users.</p>	➤ Underground Utilities Information System (UUIS)
<i>Reliability and Quality of Internet Supply</i>		
7.	Key Performance Indicators to monitor reliability and quality of internet supply (for example, percentage of the uptime of the core network in an observation period, recovery time etc.)	➤ https://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/consumer_focus/operators_information/performance_pledges/index.html

No.	Public Services	Link
Tariffs and Tariff Setting		
8.	The monthly internet tariffs for commercial customers available online	<p>Links for online applications with monthly fees available for reference, the below are some examples but not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ https://www.hkt-sme.com/en/business-broadband/#eform-product ➤ https://www.hkbnes.com/web/gigafast-business-broadband/?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=hp_google_sem&utm_campaign=HKBN_ES_Brand_Button ➤ https://www.smartonesolutions.com.hk/en/contactus/?kind=14&gad_source=1&gclid=EA1aIQobChMI-cuK1uHYiQMVvl0PAh2LbiLhEAAYASAAEgLHOPD_BwE ➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/detail/business-broadband-service.html ➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/products-and-services/broadband?t=1731482955854
9.	Changes in monthly internet tariffs communicated to customers at least one billing cycle in advance (for example, as published in the press, regulations, on a website, through letters, bills, and/or emails).	➤ https://www.cahk.hk/storage/files/1d5bad83a2c85d07aebf5e555b7a7bab.pdf
10.	The components that are included in the total amount of the internet bill explained to the customer (for example, published online or in a customer bill)	➤ https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/33/cop20111011e.pdf

No.	Public Services	Link
<i>Complaint Mechanisms</i>		
11.	Information available online to guide customers to file a complaint about their internet service under the complaint mechanism of the internet service provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to file the complaint 	➤ https://www.hkbnes.net/web/en/support/contact-us ➤ https://www.hkt.com/customer-services/business-customer-support/netvigator?locale=en ➤ https://www.smartonesolutions.com.hk/en/contactus ➤ https://corp.hk.chinamobile.com/en/site/contact.html ➤ https://www.hgcbiz.com/contact-us?t=1732083466562
12.	A complaint mechanism independent from the internet service provider to escalate complaints	➤ https://www.coms-auth.hk/en/complaints/procedures/telecomm/index.html
<i>Service Quality Indicators</i>		
13.	The indicators on reliability and quality of internet supply published online at least once a year	➤ https://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/consumer_focus/operators_information/performance_pledges/index.html
<i>Environmental Sustainability Indicators</i>		
14.	The authority responsible for cybersecurity coordination carry out the following in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity risk-assessments • Cybersecurity audits • Coordination of collective response involving both public and private stakeholders in handling cybersecurity incidents • Enforcement of cybersecurity laws and regulations 	➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/government/ ➤ https://www.govcert.gov.hk/en/index.html ➤ https://www.hkcet.org/form/incident-report-end-user-sme/entry ➤ https://www.police.gov.hk/www_en/04_crime_matters/tcd/ ➤ https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/CI/protection.html
15.	At least one operational computer security incident response team responsible for handling cybersecurity incidents	➤ https://www.digitalpolicy.gov.hk/en/our_work/digital_infrastructure/information_cyber_security/community/ ➤ https://www.hkcet.org/about-us/csirt-description-for-hkcet