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### Wholesale and Retail Trade Licence

In view of the Guidelines on Foreign Participation in the Distributive Trade Services Malaysia, all foreign business operators engaged in distributive trade services here are required to obtain a wholesale and retail trade ("WRT") licence from the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism ("MDTCC").

Prior to 1 July 2015, all applications for the WRT licence relating to the operation of distributive trade in Malaysia had to be made and submitted manually to the MDTCC.

Since 1 July 2015, the MDTCC has implemented the Business Licensing Electronic Support System ("BLESS"), whereby all applications for the WRT licence for the operation of distributive trade (save and except for hypermarket, superstore, departmental store and specialty store, with an area exceeding 5,000 sq m) have to be submitted online.

Notwithstanding the implementation of BLESS, and due to teething problems, the MDTCC continued to accept manual submissions up until early 2016, after which it ceased doing so. In other words, it is now mandatory for an applicant to register and submit an online application form via the BLESS website at [open.bless.gov.my](http://open.bless.gov.my)

In addition, any renewal for an existing WRT licence will be treated as a new application by the MDTCC in view of the recent implementation of BLESS.

*Yuki Chong Mei Yoke and Jasmine Yap Chin Wen*

This e-Law Alert is brought to you by the Corporate Department. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Corporate Department team:

Tay Weng Hwee  
**Partner**  
DID: +603 2170 5900  
Fax: +603 2161 3933  
Email: [tw@lh-ag.com](mailto:tw@lh-ag.com)

Ong Eu Jin  
**Partner**  
DID: +603 2170 5801  
Fax: +603 2161 3933  
Email: [oej@lh-ag.com](mailto:oej@lh-ag.com)

Megat Hizaini Hassan  
**Partner**  
DID: +603 2170 5863  
Fax: +603 2161 3933  
Email: [mh@lh-ag.com](mailto:mh@lh-ag.com)

Angeline Cheong May May  
**Partner**  
DID: +603 2170 5853  
Fax: +603 2161 3933  
Email: [cmm@lh-ag.com](mailto:cmm@lh-ag.com)

Ooi Bee Hong

**Partner**

DID: +603 2170 5805

Fax: +603 2161 3933

Email: [obh@lh-ag.com](mailto:obh@lh-ag.com)

Aaron Gerard Sankar

**Partner**

DID: +603 2170 5811

Fax: +603 2161 3933

Email: [ags@lh-ag.com](mailto:ags@lh-ag.com)

Aniza Osman

**Partner**

DID: +607 278 3833

Fax: +607 278 2833

Email: [ao@lh-ag.com](mailto:ao@lh-ag.com)

Chia Loong Thye

**Partner**

Tel: +604 370 1122

Fax: +604 370 5678

Email: [clt@lh-ag.com](mailto:clt@lh-ag.com)

Tan Gek Im

**Partner**

Tel: +604 370 1122

Fax: +604 370 5678

Email: [tgi@lh-ag.com](mailto:tgi@lh-ag.com)



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