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STAMP DUTIES ACT
(CHAPTER 312)

STAMP DUTIES
(HOUSING DEVELOPERS) (REMISSION OF ABSD)
RULES 2013

ARRANGEMENT OF RULES

Rule

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 74 of the Stamp Duties Act, the Minister for Finance hereby makes the following Rules:

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Stamp Duties (Housing Developers) (Remission of ABSD) Rules 2013 and shall come into operation on 24th June 2013.

Definitions

2. In these Rules —

“additional buyer’s stamp duty” or “ABSD” means the duty referred to in paragraph (bc) or (bf) of Article 3 of the First Schedule to the Act;

“conveyance direction” means a direction referred to in section 22(4) of the Act;

“develop”, “housing accommodation”, “licence” and “licensed housing developer” have the meanings given to those expressions in the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act (Cap. 130);

“housing development” means the development of more than 4 units of housing accommodation;

“qualifying developer” means a company —

- (a) which is a licensed housing developer; or
- (b) which is an applicant for a licence and whose application is not refused, or which intends to apply for a licence.

Remission of ABSD for instruments relating to property for housing development

3.—(1) There shall be remitted the ABSD that is chargeable on any of the following instruments executed on or after 8th December 2011:

- (a) a conveyance, assignment or transfer on sale of residential property to a qualifying developer for the purpose of housing development by the qualifying developer;
- (b) any instrument chargeable in like manner, including (but not limited to) a conveyance direction.

(2) The remission under this rule is subject to all of the following conditions:

- (a) if the qualifying developer is not a licensed housing developer, he is granted the licence within 2 years starting from the date of execution of the instrument;
- (b) the licence which the qualifying developer holds or (if he is not a licensed housing developer) which he is subsequently granted authorises him to undertake housing development on the residential property in respect of which the instrument is executed;
- (c) the qualifying developer commences housing development on the residential property within 2 years starting from the date of execution of the instrument;

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- (d) the qualifying developer completes the housing development, and sells all the units of housing accommodation that are the subject of the development within 5 years starting from the date of execution of the instrument;
- (e) the qualifying developer provides to the Commissioner, within 2 years starting from the date of execution of the instrument or by such earlier or later date as the Commissioner may require or permit in any particular case —
- (i) a copy of the qualifying developer's licence;
 - (ii) a copy of the approval of the Controller of Residential Property referred to in section 31 of the Residential Property Act (Cap. 274) (if applicable) in respect of the housing development; and
 - (iii) such other documents as the Commissioner may require to satisfy himself that the conditions under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) have been complied with;
- (f) the qualifying developer provides to the Commissioner, within 5 years starting from the date of execution of the instrument or by such earlier or later date as the Commissioner may require or permit in any particular case, a copy of the Temporary Occupation Permit or Certificate of Statutory Completion in respect of the units of housing accommodation, and such other documents as the Commissioner may require to satisfy himself that the condition under sub-paragraph (d) has been complied with;
- (g) the qualifying developer provides to the Commissioner on the date of execution of the instrument or by such later date as the Commissioner may permit in any particular case, a written undertaking to comply with all the conditions in sub-paragraphs (a) to (f).

(3) For the purpose of paragraph (2), the date set out in each of the following sub-paragraphs shall be treated as the date of execution of the instrument described in that sub-paragraph:

- (a) in the case of an instrument that is a conveyance, assignment or transfer to a qualifying developer which is preceded by a contract or agreement for the sale of the residential property to the qualifying developer, the date of the execution of the contract or agreement;
- (b) in the case of an instrument that is a conveyance, assignment or transfer to a qualifying developer which is preceded by a conveyance direction directing the conveyance or transfer of the residential property to the qualifying developer —
 - (i) if duty is remitted under rule 4 on a contract or agreement for the sale of the residential property to the company which made the conveyance direction, the date of the execution of that contract or agreement; or
 - (ii) if duty is not remitted under rule 4 on such contract or agreement, the date of the execution of the conveyance direction;
- (c) in the case of an instrument that is a conveyance direction —
 - (i) if duty is remitted under rule 4 on a contract or agreement for the sale of the residential property to the company which made the conveyance direction, the date of the execution of that contract or agreement; or
 - (ii) if duty is not remitted under rule 4 on such contract or agreement, the date of the execution of the conveyance direction;
- (d) in the case of an instrument for the conveyance to a qualifying developer of residential property that is the subject of a State lease for a definite term —

(i) comprising an extension of the term of the leasehold estate in the State lease of which the same qualified developer is lessee, but not an extension in pursuance of an option contained in the State lease; and

(ii) executed before the expiry of that term,

where duty is remitted under this rule or rule 4 on the State lease, the date of execution of the State lease.

(4) In paragraph (3)(b)(i), (c)(i) and (d), duty is treated as remitted under this rule or rule 4 even if it subsequently becomes recoverable under section 74(3) of the Act.

Remission of ABSD for contract for sale of property subject to conveyance direction

4.—(1) There shall be remitted the ABSD that is chargeable on a contract or agreement for sale of residential property to a company that is executed on or after 8th December 2011, if the company enters into the contract or agreement with the intention that the property be transferred to another company which the first-mentioned company had at the date of the execution of the contract or agreement intended to have incorporated or has incorporated (referred to in this rule as the subsidiary) for the purpose of a housing development by the subsidiary.

(2) The remission under this rule is subject to all of the following conditions:

(a) the conveyance direction for the conveyance or transfer of the property to the subsidiary is made not more than 2 months starting from the date of the execution of the contract or agreement;

(b) no consideration passes between the first-mentioned company and the subsidiary for the conveyance or transfer;

(c) at all times between the date of the execution of the contract or agreement and the date of issue of the Temporary Occupation Permit or Certificate of Statutory Completion for all units of housing accommodation that are the subject

of the housing development (both dates inclusive), the first-mentioned company —

- (i) has beneficial interest in more than 50% of the shares in the subsidiary; and
- (ii) holds more than 50% of the votes attached to the voting shares in the subsidiary.

Made this 18th day of June 2013.

LIM SOO HOON
*Permanent Secretary
(Finance) (Performance),
Ministry of Finance,
Singapore.*

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