

Timely renewal of practising / retention certificates

A letter dated 26 September 2025 was issued to individual dentists inviting them to apply for renewal of practising / retention certificates. The Dental Council would like to remind dentists to make timely renewal applications and take note of the following:

- (a) According to section 11A(1) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance (“DRO”), a dentist who has not renewed the practising certificate **by 31 December** cannot lawfully practise as a dentist in Hong Kong from 1 January of the following year onwards, until and unless he / she has obtained a valid practising certificate.
- (b) Section 15(3)(b) of the DRO provides that the Dental Council may order the removal from the General Register of the name of a person who has not obtained his / her practising or retention certificate within 6 months after the last of the following dates (if applicable)—
 - (i) the date of the person’s registration;
 - (ii) the expiry date of the last specified certificate issued to the person;
 - (iii) the date on which the person’s name is restored to the General Register under section 27A.

If a dentist’s name is removed from the General Register, he /she will cease to be a registered dentist. It is a criminal offence under section 3(1) of the DRO for a person whose name is not on the General Register to practise dentistry.

In line with the Government’s policy objective of digitalization of public services, an online platform has been launched to enable submission of applications for renewal of practising / retention certificate electronically. For details, please click [here](#).

November 2025