



- d. For registered foreign lawyers, the core courses consist of 2 half-day modules.
  - e. The Rules do not apply to registered foreign lawyers practising in registered foreign firms in HK.
  - f. For registered foreign lawyers who have since 1 November 2009 successfully taken the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination and are admitted as HK solicitors, they are exempted from completing the core courses for solicitor or registered foreign lawyers, as the case may be, pursuant to the Council's resolutions set out in the Circular 10-527 (SD).
2. Trainee solicitors whose first trainee solicitor contract commences on or after 1 November 2008
- a. For trainee solicitors whose first trainee solicitor contract commences on or after 1 November 2008, they will be subject to the RME obligations as follows:-
    - (i) During the first practice year in which the Rules apply to them, they shall complete the trainee solicitor's core courses consisting of two half-day modules.
    - (ii) During the second practice year in which the Rules apply to them, they shall complete a compulsory first elective for trainee solicitors consisting of two half-day modules.
  - b. The compliance of RME obligations including the completion of the trainee solicitor's core courses and the compulsory first elective for trainee solicitors is a condition of admission for trainee solicitors.
  - c. Trainee solicitors who have completed the trainee solicitor's core courses and the compulsory first elective shall be exempted from completion of the non-principal's core courses during the practice year when they commence practice as a non-principal in a HK law firm after their admission as a HK solicitor. They are nevertheless subject to the annual RME elective obligations applicable to non-principals.
3. Trainee solicitors whose first trainee solicitor contract commenced before 1 November 2008
- a. The Rules do not apply to trainee solicitors whose first trainee solicitor contract commenced before 1 November 2008. They are not subject to any RME obligations as trainee solicitors.
  - b. When they work as a non-principal in a HK law firm after their admission as a HK solicitor, they will be subject to the Rules for the first time:
    - (i) during the first practice year that the Rules apply to them, they have to complete the non-principal's core courses which consist of two half-day modules;

- (ii) during every subsequent practice year, they will complete at least 3 hours of electives or if they fail to complete the requisite 3 hours within any subsequent practice year, they will complete at least 6 hours of electives within that particular practice year and the immediately succeeding practice year.

Please click [here](#) for the RME courses offered by the Academy of Law to enable Members to fulfil their RME obligations.

In addition, those Members who are required to attend RME elective courses can fulfil their RME obligations by engaging in RME activities approved by the Law Society instead.

For a full set of the Rules, the types of RME elective activities approved by the Society, and the consequences of failure to comply with the RME obligations, please click [here](#) for the Information Package on the Mandatory RME Programme.

Members who are unsure about the obligations applicable to them can contact the Society at [adpd@hklawsoc.org.hk](mailto:adpd@hklawsoc.org.hk).

Circular 10-412 (SD) is superseded.