

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 3 OF 2000

EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF SERVICE BUREAU SURCHARGE

Items 71D(2)(a) and 71D(2)(b) of Appendix B to the Rules of Court prescribe that the amount payable for filing at the service bureau will be 115% of the fees payable for filing in paper.

2 In Practice Directions No 3 of 1999 and No 2 of 2000, it was notified that pursuant to paragraph (4) of item 71D of Appendix B to the Rules of Court, the imposition of the 15% surcharge under Items 71D(2)(a) and 71D(2)(b) was waived for the period from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2000. This was to enable law firms to have more time to acquire the necessary hardware and software for filing, using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) from their own offices.

3 The response to date has been encouraging. More than 140 law firms have already availed themselves of the additional time and opportunity to install the EFS Front End System and there are more law firms in the process of doing so. Since the implementation of Phase 1.2 of the EFS on 1 March 2000 over 50,000 documents have been filed with the Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts and documents filed electronically from the front-end system of law firms have increased from 42% to nearly 57%. Apart from other benefits, law firms which have been filing their documents electronically have been enjoying the 15% discount on the filing fees.

4 In view of the decision from the outset to withhold the imposition of the 15% surcharge for a period of 6 months and as a consequence of the 2 months delay in the implementation of Phase 1.2 of the EFS from 1 January 2000 to 1 March 2000, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, pursuant to paragraph (4) of Item 71D of Appendix B to the Rules of Court, has decided, with the concurrence of the

Honourable the Chief Justice, to further extend the waiver of the imposition of the 15% surcharge imposed under Items 71D(2)(a) and 71D(2)(b) of Appendix B to the Rules of Court for a corresponding period of 2 months from 1 July 2000 to 31 August 2000. Those items should accordingly be read during this extended period as if the multiplier of 1.15 were not included in the items.

5 Law firms which are not yet EFS equipped are encouraged to acquire the EFS Front End System to enable them to take advantage of the costs savings and competitive edge that the EFS affords.

6 This practice direction will come into effect on 1 July 2000.

7 This practice direction should be included in *The Supreme Court Practice Directions (1997 Ed.)* immediately before the first page of the table of contents. Instructions for effecting the amendments to *The Supreme Court Practice Directions (1997 Ed.)* are contained in the Appendix hereto.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2000.

CHIAM BOON KENG
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT