VISTRA

Case study

Vistra supports a British Virgin Islands company in **re-domiciling to Hong Kong** – The first of its kind in the region

Redomiciliation made simple

One provider triple expertise





Our client is a British Virgin Islands company that functions as an investment holding entity. The company holds shares in various entities engaged in property holdings in Hong Kong, including both commercial and residential premises.

The company has been operating for many years, with its primary purpose being investment holding, predominantly in the Hong Kong market.

Overview

Client: A British Virgin Islands company
Industry: Investment holding entity for holding commercial and residential premises
Location: Re-domicile from BVI to Hong Kong

This is Hong Kong's **first** successful case of a BVI entity re-domiciling to Hong Kong.

Background

In October 2025, Vistra Hong Kong secured an opportunity to provide company secretarial services for the re-domiciliation of a British Virgin Islands company, an existing client. The company owns assets in Hong Kong through various entities.

Due to increasing regulatory pressures and the rising costs associated with maintaining offshore entity, they have decided to re-domicile their BVI entity to Hong Kong.

Key considerations for the client regarding re-domiciling BVI entities to Hong Kong:

1. **Regulatory compliance:** With increasing regulatory pressures on offshore entities, the client faces challenges in maintaining compliance with evolving laws. Re-domiciling to Hong Kong allows the company to operate within a jurisdiction that provides clearer regulations aligned with its business activities, thereby reducing the risk of non-compliance and associated penalties.
2. **Cost efficiency:** The costs associated with maintaining BVI entities accumulate, including annual registration fees, legal compliance costs and the need for local representatives. Moving to Hong Kong can streamline operations and lower these costs by consolidating the corporate structure in one jurisdiction, making it more manageable.

3. **Asset management:** Since the client owns assets in Hong Kong, re-domiciling ensures that these assets are managed under local laws, facilitating easier administration and oversight. This may also improve the company's ability to respond to local market conditions and regulatory requirements.
4. **Tax considerations:** Hong Kong offers a straightforward tax regime. By re-domiciling to Hong Kong, the client will be recognised as a Hong Kong tax resident. This status allows them to benefit from Hong Kong's network of double taxation agreements (DTAs), potentially resulting in tax savings compared to maintaining offshore entities, which may incur additional tax liabilities as regulations tighten.
5. **Business continuity:** The re-domiciliation process can maintain business continuity, ensuring that all assets, rights and obligations are fully transferred and intact.
6. **Local market access:** Re-domiciling provides the client with better access to local business networks and opportunities. Engaging directly in Hong Kong can enhance collaboration with local partners and clients, fostering business growth.
7. **Enhanced credibility:** Transitioning to a reputable jurisdiction like Hong Kong can positively impact the company's image, signalling to stakeholders that it adheres to robust governance standards, which is beneficial for long-term business relationships and investor confidence.

Our solution

The Vistra team provided comprehensive compliance advisory and application assistance throughout the re-domiciliation process. Our support included:

- **Eligibility assessment:** We conducted a thorough assessment to determine the client's eligibility for re-domiciliation to Hong Kong.
- **Corporate document drafting and review:** Our experts prepared and reviewed all necessary corporate documents, ensuring they met local regulatory requirements.
- **Offshore legal coordination:** We liaised with legal representatives in the client's original jurisdiction to facilitate smooth coordination during the transition.
- **Regulatory liaison:** Our team acted as the primary point of contact with the Hong Kong Companies Registry, managing all communications related to the application.

Application process

The application process involved several key steps:

1. **Application submission:** The client submitted the application form along with key supporting documents and applicable fees, either in electronic or paper form.
2. **Review period:** The Hong Kong Companies Registry received the necessary information, the application was reviewed. Approval occurs within two weeks but is subject to the type of company (e.g. listed company, private company) and any relevant industry regulations or specific cases.
3. **Registration:** Upon successful approval, the client was registered in the Companies Registry, making the information publicly accessible. A certificate of re-domiciliation was issued, marking the official transition.
4. **De-registration:** To complete the re-domiciliation process, the client was required to be de-registered in their original jurisdiction. They needed to provide evidence of this de-registration to the Companies Registry within 120 days; failure to do so would result in the revocation of their registration in Hong Kong. We assisted the client in de-registering their BVI entity immediately after approval of re-domiciliation.

Outcome

With Vistra's expert guidance and the company secretarial support, the client successfully re-domiciled to Hong Kong, maintaining business continuity throughout the process. The re-domiciliation not only aligned the client more closely with local regulations but also enhanced their operational efficiency and credibility in the market.

This case exemplifies Vistra's commitment to providing tailored company secretarial support, along with other re-domiciliation services such as tax advisory and entity management platforms, ensuring seamless transitions for clients in a complex regulatory landscape.

Services provided

Company secretarial →

Tax advisory →

Digital solution for entity management →

Hong Kong re-domiciliation service →



Contact us

For more information get in touch.

To learn more about Vistra's Hong Kong re-domiciliation service, scan the QR code or click here.

vistra.com

About Vistra

Here at Vistra, **our purpose is progress**. As a close ally to our clients, our role is to remove the friction that comes from the complexity of global business. We partner with companies and private capital managers along the corporate and private capital lifecycle. From HR to tax and from legal entity management to regulatory compliance, we quietly fix the operational and administrative frustrations that hamper business growth. With over 9,000 experts in more than 170 countries, we can accelerate progress, improve processes and reduce risk, wherever your ambition takes you.

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