

Increase in the Jurisdictional Limit of the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board

The Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board (MECAB) is established under the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board Ordinance (Cap. 453) to provide a simple, quick and inexpensive service to adjudicate employment claims arising from disputes of statutory or contractual rights of employment.

In accordance with the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule) Notice 2021, **with effect from 17 September 2021**, the jurisdiction of MECAB is increased from a claim amount not exceeding \$8,000 to **not exceeding \$15,000 per claimant**, while retaining the maximum number of claimants per claim at 10. Any employment claims above the jurisdictional limit of MECAB will be adjudicated by the Labour Tribunal (LT).

The amendment is applicable only to claims the right of action of which arose wholly or partly on or after 17 September 2021. For claims the right of action of which arose wholly before 17 September 2021, the jurisdiction of MECAB is still confined to those claims involving not exceeding \$8,000 per claimant.

Example 1

If a claimant pursues \$6,000 as statutory holiday pay between January to July 2021 and \$9,000 as payment in lieu of notice arising from a dismissal on 30 September 2021, totalling \$15,000, the claim falls under the jurisdiction of MECAB.

Example 2

A claimant was dismissed on 31 August 2021 and wants to pursue \$12,000 as outstanding wages for August 2021 and \$3,000 as payment in lieu of notice, totalling \$15,000. Since the right of action of this claim arose wholly before 17 September 2021 with the total claim amount exceeding \$8,000, the claim falls outside the jurisdiction of MECAB at the material time and would be adjudicated by LT.

For enquiries, please call telephone hotline 2717 1771 (handled by “1823”). You may download the leaflet “A Simple Guide to the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board” at the following website for details of MECAB’s service:

<https://www.labour.gov.hk/public/mecab/SGMECAB.pdf>