

ENSURING CYBER RESILIENCY:

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH MACAU'S CYBERSECURITY LAW FOR GAMING OPERATORS

According to several news sources, a number of US gaming companies have recently encountered cybersecurity incidents, raising the public profile on the growing trend of cybercrime perpetrated against large corporates. Although these cases have occurred outside of Macau, they have prompted a discussion about the cyber resiliency in Macau, with reassurance that gaming operators in Macau have robust systems to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents.

However, these events do bring to the fore the need for preventive and reactive compliance with local cybersecurity laws (notably Law No. 13/2019, the Macau Cybersecurity Law).

The Macau Cybersecurity Law establishes specific duties to operators of critical infrastructures (i.e., public or private entities that operate assets, networks and IT systems relevant to the normal functioning of society, and whose disruption, destruction, disclosure of data, suspension of operation or significant decrease in efficiency is likely to cause serious harm to public well-being, security or order or otherwise especially relevant public interest), a category which includes, *inter alia*, gaming operators.

Under the Macau Cybersecurity Law, these operators are required to comply with several duties, including responsibilities of organizational nature, as well as procedural, preventive and reactive measures, self-evaluation and cooperation with public authorities.

Among these duties, operators are required to appoint a person responsible for overseeing the cybersecurity systems, adopt appropriate technical measures to protect the systems, conduct self-evaluations and submit reports on its own systems annually. Moreover, they are required to work closely with the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Center (“**CARIC**”) – the entity responsible and specialized in alerting and responding to cybersecurity incidents -, and report any cybersecurity incidents directly to the CARIC, under penalty of serious fines and other ancillary sanctions.

In view of the increasingly important role technology plays in these areas, and the uptick complying with the Macau Cybersecurity Law is now more than ever critical to protect organizations and individuals from cyberattacks.

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