



Regulatory Update – SFC pushes Covid-19 Vaccine for Risk Management (June 2021)

Introduction

On 1 June 2021, the Securities and Futures Commission (“SFC”) issued a circular to all licensed corporations (“LC”) recommending that all LCs review their business continuity planning in light of the ongoing Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in Hong Kong. The SFC reminded LCs to consult the Circular on the Effective Business Continuity Plans issued in June 2-14 as well as Management, Supervision and Internal Control Guidelines for Persons Licensed by or Registered with the SFC.

Risk Management Practices – Covid-19

For well over a year now Covid-19 has had a massive impact on business, travel and ordinary life for people the world over. LCs have had to proactively manage the varying risks associated with work-from-home arrangements and in some unfortunate cases having to handle staff being sent to compulsory quarantine as a result of various Covid-19 clusters emerging in Hong Kong.

The SFC, following the Hong Kong Government’s release of the Hong Kong wide Covid-19 Vaccination Programme earlier this year, are encouraging LCs to consider the vaccination as an important component of minimising operational risks in their business and a means of protecting the interests of clients that have unduly been affected by the pandemic.

Review of Business Continuity Plan (“BCP”)

In light of the pandemic, the SFC is urging LCs to review their BCP programs to specifically identify critical staff members that play an important role in their business operations (e.g. client facing or critical support function staff members). LCs should encourage these staff members to consider getting vaccinated.

During this process, LCs must make appropriate arrangements for critical staff members who are yet to receive the vaccine or maybe deemed unfit for the vaccine due to an underlying medical condition to undergo periodic Covid-19 testing.

Proper documentary evidence must be kept for all reviews or updates made to the BCP.

How ComplianceAsia Can Help

Our dedicated Projects Team can assist with undertaking a review of your LCs BCP program in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, we can assist your compliance department in identifying and liaising with critical staff members that may warrant consideration for the vaccination program to help support the LCs risk management efforts.





CA | ComplianceAsia

About ComplianceAsia

ComplianceAsia is the longest established compliance consulting firm in Asia Pacific established in 2003 with offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo and London. We have an unmatched track record of completing complex compliance consulting projects for financial firms in the APAC region.

With over 70 staff, including compliance experts with experience in dealing with the SFC, HKMA, MAS, CSRC, JFSA and Asian exchanges, we provide independent, unbiased advice on Asian financial industry legislation and regulations. Our international client base consists of asset managers, hedge funds, private equity funds, family offices, broker-dealers, insurers, wealth managers and investment banks.

Contact Us Today

HONG KONG SAR

Suite 1102
ChinaChem Tower
34-37 Connaught Road
Central

T: +852 2868 9070

SINGAPORE

137 Telok Ayer Street
#03-06
Singapore 068602

T: +65 6533 8834

MAINLAND CHINA

Room 132, Unit 1301-1308
13/F, Shanghai Tower
No.479 Lujiazui Ring Road
Pudong New Area Shanghai

T: +86 147 1431 1859

JAPAN

Level 2
Marunouchi Nijubashi Building
3-2-2 Marunouchi Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-0005

T: +81 3 6837 5483

UNITED KINGDOM

1 St. Andrew's Hill
London
EC4V 5BY

T: +44 (0) 20 7236 0921

M: +44 (0) 7310 972435

Philippa Allen

CEO
E: philippa.allen@complianceasia.com

Alex Duperouzel

Managing Director
E: alex.duperouzel@complianceasia.com

Cherry Chan

Regional Head of Ongoing Support
and Client Services
E: cherry.chan@complianceasia.com

Lachlan Chubb

Regional Head of Regulatory Advisory
and Projects
E: lachlan.chubb@complianceasia.com

Rachel Wu

Head of Mainland China Client Engagements
E: rachel.wu@complianceasia.com

Hanae Kuroda

Compliance Consultant
E: hanae.kuroda@complianceasia.com

www.complianceasia.com



ComplianceAsia

