

9 November 2021

Circular to Intermediaries

Implementation of enhanced competency framework

The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) wishes to remind industry practitioners that the enhanced entry requirements for licence applicants and the ongoing competency standards for intermediaries and individual licensees¹ will come into effect on 1 January 2022.

Amongst the enhanced measures², individual licensees advising on corporate finance (Type 6 regulated activity) who intend to advise on matters or transactions falling within the ambit of the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Shares Buy-backs will be required to pass the new Licensing Examination Paper 17 (LE Paper 17) not more than three years prior to and not later than six months after the date of their first engagement in such work, unless otherwise exempted³.

The Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute (HKSI) has recently announced that LE Paper 17 will be offered for the first time on 30 December 2021⁴. To help the industry better understand this new examination, HKSI will host a complimentary virtual briefing session on the exam syllabus, format and study support.

Webinar: New LE Paper 17 Briefing Session
Date: 18 November 2021 (Thursday)
Time: 4:30pm-5:15pm
Language: English

Interested parties should contact HKSI to [enrol](#) or for enquiries (3120 6100 or exam@hksi.org).

Licensing Department
Intermediaries Division
Securities and Futures Commission

¹ Individual licensees include responsible officers, licensed representatives, executive officers under section 71C of the Banking Ordinance and relevant individuals whose names are entered in the register maintained by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority under section 20 of the Banking Ordinance.

² Please refer to the [Consultation Conclusions on Proposed Enhancements to the Competency Framework for Intermediaries and Individual Practitioners](#) published on 18 June 2021.

³ For details, please refer to paragraph 3 of Appendix B to the Guidelines on Competence, which has been [gazetted](#) and will come into effect on 1 January 2022.

⁴ See HKSI's [announcement](#).