

4 March 2022

## **Circular to Licensed Corporations and Associated Entities**

### **Submission of financial statements, other documents and auditor's report under section 156(1) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance**

The circular serves to inform licensed corporations (LCs) and associated entities (AEs) of intermediaries of a temporary arrangement for the submission of the financial statements, other documents and auditor's report (collectively referred to as "audited accounts") to the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) under section 156(1) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

The SFC understands that the directors of certain LCs or AEs, particularly those located outside Hong Kong, may encounter difficulties in physically signing the audited accounts due to the coronavirus situation, and hence the LCs or AEs may not be able to submit the original copy of the audited accounts with wet-ink signatures by the submission deadline, which is four months after the end of the financial year. To provide flexibility to the industry, LCs and AEs are allowed to submit a scanned copy of their audited accounts by the submission deadline and submit the original copy as soon as reasonably practicable after the submission deadline.

LCs and AEs may also apply for an extension of the submission deadline if a delay in preparing the audited accounts is anticipated<sup>1</sup>. These applications will be considered by the SFC pragmatically.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact your case officer.

Intermediaries Supervision Department  
Intermediaries Division  
Securities and Futures Commission

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SFO/IS/013/2022

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to question 10 of the [Frequently Asked Questions on licensing related matters in light of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) updated on 2 March 2022.