

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

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26 September 2013

Australian Securities & Investments Commission
Lawyer, Financial Advisers
Australian Securities and Investments Commission
Level 5, 100 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Email: policy.submissions@asic.gov.au

Attention: Nicole Chew

Feedback to Consultation Paper 215

Dear Nicole,

Financial Education Professionals is an ASIC Authorised Assessor for the purposes of RG 146 and RG 105 and a Registered Training Organisation, accredited to offer programs and qualifications throughout Australia.

This document represents our response to Consultation Paper 215.

Yours Sincerely

Anusha Srinivasan-Ayer
Chief Executive Officer

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Director

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Director

Financial Education Professionals

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FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS PTY LTD
ABN 51 096 944 062
REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION
LISTED ON THE ASIC TRAINING REGISTER

Responses to Proposal Questions

B1: Replacement of ASIC Training Register

<p>B1 We propose to:</p> <p>(a) replace the ASIC Training Register with draft [CO 14/XX] to permit:</p> <p>(i) RTOs and SAOs to self-assess their own courses as authorised assessors; and</p> <p>(ii) RTOs, SAOs and professional or industry associations accredited by ASIC to assess courses delivered by other training course providers; and</p> <p>(b) retain an archived ASIC Training Register as a reference tool for AFS licensees and advisers who have completed courses that were on the ASIC Training Register on 24 September 2012.</p>
<p>B1Q1 Do you agree with our proposal to replace the ASIC Training Register with draft [CO 14/XX]? If not, why not?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>B1Q2 Do you agree that we should retain an archived ASIC Training Register as a reference tool? If not, why not?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>B1Q3 Do you consider that the proposal to replace the ASIC Training Register with draft [CO 14/XX] will impose additional costs on advisers, AFS licensees, training course providers or others? Please provide specific details.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>B1Q4 Do you consider that the proposal to replace the ASIC Training Register with draft [CO 14/XX] will result in benefits for consumers, training course providers or others? Please provide details.</p>
<p>Unsure at this stage</p>

B2: Guidance on written certification

<p>B2 We propose to provide guidance in an updated RG 146 on our expectation that authorised assessors will provide written certification to students of their assessment of training courses against the training standards in RG 146.</p>
<p>B2Q1 Do you think that authorised assessors will provide this certification? If not, why not?</p>
<p>Yes</p> <p>RTOs are required to provide certification to course participants on completion of one or more units of competency</p> <p>To ensure that Certification is issued, we recommend that ASIC, in [CO 14/XX] makes this a condition of being an authorised assessor</p>

B2Q2 What are other means by which AFS licensees could verify that training courses have been assessed by authorised assessors as meeting the training standards?
By direct contact with the authorised assessor but this would be impractical
B2Q3 Do you consider that written certification will impose additional costs on AFS licensees, training course providers, advisers or consumers? If yes, please provide specific details on how this is calculated.
Provided authorised assessors issue (are required to issue – see B2Q1 above) certification, there should be no additional cost
B2Q4 Do you consider that written certification will benefit AFS licensees, training course providers, advisers or consumers? Please provide details.
Yes.

B3: Recognition of foreign qualifications

<p>B3 We propose to:</p> <p>(a) remove the recognition of foreign qualifications, with the exception of our mutual recognition of New Zealand advisers, from an updated RG 146; and</p> <p>(b) revise our policy in RG 146 to acknowledge that advisers who hold a foreign qualification may apply for:</p> <p>(i) recognition of prior learning in relation to Australian training courses for up to 50% of the course requirements; or</p> <p>(ii) an exemption that permits an adviser who holds a foreign qualification to undergo an individual assessment without necessarily holding the requisite five of the past eight years experience outlined in RG 146.</p>
<p>B3Q1 Do you agree with our proposal to remove the recognition of foreign qualifications from RG 146? If not, why not?</p>
<p>No. We believe this would be a retrograde step and is not in the best interest of financial services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial services is a global industry and collaboration between financial authorities globally is very important. Consistency in the area of financial regulation is challenging but critical for the industry in the future ○ Australia is a sophisticated participant in global financial services but a relatively small participant. (Australia represents 2% of world nominal GDP - Source: IMF World Economic Outlook Database April 2011. AUSTRADE) ○ Industry practitioners are mobile and it is not uncommon that they work in a number of financial centres throughout the world. <p>We support the approach in the current (July 2012) RG146.83 which accepts <u>relevant</u> foreign qualifications which are recognised by other regulatory authorities and requires holders of such qualifications to complete training which addresses Australian legal requirements.</p> <p>To ensure that holders of appropriate foreign qualifications have addressed Australian legal requirements and other issues particular to Australia, we recommend that they be required to complete the proposed new Generic Knowledge (CP212). Please note that in our response to CP212 we recommended that ASIC considers packaging this knowledge into 3 separate mandatory areas:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Generic knowledge ii. Regulatory knowledge iii. Ethics <p>(See FEP Response to CP212, B1Q1.)</p>
<p>B3Q2 Do you agree with our proposed policy change on foreign qualifications in proposal B3(b) to permit advisers to apply for recognition of prior learning or for an exemption from the experience requirement? If not, why not?</p>
<p>See B3Q1 above</p>
<p>B3Q3 Do you currently rely on the recognition of foreign qualifications in RG 146? If you are an AFS licensee, please provide details of the number of advisers who rely on this policy.</p>
<p>As a training provider, we provide a RG 146 Gap Training Program for CFA® Charterholders and Candidates which is listed on the ASIC Training Register. Essentially this recognises the financial product training completed in the CFA program and requires holders to complete a gap training program which includes Generic knowledge, Australian regulation and taxation.</p>
<p>B3Q4 Will training course providers provide recognition of prior learning in the manner proposed in proposal B3(b)(i)? Please provide details.</p>
<p>See B3Q1 above</p>
<p>B3Q5 Do you consider that this proposal will impose additional costs on AFS licensees, advisers or training course providers? Please provide details.</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>B3Q6 Do you consider that this proposal will benefit consumers by improving the quality of advice provided? Please provide details.</p>
<p>No</p>

B4: Implementation

<p>B4 We propose that draft [CO 14/XX] will commence in April 2014.</p>
<p>B4Q1 Do you agree with the proposed commencement date of April 2014? If not, why not?</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>B4Q2 Does the proposed commencement date provide enough time to provide written certification to students? Please provide details on the amount of time required to implement the certification requirement.</p>
<p>Yes</p>

Key Contacts

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