

ACCELUS BEST

Our Top Stories In April 2013



NEW REGULATOR, NEW PRIORITIES

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has made it clear that it will move away from the rulebook-focused supervisory approach of the past and step into the future focused on culture, corporate governance and good customer outcomes. This will be backed up by a series of new powers and a significantly stronger set of threshold conditions. Susannah Hammond and Jane Walshe, of Compliance Complete's Regulatory Intelligence team, assessed the FCA's approach one month into operations, in two significant pieces [here](#) and [here](#).



RISK ALIGNMENT

One month into the new regulatory architecture in the UK, a new [normal](#) is developing for firms in terms of risk governance, according to Susannah Hammond, of Compliance Complete's Regulatory Intelligence team. The considered alignment of operational approach between compliance, risk and internal audit functions is critical to the delivery of developing regulatory expectations and fundamental to enabling boards to discharge their obligations. A key priority will be the development of a coherent approach to risk management and risk reporting.



SETTING STANDARDS

The FCA has [said](#) that if, in future, it gets something wrong, this will not necessarily mean there has been a regulatory failure, as long as it has followed the "proper approach" to regulation. Industry officials told Compliance Complete's Peter Elstob that while they hoped the FCA would never have to put the policy statement into practice it was a helpful paper which struck the right balance.



INCREASED AML BURDENS

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority will [double](#) the number of staff in its anti-money laundering team in response to the demands of new legislation and recent high-profile cases involving local banks.

The move, revealed exclusively on Compliance Complete by Ajay Shamdasani, will increase the burden on local banks.



GLOBAL SALARY SURVEYS

U.S. compliance professionals learned that pay and hiring were better in those compliance areas being investigated over past conduct than in sectors which industry regulators have targeted for future examinations and potential enforcement. The article, [Compliance Complete U.S. compensation survey: Mixed forecast with glints of sun for salaries and hiring](#), was part of a global series. Further articles were published in the [UK](#) and [Asia Pacific](#).



U.S. CUSTOMER SUMMIT

The Thomson Reuters Accelus Compliance & Risk Summit in New York on April 25 drew 500 professionals, and its sessions generated several articles. Most popular was: [Pitt's tips: 13 pointers for compliance pros from former SEC chairman](#), based on a keynote speech by Harvey Pitt, former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman. There were also stories for global readers, on compliance challenges with the FATCA U.S. tax evasion law and warnings against U.S. imposition of financial regulation standards on other countries.



NEW AML RISKS

Compliance Complete, which has been steadily covering the Bitcoin virtual currency as an anti-money laundering concern, was ready for the latest surge in interest. Our article by AML analyst Brett Wolf, [EXCLUSIVE: Anti-laundering efforts may not save Bitcoin exchanges' access to bank accounts](#), reported on the impact of March guidance from the U.S. Treasury department.



SEC INTERVIEW

Compliance Complete also had an exclusive interview with Norm Champ, the director of the SEC's investment management division. In the exclusive article headlined [INTERVIEW: SEC's new risk and examinations group to keep its IA exams "narrowly focused"](#), Champ told journalists Emmanuel Olaoye and Stuart Gittleman that the SEC's new Risk and Examinations Office would try to avoid overlap with the much larger Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, and its reviews would be more tightly focused.

Thomson Reuters, Governance Risk and Compliance
3 Times Square
New York, NY 10036
EUROPE | NORTH AMERICA | ASIA PACIFIC | LATIN AMERICA | MIDDLE EAST &
AFRICA

For questions, email us at grc.crr.clientsupport@thomsonreuters.com or call
+44 0870-042-6410 (London), +1 646-223-8930 (New York), +65-6870-3200
(Singapore) or +61 2-9373-1501 (Sydney) +41 (0) 44-498-2900 (Switzerland)

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