

26 March 2012

**Circular to All Licensed Corporations, Registered Institutions,
Responsible Officers and Licensed Representatives
Regarding the Waiver of Annual Licensing Fees**

This circular is issued to advise all licensed corporations, registered institutions, responsible officers and licensed representatives that the Commission will waive payment of all annual licensing fees that would otherwise be payable by them during the period of two years from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 (“First Waiver Period”) and from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 (“Second Waiver Period”). The two-year fee waiver was announced by way of a press release issued by the Commission earlier today.

The objective of the fee waiver is to relieve licensed corporations, registered institutions, responsible officers and licensed representatives of the obligation to pay the annual licensing fees that would otherwise be payable by each of them during the course of the First Waiver Period and the Second Waiver Period.

The fee waiver will apply equally to each licensed corporation, registered institution, responsible officer and licensed representative (including licensed individuals whose accreditation is transferred from one licensed corporation to another during the First and Second Waiver Periods) so that each will benefit to the full extent of the annual licensing fees applicable to them, but not by more than those amounts.

The fee waiver applies to annual licensing fees that become payable between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2014. Accordingly, if an annual fee becomes payable before 1 April 2012 (even as late as 31 March 2012), it must be paid in the normal manner even though actual payment might occur after 1 April 2012. In such a case, payment of the next two annual licensing fees, which will become payable during the First and Second Waiver Periods, will be waived.

In relation to any application to be licensed/registered or for approval to carry on additional regulated activities that is granted during the First Waiver Period, and in respect of which an annual licensing fee will become payable during the Second Waiver Period, the payment of this fee will also be waived. In relation to any such application that is granted during the Second Waiver Period, and in respect of which an annual licensing fee will become payable after 31 March 2014, the payment of this fee will not be waived.

Where annual licensing fees would ordinarily become payable during the First and Second Waiver Periods, the Commission will not issue the usual demand for payment.

The two-year fee waiver applies only to annual licensing fees that become payable during the First and Second Waiver Periods. The payment of all other fees due and payable to the Commission, including licence application and transfer fees, will not be affected.

**Licensing Department
Securities and Futures Commission**