

# Sharing of some recent topical issues relating to SFC-authorized funds

**Investment Products Division 15 December 2014** 

Illustrative examples of non-compliant advertisements for the Frequently Asked Questions on Advertising Materials of Collective Investment Schemes Authorized under the Product Codes (Question 6A)

#### Existing Advertising Guidelines

- Effective since 1 August 2008
- Applicable to collective investment schemes ("schemes") authorized by the SFC including SFC-authorized funds
- The Advertising Guidelines set out, among others, the requirements regarding the contents of advertisements of the schemes including the following:
  - General principles (paragraphs 1 and 2)
  - Language and graphics (paragraphs 3 7)
  - Warning statements / notes to prospective investors (paragraphs 23 27)
- Frequently Asked Questions on the Advertising Guidelines published and posted on the SFC's website ("FAQ on Advertising Guidelines")
  - Provide practical applications of the Advertising Guidelines
- Recent FAQs issued on SFC-authorized funds' advertisements
  - Marketing materials that highlight or advertise the regular dividend payment /
    distribution feature of an SFC-authorized fund (FAQ 39, 39 (A) (F) and illustrative
    examples of advertisements under FAQ 39 (F) of the FAQ of Advertising Guidelines
    published on 14 March 2014)
- Post-issue monitoring and surveillance
  - The SFC regards non-compliance of the Advertising Guidelines and/or other regulatory requirements as a serious matter



#### Recent surveillance conducted by the SFC:

- Some advertisements (e.g. print media advertisements and display-only materials)
   failed to present a fair and balanced picture of the related SFC-authorized fund(s) with prominent risk disclosure in compliance with the Advertising Guidelines
- Pursuant to the follow-up actions by the SFC:
  - remedial measures have been undertaken by the responsible management companies at the request of SFC (including cessation of publication of advertisements that were found to be non-compliant); and
  - ii. in late October 2014, SFC reminded the management companies of their duty to ensure that all advertisements of the SFC-authorized funds under their management duly comply with the Advertising Guidelines and all other applicable regulatory requirements ("SFC Compliance Reminder")



#### SFC Compliance Reminder

- Reiteration of the existing requirements under paragraphs 1(b) and 26 of the Advertising Guidelines and the associated practical guidance provided under FAQ 6A of the FAQ on Advertising Guidelines
- "All advertisements must be clear, fair, and present a balanced picture with adequate and prominent risk disclosure;
- Presentation of benefits, returns and risks of the fund should be fair, balanced and proportionate. In particular, presenting benefits and returns disproportionately larger than the risks of the fund would not be considered as fair and proportionate; and
- Warning statements and footnotes should be well positioned and, where applicable, properly referenced in the advertisement. They must be legible in the context of:
  - i. font sizes used;
  - ii. format and layout of the advertisement; and
  - iii. where the advertisement is displayed or published.

In this connection, we note that <u>issuers should adopt a holistic approach to ensure compliance and</u> <u>must be able to demonstrate that the risk disclosure, in terms of overall impression, is reader-friendly and "eye-catching".</u>

In general, it is expected that the font size and spacing of the risk disclosure / warning statements should be comparable to the main text (excluding headings and footnotes) of the relevant advertisement."



Case sharing – Some non-compliant advertisements



#### Example 1

 Issuers of the advertisement should ensure the advertisement is properly displayed such that the risk warnings can be clearly seen and of appropriate prominence when investors view the real advertisement



- ← the font size of the risk disclosure / warning statements should be comparable to the main text (excluding headings and footnotes) of the advertisement
- ← benefits and returns are presented disproportionately larger than the risks of the fund



**Example 1 (continued)** 

基金投資於一項多元化亞太區(不包括日本)較黑(包括上市房地產信託基金(REITs))及債務證券組合。 价比基金涉及投資於亞太區(不包括日本)的風險、投資於以亞洲實幣計價證券的風險、供用風險、利率風險、股蔥風險、投資於REITs的風險、有關投資於亞太區(不包括日本)蒸 若投資者投資的計價/資產貨幣並非基本貨幣的股份類別,由於貨幣市場波動不定,投資者所獲回報在兌換回其認識及穩回貨幣後,或會有別於按基本貨幣計算所得之動。 基金可提用金融衍生工具以建致有效率投資組合管理或意圖對沖或減軽其投資的整體風險。若投資顧問為建致有效率投資組合管理及對沖目的而運用技巧及金融衍生工具的期望落 「利影響。由於金融衍生工具可屬模桿工具、運用金融衍生工具可能導致本基金資產淨值出現較大波動。 就每月班息 - 1股份類別而言,投資者將請領意以下各項:a)本基金可動情白本股份類別的資本股份部分股息;b)從資本股份股息即屬白投資者的原有投資或佔的任何資本營值作部分返還或提款;c)任何分類若牽沙從該類股份的

## **FUND NAME SLOGAN**

詳情請參閱 網頁或與各大分銷商聯絡。

A(美元)每月派息-1 平均年息率為

3.5%\*

(旨在每月派息,派息率 並不保證,並可從股本 中分派。

請注意重要事項5)

 $\leftarrow$  the font size of the risk disclosure / warning statements should be comparable to the main text (excluding headings and footnotes) of the advertisement

← benefits and returns are presented disproportionately larger than the risks of the fund

基金A(美元)每月派息-1股份類別的成立日期為2013年8月21日。其過去每月年息率為:2013年9月30日:4.68%;2013年10月31日: 4.5%; 2013年11月29日: 4.6%; 2013年12月31日: 4.7%; 2014年1月31日: 4.92%; 2014年2月28日: 4.83%; 2014年3月31日: 4.70%; 2014年4月30日: 4.65%; 2014年5月30日: 4.65%; 2014年6月 30日:4.52%;2014年7月31日:4.45%及2014年8月29日:4.40%。平均年息率=過去每月年息率總和+頭息期數。價值不足50美金(或其等值)的分派數項將自動撥作增購問類股份。

投資附帶風險。通往車續並不表示終來會有類似車續。投資者庫緬間有關基金章程,並參閱有關產品特性及其風險因素



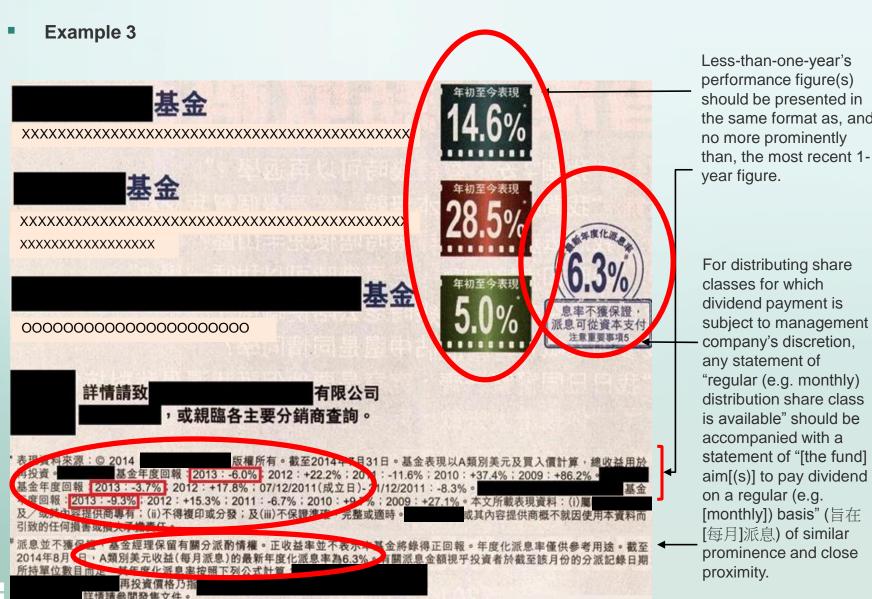
Example 2



- ← the font size and spacing of the risk disclosure/warning statements should be comparable to the main text (excluding headings and footnotes) of the advertisement
- Key risks should be highlighted in a clear, concise and effective manner (note: direct "cut and paste" of all the risks disclosures from the offering documents including KFS should be avoided)

← benefits and returns are presented disproportionately larger than the risks of the fund





the same format as, and