October 1, 2015

Introduction

The Alberta Securities Commission (ASC) advises of the issuance of Blanket Order 24-504 *Exemption from Clearing Agency Recognition* which will come into effect October 31, 2015 (Blanket Order).

Reasons for the Blanket Order

Blanket Order 24-502 (cited as *Re Exemption from Mandatory Recognition of Clearing Agencies*, 2014 ABASC 409) exempts persons and companies carrying on business as a clearing agency in Alberta from the prohibition (the Clearing Recognition Requirement) under the *Securities Act* (Alberta) (the Act) on so acting without recognition as a clearing agency by the ASC.

The exemption under Blanket Order 24-502 will terminate on October 31, 2015.

The ASC and its counterparts elsewhere in Canada are developing a rule concerning the Clearing Recognition Requirement, and anticipate that it will be finalized and implemented such that affected entities will be in a position to understand and comply with its requirements by December 31, 2016. It is therefore appropriate to extend the current exemption from the Clearing Recognition Requirement accordingly. Pursuant to the Blanket Order, the Clearing Recognition Requirement does not apply until December 31, 2016.

Applications for Recognition

We encourage clearing agencies that are currently carrying on business or anticipate carrying on business in Alberta to ensure that they file their applications well in advance of expiration of this Blanket Order. ASC Policy 12-601 – *Applications to the ASC* sets out the requirements for filing an application in Alberta. In addition, we also encourage clearing agencies to monitor the proposed national instrument on uniform requirements governing clearing agencies which is anticipated to be finalized and published in final form in November, 2015.

Questions

If you have any questions with respect to the Blanket Order please send them to the following:

Bonnie Kuhn
Manager, Legal, Market Regulation
600, 250-5th Street S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0R4
(403) 355–3890
bonnie.kuhn@asc.ca

5201471