



Exclusive: NFA By-law 1101 focus surprises hedge funds

Posted on **May 20, 2014** by **Maiya Keidan**



A National Futures Association (NFA) by-law that prohibits members from doing business with non-members, that should be registered, in the eyes of the NFA, with the self-regulatory organisation is being heavily targeted in audits, HFMCompliance has learned.

“Some of the issues that have been important to the NFA on audits have surprised hedge fund managers,” said Deborah Monson at Ropes & Gray, adding that by-law 1101 was an example. “By-law 1101 is a priority for the NFA, so they are asking for that due diligence.”

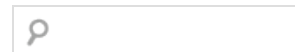
“The NFA asks about 1101 constantly,” said Scott Moss at Lowenstein Sandler.

Douglas MacLean at Armor Compliance said: “Many hedge fund managers who have recently registered as a commodity pool operators (CPOs) with the CFTC and become members of the NFA as a result of the elimination of CFTC Rule 4.13(a)(4) are not aware of the ongoing compliance required by by-law 1101.

“This lack of awareness becomes apparent during NFA audits when deficiencies are found in their compliance program with regard to this rule.”

“NFA by-law 1101 has always and will continue to be a critical component of our supervisory programs and a focus during our examinations,” said Karen Wuertz at the NFA via email.

“Although by-law 1101 imposes strict liability on any member conducting customer business with a non-member that is required to be registered, the NFA has consistently not applied a strict



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liability standard in determining whether to bring an enforcement action against a member who has violated the requirement,” she added. “NFA looks at the due diligence conducted by the member and whether based on its due diligence, the member knew or should of known that it was doing customer business with a non-member.”

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