Consumer Credit sourcebook

Chapter 14

Requirement in relation to agents

CONC 14 : Requirement in relation to agents

	14.1 Application
14.1.1	This chapter applies to a <i>firm</i> with respect to a <i>credit-related regulated activity</i> .
	Requirements
14.1.2	A firm must not appoint an individual, who is not an <i>authorised person</i> or an <i>exempt person</i> , to act as an agent of the <i>firm</i> , in carrying on <i>regulated</i> <i>activities</i> of the <i>firm</i> unless all of the following conditions are met at the date of the individual's appointment and while the individual continues to act as the <i>firm</i> 's agent:
	(1) the <i>firm</i> appoints the individual as the <i>firm</i> 's agent;
	(2) the individual works as agent only for the <i>firm</i> and not as agent for any other principal;
	(3) the <i>firm</i> has a written contract with the individual which:
	 (a) sets out effective measures for the <i>firm</i> to control the individual's activities when acting on its behalf in the course of its business; and
	(b) requires the individual to make clear to <i>customers</i> that the individual is representing the firm as the individual's principal and the name of the <i>firm</i> ;
	(4) (in the case of collecting debts) receipt of repayments by the individual is treated as receipt by the <i>firm</i> ; and
	(5) the <i>firm</i> accepts full responsibility for the conduct of the individual when the individual is acting on the <i>firm</i> 's behalf in the course of the <i>firm</i> 's business.
14.1.3	(1) A firm in ■ CONC 14.1.2 R would need to have a Part 4A permission for every activity the individual carries on as its agent for which the firm would need permission if it were carrying on the activity itself.
	(2) ■ CONC 14 uses the expression "individual" in its natural meaning as referring to a single human being.
14.1.4	Where a <i>firm</i> appoints an agent in accordance with CONC 14.1.2 R to carry on the business of the <i>firm</i> :

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- (1) the *firm* must establish, implement and maintain adequate policies and procedures sufficient to ensure compliance of the agent with the *firm*'s obligations under the *regulatory system*; and
- (2) the *firm* must take all reasonable steps to identify conflicts of interest between the agent and a *client* of the *firm* that arise or may arise in the course of the *firm* carrying on *regulated activities* or *ancillary activities*.

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