

Chapter 26

Senior managers and certification regime: Overall and local responsibility



26.6 **Meaning of local and overall responsibility: General**

UK firms

- 26.6.1

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The meaning in practice of overall responsibility for a function of a *UK SMCR firm* depends on whether that function is under the management of the *firm's governing body* or not.
- 26.6.2

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(1) Certain requirements of the *regulatory system* say that the *governing body* of certain *firms* should have ultimate responsibility for, and the prime and leading role in, managing the *firm*.

(2) In particular this is the case under:

(a) ■ SYSC 4.3A.1R (Management body); and

(b) [deleted]

(c) rule 2.1 in the Part of the *PRA Rulebook* called Conditions Governing Business (General Governance Requirements) in the Part of the *PRA Rulebook* called Conditions Governing Business.

(3) This means that the *governing body* of a *UK SMCR firm* subject to these requirements will manage the conduct of the whole of the business of the *firm*. In turn that means that the parts of this chapter dealing with a function that is not managed by the *firm's governing body* will not be relevant to it.
- 26.6.3

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The *FCA* recognises that for some *UK SMCR firms* not subject to the requirements in ■ SYSC 26.6.2G, some activities, business areas and functions of a *firm* may not be under the management of its *governing body*. This may be the case where, for example:

(1) the *firm* does not have a *governing body*; or

(2) the *firm's* shareholders play a key role in managing it through, for example, a *group* management committee.

Branches of overseas firms

- 26.6.4

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(1) ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(1) refers to the activities, business areas and management functions of the *branch* that are under the management of the *branch's governing body*. However, the *FCA* recognises that for some *branches*, some activities, business areas and functions of the *branches* may not be under the management of the
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branch's governing body. This may be the case where the *branch* does not have its own *governing body* or where it is organised in such a way that certain functions are under the management of a *person* or body outside the *branch's* management structure. In those circumstances, it would not be appropriate to require the *firm* to allocate overall responsibility for that matter to a *person* who is part of the management structure of the *branch*.

- (2) The requirements to allocate responsibility for activities, business areas and functions of a *branch* under ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(1) and (2) respectively are intended to allow for the difference described in (1). In particular:
- (a) ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(1) is intended to cater for the situation where a particular activity, business area or function of the *branch* is under the management of the *branch's governing body*. In that situation, the *firm* should allocate responsibility for that matter under ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(1); and
 - (b) ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(2) is intended to cater for the situation where a particular activity, business area or function of the *branch* is not under the management of *branch's governing body*. In that situation, the *firm* should allocate responsibility for that matter under ■ SYSC 26.3.2R(2).

Further guidance

26.6.5 G ■ SYSC 26.7 gives *guidance* on the effect of ■ SYSC 26.3 (Main rules) when a function is under the *governing body's* management. ■ SYSC 26.8 gives *guidance* on the effect of ■ SYSC 26.3 when the function is not.

Day-to-day or ultimate control

26.6.6 G Having overall or local responsibility under this chapter for a matter does not necessarily mean:

- (1) having ultimate authority over it; or
- (2) having day-to-day management control of that function.

26.6.7 G In particular, the ultimate decision-making body of many *UK SMCR firms* is their *governing body*, acting collectively.