

CLIENT ALERT

Reminder of Annual Requirements for Investment Managers

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Winston's Investment Management team has released its annual <u>Investment Management Regulatory Calendar and Annual Requirements</u>—a resource for investment managers, private funds, and commodity pools.

In assessing your 2021 compliance strategy, it is important to keep in mind not only individual requirements and best practices, but also the larger themes defining the regulatory and enforcement environment. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, these themes should be reviewed by advisers in light of operational and compliance challenges they have faced and how they have modified their compliance programs to adapt to these changes. In our view, last year's SEC enforcement actions and risk alerts continue to send three clear messages:

- Transparency is a priority. The SEC is quick to take action in cases where there is a lack of required disclosure or a conflict of interest, and in cases where an investment manager made a material misrepresentation. Firms should endeavor to be scrupulously transparent in their arrangements and transactions.
- Policies and procedures are just the start. Firms need to have a solid infrastructure that translates policies and procedures into actions and behaviors. This includes controls, internal audit functions and appropriate and timely escalation protocols. Moreover, firms must act on and follow policies and procedures in a way that reasonably ensures compliance with such policies and procedures, and applicable law.
- Compliance needs to be approached holistically. Compliance procedures cannot be applied in a check-the-box fashion. Firms must implement a risk-based approach driven by thorough due diligence of clients, employees and vendors.



1 Min Read

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