# Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive: The End of Transitional Relief

July 22, 2014

Certain EU jurisdictions made available a transitional relief period of up to 12-months during which qualifying non-EU fund managers did not have to comply with requirements under the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (the "AIFMD"). This is a reminder that, in these jurisdictions, <u>22 July 2014</u> is the final date upon which a qualifying non-EU manager can rely on transitional relief.

#### WHAT DID TRANSITIONAL RELIEF MEAN?

- If a non-EU fund manager was marketing a fund prior to 22 July 2013, then it may have qualified for transitional relief with respect to marketing to professional investors in those EU jurisdictions where transitional relief was made available.
- Where available, transitional relief permitted a non-EU fund manager to market a fund up to 22 July 2014 in that EU jurisdiction without having to comply with the AIFMD requirements applicable to non-EU fund managers.
- Non-EU managers which relied on transitional relief and which do not want to fall within the scope of AIFMD going forward should not undertake any marketing activities in the EU after 22 July 2014.

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER 22 JULY 2014?

Irrespective of transitional relief having been available previously in one or more jurisdictions, a non-EU fund manager which markets in the EU after 22 July 2014 will be subject to the AIFMD requirements applicable to non-EU fund managers marketing funds in the EU, namely:

- 1. The non-EU fund manager must comply with applicable private placement rules in each EU member state. A number of EU member states have introduced pre-marketing notification requirements (e.g. UK) or registration requirements including the need to appoint a depositary (e.g. Germany and Denmark). A non-EU fund manager should seek appropriate advice in each EU jurisdiction regarding the applicable notification/registration requirements it must comply with prior to commencing any marketing in such jurisdiction.
- 2. The jurisdiction of the fund and the fund manager must not be listed as a Non-Cooperative Country and Territory by the Financial Action Task Force<sup>1</sup> and the

The list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories is updated on an on-going basis and may be found at: <a href="http://www.fatf-gafi.org">http://www.fatf-gafi.org</a>.

applicable regulatory authority in the jurisdiction of the fund and the fund manager must have entered into a "cooperation agreement" with the applicable regulatory authority in each EU jurisdiction where the fund is to be marketed.

- 3. The non-EU fund manager will be subject to certain requirements of the AIFMD, namely:
  - Pre-investment disclosures (Article 23 AIFMD): EU investors must be provided with certain specific information prior to investing (typically via a PPM Addendum).
  - Annual reports (Article 22 AIFMD): EU investors and applicable regulatory authorities in each jurisdiction where the fund has been marketed must be provided with an audited annual report containing certain specific information.
  - Periodic disclosures to regulators (Article 24 AIFMD): The fund manager must report certain high level information about the fund and its investments to applicable regulatory authorities in each jurisdiction where the fund has been marketed.
  - Disclosures where the fund acquires or disposes of a substantial stake in a company in the EU (Articles 27 and 28 AIFMD): Certain disclosure requirements would apply to any acquisitions/disposals of EU companies by the fund.
  - "Asset stripping" rules (Article 30 AIFMD): If the fund acquires a controlling stake of a company in the EU, then certain types of capital distributions are restricted for a 2 year period.

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The list of co-operation agreements signed by EU member states may be found at: <a href="http://www.esma.europa.eu/content/aifmd-mous-signed-eu-authorities">http://www.esma.europa.eu/content/aifmd-mous-signed-eu-authorities</a>.

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