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SFC Suspends Tau Ling Ling for Breaching the Code of Conduct and Her Employer's Internal Policy

28 Sep 2006

The SFC has suspended Ms Tau Ling Ling for 11 weeks from 28 September 2006 to 13 December 2006 for breaching the Code of Conduct and her employer's internal policy while acting as a licensed representative for BOCI Securities Limited (BOCIS). The suspension is the result of a settlement between Tau and the SFC (Note 1).

The SFC's investigation found that from January to August 2005, Tau conducted discretionary trading in the margin account of a client of BOCIS without first obtaining written authorisation from the client. The SFC also found Tau knowingly disregarded the internal policy of BOCIS which prohibits the offering of discretionary services to clients without prior senior management approval. The SFC concludes that Tau has been guilty of misconduct and that her fitness and properness has been called into question.

The SFC considers the settlement to be in the interest of the investing public or in the public interest. In considering the penalty, the SFC has taken into account all the circumstances of the case, including the following:

- The client apparently knew about the discretionary trading activities;
- Tau frankly admitted her breaches at an early stage;
- Tau was remorseful and fully co-operated in settling the disciplinary action; and
- Tau had a clean disciplinary record.

Mr Eugène Goyne, an SFC Senior Director of Enforcement, said: "We consider it essential to obtain a written authorisation from a client before commencing discretionary trading in the client's account. A written authorisation identifies the people entitled to place orders in a client account and protects the client from unauthorised trades. It also protects the company should a client later disclaim the third party trades in the client's account. Licensees who fail to perform this basic requirement can expect to face disciplinary action."

Ends

Notes:

1. Tau is licensed under the Securities and Futures Ordinance to carry on Type 1 (dealing in securities) and Type 2 (dealing in futures contracts) regulated activities. She is currently accredited to Shenyin Wanguo Securities (H.K.) Limited and Shenyin Wanguo Futures (H.K.) Limited.

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