

Nova Scotia Securities Commission

Rule 51-102 (Amendment)
Continuous Disclosure Obligations

-and-

Consequential Amendments to Rules 41-101 and 52-110

-and-

Amendments to National Instrument 41-101 *General Prospectus Requirements*
and National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees*
(collectively, the Rule Amendments)

-and-

Changes to Companion Policy 41-101CP to National Instrument 41-101
General Prospectus Requirements
(the Policy Amendment)

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to section 150 of the *Securities Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, chapter 418, as amended (the Act), the Nova Scotia Securities Commission (the Commission) has power to make rules subject to compliance with the requirements of the Act;
2. Pursuant to section 19 of the Act, the Commission has power to issue and publish policy statements;
3. The Rule Amendments and the Policy Amendment, copies of which are attached hereto, have been made a rule by one or more of the Canadian securities regulatory authorities; and
4. The Commission is of the opinion that the attainment of the purpose of the Act is advanced by this Instrument.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission hereby:


- (a) pursuant to the authority contained in section 150 of the Act and subject to compliance with the requirements of section 150A of the Act, approves the Rule Amendments and makes the same a rule of the Commission;

- (b) pursuant to the authority contained in section 19 of the Act and subject to publication on the Commission's website, issues the Policy Amendment as a policy statement of the Commission; and
- (c) declares that the rule approved and made pursuant to clause (a) and the issuance of the policy statement pursuant to clause (b) shall both take effect on **June 30, 2015**, unless the Minister disapproves the rule or returns it to the Commission in accordance with subsection 150A(3) of the Act in which event the rule and the policy statement shall not be effective until the rule is approved by the Minister.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Instrument has been signed by the Chair and Vice-chair of the Commission, being the members of the Commission prescribed by the Chair pursuant to subsection 15(3) of the Act to attend the hearing of this matter and the quorum with respect to this matter, on the 16th day of April, 2015.



Sarah P. Bradley, Chair



Paul Radford Q.C., Vice-chair

Attachments

**Amendments to
National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees***

1. *National Instrument 52-110 Audit Committees is amended by this Instrument.*
2. *Part 6 is amended by adding the following section:*

6.1.1. Composition of Audit Committee

- (1) An audit committee of a venture issuer must be composed of a minimum of three members.
- (2) Every member of an audit committee of a venture issuer must be a director of the issuer.
- (3) Subject to subsections (4), (5) and (6), a majority of the members of an audit committee of a venture issuer must not be executive officers, employees or control persons of the venture issuer or of an affiliate of the venture issuer.
- (4) If a circumstance arises that affects the business or operations of the venture issuer, and a reasonable person would conclude that the circumstance can be best addressed by a member of the audit committee becoming an executive officer or employee of the venture issuer, subsection (3) does not apply to the audit committee in respect of the member until the later of:
 - (a) the next annual meeting of the venture issuer;
 - (b) the date that is six months after the date on which the circumstance arose.
- (5) If an audit committee member becomes a control person of the venture issuer or of an affiliate of the venture issuer for reasons outside the member's reasonable control, subsection (3) does not apply to the audit committee in respect of that member until the later of:
 - (a) the next annual meeting of the venture issuer;
 - (b) the date that is six months after the event which caused the member to become a control person.
- (6) If a vacancy on the audit committee arises as a result of the death, incapacity or resignation of an audit committee member and the board of directors is required to fill the vacancy, subsection (3) does not apply to the audit committee, in respect of the member appointed to fill the vacancy, until the later of:

(a) the next annual meeting of the venture issuer;

(b) the date that is six months from the day the vacancy was created.

(7) This section applies to a venture issuer in respect of a financial year beginning on or after January 1, 2016..

3. ***Section 5 of Form 52-110F2 is replaced with the following:***

5. If, at any time since the commencement of the issuer's most recently completed financial year, the issuer has relied on

(a) the exemption in section 2.4 (*De Minimis Non-audit Services*),

(b) the exemption in subsection 6.1.1(4) (*Circumstances Affecting the Business or Operations of the Venture Issuer*),

(c) the exemption in subsection 6.1.1(5) (*Events Outside Control of Member*),

(d) the exemption in subsection 6.1.1(6) (*Death, Incapacity or Resignation*), or

(e) an exemption from this Instrument, in whole or in part, granted under Part 8 (*Exemption*),

state that fact..

4. This Instrument comes into force on June 30, 2015.

**Changes to
Companion Policy 41-101CP to National Instrument 41-101
General Prospectus Requirements**

- 1. *The changes to the Companion Policy to National Instrument 41-101 General Prospectus Requirements are set out in this schedule.***

- 2. *Subsection 4.4(3) is changed by***
 - (a) replacing “the equity investee would meet the thresholds for the significance tests in Item 35 of Form 41-101F1” with “,”***

 - (b) replacing the “.”with “,” and***

 - (c) adding the following after “financial year-end,”:***

either of the following apply:

 - (a) for an issuer that is not a venture issuer or an IPO venture issuer, the equity investee would meet the thresholds for the significance tests in Item 35 of Form 41-101F1;***

 - (b) for a venture issuer or an IPO venture issuer, the equity investee would meet the thresholds for the significance tests in Item 35 of Form 41-101F1 if “100 percent” is read as “40 percent”.***

- 3. These changes become effective on June 30, 2015.**