

Annex 2.2

SRA Authorisation of Firms (amendment in respect of CILEX lawyers) Rules

Introduction

Under our SRA Authorisation of Firms Rules and supporting statutory provisions, we authorise entities which are recognised sole practices (in which the sole practitioner is a solicitor or registered European lawyer (REL)), recognised bodies (a firm within which all managers/interest holders are legally qualified persons, and at least one manager is a solicitor or REL), or licensed bodies (a firm within which at least one manager or interest holder is a non-authorised person and at least one manager is an authorised person).

These amendment rules put in place arrangements to authorise firms that are wholly owned by authorised CILEX lawyers, or owned by CILEX lawyers alongside other authorised individuals, other than solicitors.

They also provide for the SRA to limit the practice rights of those firms through the terms of their authorisation. This will restrict these to (i) those reserved legal services and/or immigration services for which its owners and managers hold specialist practising rights, and (ii) unreserved legal services. The same arrangements will apply in respect of licensed bodies in which the authorised persons are CILEX lawyers, under the existing equivalent powers for licensed bodies within the rules.

Rule 1

The SRA Authorisation of Firms Rules will be amended as follows:

(a) In Rule 1.1, after sub-paragraph (c), insert:

“(d) as an **authorised CILEX body**, if you are a body in which all of the **managers** and **interest holders** are **authorised CILEX lawyers**; and

(b) After Rule 1, add:

“1A You will be eligible to apply for authorisation as a **SRA-CILEX-ACCA firm** if you meet the requirements set out in the SRA CILEX-ACCA Handbook.”

(c) After Rule 5.3, add:

“5.4 If you are an **authorised CILEX body** you must only carry on the **reserved legal activities** specified in the terms of your authorisation.”

(d) After Rule 10.1(c) delete “or”

(e) In Rule 10.1(d), after sub-paragraph (c) insert:

“(ca) who is an **authorised CILEX lawyer** whose **practising rights certificate** is suspended or has been revoked or whose membership

is suspended or has been terminated, without the **SRA**'s written permission; or"

(f) In Rule 13.2(a), after "**RFL**" insert:

" , **authorised CILEX lawyer**".

Rule 2

The following consequential changes to the **SRA Glossary** will be made:

(a) in the definition of **authorised body**, after paragraph (b) insert:
" (c) a body that has been authorised by the **SRA** to practise as an **authorised CILEX body**"

(b) after the definition of **authorised body**, insert:

" **authorised CILEX body** means a body authorised by the SRA under rule 1.1(d) of the SRA Authorisation of Firms Rules
authorised CILEX lawyer means an individual meeting the requirements of Rule 1.1 of the SRA Authorisation of CILEX Lawyers Regulations"

Rules made by the Solicitors Regulation Authority Board on [].

Made under section 20(6) of the Legal Services Act 2007.