

Fraud Watch

Are you looking at transferring funds overseas to buy a commodity - such as shares or gold?

You could be at risk of losing your money...

Up until December 2009, over \$20,000,000 has been lost by Australians duped into investing in these bogus schemes. ASIC, who monitors such activity, has advised that there has been an increase of 351% in this type of crime in the past year.

Before you transfer your funds overseas or obtain a loan in order to invest in such a scheme, it is important that you stop and think about the following questions:

- » **Are you purchasing financial product such as shares, commodities, gold certificates or other securities with an overseas corporation?**
- » **Are you using your house or other asset as security for a loan to raise the funds you are going to invest?**
- » **Does the corporation you are dealing with have an Australian Financial Services license issued by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC)?**

You can check to see if the company you are dealing with has such a license via the names index at www.asic.gov.au.

- » **If it does not, you are dealing with persons who are breaking the law.**
Many such organisations have been identified to be fraudulent. Even if they are overseas, despite what they may claim, such companies MUST hold an Australian Financial Services license. You are running the risk of losing the funds you intend to invest. This is particularly so if you are using your home (or other asset) as security in order to obtain your investment.

Our Risk & Compliance Department has a full list of companies that have been found to be fraudulent. They can be contacted on 8208 5641 or 1300 131 844.

If you require any further advice please contact Police Credit Union immediately on 1300 131 844 during business hours or 1300 247 489 after hours.

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