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CONTACT:

Ron Margulis

VICS

Phone: 908-272-3930

Email: ron@rampr.com

VICS LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATION SERIES ON VENDOR ALIGNMENT AND COMPLIANCE

Lawrenceville, NJ — The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions Association today announced that six new VICS Trading Partner Alignment & Compliance Committee (TPAC) foundational courses are now available online in VICS Education Center. The courses were developed in partnership with Katzscan, a consulting firm specializing in vendor compliance and fraud reduction, and focus on the most common vendor compliance chargebacks and how to avoid them.

“The VICS TPAC committee is dedicated to reducing the cost of quality in the retail supply chain through initiatives that include education and standardization, and these courses go a long way toward that end. Retailers and suppliers alike will gain critical insights into trade collaboration by taking the series,” said Joe Andraski, president and CEO of VICS.

The 6 courses are:

1. An Executive Overview Of Vendor Compliance – A high-level overview that is intended to advise suppliers considering the leap into the retail supply chain.
2. Key Aspects Of Vendor Compliance – A detailed look at how vendor compliance impacts all aspects of a supplier’s business, from operational procedures to technology, and including floor-ready guidelines and documentation such as the VICS Bill Of Lading.
3. An Introduction To Electronic Data Interchange – An overview of what EDI is and how it works, including an examination of documents typically used in the retail supply chain.
4. An Introduction To Barcode & RFID Label Printing – An overview of what barcodes and Radio Frequency Identification is and how they work, including the pro’s and con’s of various print methods, how specific barcodes are used, and an introduction to the new global barcode terminology.
5. EDI Integration Tips & Techniques – A common source of confusion and frustration for suppliers, this course highlights some best practices for integrating EDI into sales order processing, distribution, and accounting applications (though typically found in Enterprise Resource Planning systems).
6. Common Vendor Compliance Chargebacks & How To Avoid Them – A look at common vendor compliance chargebacks and how – with proper investments in technology and a

dedication to operating in an organized manner – suppliers can avoid these mistakes and financial penalties for non-compliance.

“Education works best when it is affordable and available. At \$75/course for VICS members and \$95/course for non-VICS members, suppliers can easily gain detailed insights into retail supply chain participation for a very low investment,” said Norman Katz, President of Katzscan. “Available 24/7 through the VICS Online Learning Portal, access is easy from virtually anywhere there is an Internet connection. And the courses support VICS CPFR® business model activities and tasks, providing a foundation for the CPFR business model.”

Retailers taking the courses will benefit from a more educated supplier base because knowledgeable suppliers will burden retailers less with basic questions of compliance. Retailers should see a decrease in supplier chargebacks in relation to an increase in supplier conformance with core retail supply chain requirements.

Suppliers taking the courses will benefit from being more educated about their responsibilities as a participant in the retail supply chain. By increasing compliance, suppliers will decrease chargebacks. Without chargebacks, supplier profit margins will increase as the true cost of goods sold decreases. Suppliers are encouraged to take full advantage of the implementation of technology and operational best practices to improve their own companies to the fullest extent.

To learn more about the VICS TPAC courses, go to <http://www.vics.org/education/tpac-foundational-ecourses/>.

About VICS

The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association has enabled companies in the retail and consumer-focused industries to eliminate billions of dollars of waste and delay. By creating voluntary guidelines, often referred to as “standards,” VICS has created new best practices that ultimately lead to lower costs and better availability of products for consumers. VICS’ volunteer members improve the flow of products and information throughout retailing and the consumer-focused industries that supply retail. The Association provides leadership and an environment in which executives can make a difference in their industry, their company performance—and their personal commitment to make the world work a little bit better. VICS’ members help define the next best practices in the industries and thus anticipate and optimize business processes and costs. Additional information can be found at www.vics.org.

About Katzscan

Started in January 1996 by Norman Katz, Katzscan is a consulting firm located near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, that specializes in implementation and integration of barcode applications and Electronic Data Interchange to ERP systems. With a unique focus on supply chain vendor compliance, Katzscan assists suppliers in successfully selling while minimizing chargebacks, as well as helping companies drive efficiencies to their own down-stream supply chains via the establishment of their own vendor compliance guidelines. Katzscan also assists with turnaround situations and in the detection and reduction of fraud via Sarbanes-Oxley compliance frameworks. For more information, please go to www.katzscan.com

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