

PRESS RELEASE

The Risk Advisory Group plc
Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
London WC1B 5EH

t +44 (0) 20 7578 0000
f +44 (0) 20 7578 7855
e general@riskadvisory.net

www.riskadvisory.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Job applicants more likely to lie as recession bites

As the job market gets tougher more than 64 percent of job applicants bend the truth.

Job applicants are more likely to lie on their CVs in the current recession, according to the findings of The Risk Advisory Group's sixth annual survey of CV lies.

In a review of more than 2,900 CVs the percentage of discrepancies had increased by 14 percent over the previous year. As the recession worsened by the last quarter of 2008, as many as 75 percent of applications contained at least one inaccuracy.

This year's research shows that job title is the most common lie, with 53 percent of people not telling the truth about their employment history overall. But the biggest increase – 22 percent – was in applicants lying about their educational grades.

Candidates who include at least one lie are likely to have a CV full of false information. Twenty-four percent of applications reviewed had three or more issues – an eight percent increase on the previous year.

Discrepancies range from issues with job titles, fictitious academic qualifications, omitting County Court Judgments and undeclared business interests.

Sal Remtulla, Head of Employee Screening for The Risk Advisory Group, said:

“With the economic crisis widening and jobs becoming more scarce, applicants are forced to go to greater lengths to make sure they stand out. Companies cannot take experience and qualifications at face value and must make adequate checks.

Employers must constantly review the risk facing their business in light of the changing environment. Personal circumstances can change quickly at the moment and this could put a business at risk. Ongoing checks can reduce the risk of fraud from existing staff who could be under increasing financial pressure.

No business can afford to invest time and money in someone who is not up to the job. The only way to know if they are is to check their credentials independently.”



Examples of CV liars:

- A candidate stated that she had been a bank employee for four years, which was confirmed verbally by the nominated line manager. The reference received from the company's human resources department revealed that the candidate had been employed for two different periods during those four years. The second employment period was terminated by dismissal on the grounds of gross misconduct. More alarmingly, she was terminated because she attempted to steal money from a customer's account.
- A new recruit for a UK-based hedge fund claimed to have obtained a postgraduate diploma from a well known British university. Screening revealed that although the candidate had indeed been a student at the institution during the period stated, and passed all the necessary modules and examinations, the qualification was never actually awarded. Further research indicated that this was the result of the candidate having an outstanding debt with the university.
- When conducting a credit check on behalf of our client, a candidate was found registered on the electoral roll at an address that he never stated in his employment screening form. An £11,000 County Court Judgment (CCJ) was discovered at the same address against the name of the potential employee, who failed to declare this despite being asked to declare all such information.
- A candidate who was offered a position at a major oil and gas firm in the UK claimed to have obtained a BA from a top Kazakhstan university. The candidate produced a copy of a certificate to support her claim. When contacted to verify this claim, the Registry confirmed that the candidate did not receive the qualification. Furthermore, the certificate provided was not one that they had issued despite being very similar.

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For further information please contact:

Press Office
The Risk Advisory Group
T: +44 (0)207 578 0000
E: screening@riskadvisory.net

Notes to editors:

1. The Risk Advisory Group is an intelligence, investigations and security firm, specialising in providing analysis and advisory services to a wide range of private and public sector organisations. Specialist security services are provided by Janusian Security Risk Management, a subsidiary of The Risk Advisory Group.

It was founded in late 1997 and currently employs 125 staff at offices in central London, Moscow, Rotterdam, Dubai and Dammam.

Further information is available at www.riskadvisory.net



2. Top five lies are:
 1. Job title
 2. Dates of employment
 3. Dates of academic qualification
 4. Academic grades
 5. Academic qualification type

3. Datasheets showing the analysis results are attached.