MSSB/MIS_01/2022

Circular

11 February 2022

Circular to Money Service Operators

Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorist Financing

To Stay Vigilant in Preventing Scams during Business

In view of recent incidents in which Money Service Operators ("MSOs") fell victims to fraudulent scams in the course of business with scammers using forged transaction documents, the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED") would like to remind MSOs to exercise increased vigilance on possible illicit activities or transactions that are suspected to be related to fraud or money laundering and terrorist financing ("ML/TF"). C&ED also reiterates the importance of conducting Customer Due Diligence and proper record-keeping during the stages of establishing customer relationships and the subsequent processing of the transaction.

To combat deceptive activities and protect their own interest, MSOs are reminded to take appropriate preventive measures and provide necessary training to staff. In case of encountering any suspicious activities, MSOs are obliged to report to the Police or file a suspicious transaction report to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit ("JFIU").

Money Service Supervision Bureau Customs and Excise Department

End