



MSSB/UNSO\_08/2022

19 April 2022

**Circular**

**Circular to Money Service Operators  
Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorist Financing**

**(1) United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2022**

The United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2022 ("Somalia Amendment Regulation"), made under the United Nations Sanctions Ordinance (Cap. 537) ("UNSO"), was published in the Gazette (L.N. 46 of 2022) on 14 April 2022 with immediate effect.

The Somalia Amendment Regulation amends the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Cap. 537CG) to implement the decisions on exemptions for arms embargo, as set out in the United Nations Security Council ("UNSC") Resolution 2607.

**(2) United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2022 and United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2012 (Repeal) Regulation**

The United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2022 ("the Afghanistan Regulation 2022") and the United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2012 (Repeal) Regulation ("the Afghanistan Repeal Regulation"), made under the UNSO, were published in the Gazette (L.N. 47 & 48 of 2022) on 14 April 2022 with immediate effect.

The Afghanistan Regulation 2022 (Cap. 537CN) implements all sanctions and corresponding exemptions, including those under the UNSC Resolution 2615, imposed by the UNSC against Afghanistan. Consequential to the making of the Afghanistan Regulation 2022, the Afghanistan Repeal Regulation repeals the United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2012.

We would like to draw Money Service Operators' ("MSOs") attention to section 5 of the Afghanistan Regulation 2022 which provides for prohibition against making available economic assets to certain persons or entities, or dealing with economic assets of such persons or entities, except with a licence.

A list specifying "individuals, groups, undertakings and entities" was published under section 25 of the Afghanistan Regulation 2022 on the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") on 14 April 2022 <sup>Note 1</sup>.

The aforesaid regulations in items (1) to (2) can be found on the Government's website at <https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/english/index.html>.

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<sup>Note 1</sup> MSOs are advised to make reference to the lists of individuals and entities subject to targeted financial sanctions under the regulations made under the UNSO available on the CEDB's website at [https://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/en/Policy\\_Responsibilities/united\\_nations\\_sanctions.html](https://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/en/Policy_Responsibilities/united_nations_sanctions.html).



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**Customs and Excise Department**

MSOs are reminded to refer to Chapter 6 of the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (For MSOs) which contains guidance on the appropriate measures that MSOs should take to ensure compliance with the regulations made under the UNSO.

The Customs and Excise Department expects all new designations to be screened by MSOs against their client lists as soon as practicable whenever there are updates. MSOs are also reminded to report any transactions or relationships they have or have had with any designated person or entity to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact us at 2707 7800.

Money Service Supervision Bureau  
Customs and Excise Department

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