



# **USERS' GUIDE**



**MODULE:**

**UG (User's Guide)**

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## UG-A.1 Purpose

### *Executive Summary*

- UG-A.1.1 The Central Bank of Bahrain (“the CBB”), in its capacity as the regulatory and supervisory authority for all financial institutions in Bahrain, issues regulatory instruments that licensees and other specified persons are legally obliged to comply with. These regulatory instruments are contained in the CBB Rulebook. Much of the Rulebook’s substantive content was previously issued by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (‘the BMA’), and was carried forward when the CBB replaced the BMA in September 2006.
- UG-A.1.2 The Rulebook is divided into 7 Volumes, covering different areas of financial services activity. These Volumes are being progressively issued. Volumes 1 and 2, covering conventional bank licensees and Islamic bank licensees respectively, were issued in July 2004 and January 2005; Volume 3, covering insurance licensees, was issued in April 2005. Volume 4 was issued in April 2006. Volume 5 (covering specialised licensees), and Volume 6 (capital markets), are being issued progressively. Volume 7 on collective investment undertakings (CIUs) was issued in May 2012.
- UG-A.1.3 This Users’ Guide provides guidance on (i) the status and application of the Rulebook, with specific reference to Volume 1 (Conventional Banks); (ii) the structure and design of the Rulebook; and (iii) its maintenance and version control.
- UG-A.1.4 Volume 1 (Conventional Banks) covers Conventional Bank Licensees. It contains prudential requirements (such as rules on minimum capital and risk management). Collectively, these requirements are aimed at ensuring the safety and soundness of CBB-licensed conventional banks and providing an appropriate level of protection to the clients of such banks.

### *Legal Basis*

- UG-A.1.5 **This Module contains the CBB’s Directive (as amended from time to time) regarding the User’s Guide for Volume 1, of the CBB Rulebook, and is issued under the powers available to the CBB under Article 38 of the CBB Law. The Directive in this Module is applicable to all conventional bank licensees (including their approved persons).**
- UG-A.1.6 For an explanation of the CBB’s rule-making powers and different regulatory instruments, see Section UG-1.1.



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## UG-A.2 Module History

UG-A.2.1 This Module was first issued in July 2004 by the BMA together with the rest of Volume 1 (Conventional Banks). Any material changes that have subsequently been made to this Module are annotated with the calendar quarter date in which the change was made: Chapter UG-3 provides further details on Rulebook maintenance and version control.

UG-A.2.2 When the CBB replaced the BMA in September 2006, the provisions of this Module remained in force. Volume 1 was updated in October 2007 to reflect the switch to the CBB; however, new calendar quarter dates were only issued where the update necessitated changes to actual requirements.

UG-A.2.3 A list of recent changes made to this Module are detailed in the table below:

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
UG-2.3 & UG-3.1	4/2006	Revised dating and update system.
UG-A.1	10/2007	Updated to reflect new CBB Law; various references changed and new Rule A-1.6 introduced categorising this Module as a Directive.
UG-A.2	10/2007	Module History table updated to reflect other 01/2007 changes.
UG-1.1.2	10/2007	Explanation of powers under CBB Law in UG-1.1 and new Rules UG-1.2.6 and UG-1.2.7 to reflect the CBB Law; other material reordered as a consequence.
UG-A.1.5	01/2011	Clarified legal basis and converted as a rule to be consistent with other parts of the CBB Rulebook.
UG-1.3.2, UG-1.4.1	01/2011	Underlined defined term.
UG-2.1.2	01/2011	Updated to reflect structure of Volume 5.
UG-A.1.2	04/2011	Updated to reflect issue date of Volumes 5 and 6.
UG-A.1.2	10/2011	Minor correction to reflect proper Glossary term.
UG-A.1.2, UG-1.2.2, UG-1.2.8, UG-2.1.1, UG-2.1.3 and UG-2.2.2	07/2012	Various minor corrections to reflect structure of Rulebook, including issuance of Volume 7.
UG-3.2 and Annex	01/2013	Amended as CBB Rulebook only now available on CBB Website.
UG-A.1.2, UG-2.1.2 and UG-2.1.3	04/2013	Minor corrections.



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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>UG-1:</b>	<b>Rulebook Status and Application</b>

## **UG-1.1 Legal Basis**

### *General*

UG-1.1.1 Volume 1 (conventional banks) of the CBB Rulebook is issued by the CBB pursuant to the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law 2006 (‘the CBB Law’). The CBB Law provides for two formal rulemaking instruments: Regulations (made pursuant to Article 37) and Directives (made pursuant to Article 38). Other articles in the CBB Law also prescribe various specific requirements (for example, requirements relating to licensing (Articles 44 to 49), or the notification and approval of controllers of licensees (Articles 52 to 56)).

UG-1.1.2 The Purpose Section of each Module specifies in all cases the rulemaking instrument(s) used to issue the content of the Module in question, and the legal basis underpinning the Module’s requirements.

UG-1.1.3 Conventional bank licensees that are members of the Bahrain Stock Exchange are reminded that they are also subject to the membership and operating rules of that exchange. These rules are issued by the Bahrain Stock Exchange under powers given the Exchange under the Bahrain Stock Exchange Law, Decree No. 4 of 1987 (as amended by Decree No. 21 of 2002). These rules are additional to the requirements contained in Volume 1 (conventional banks).

### *CBB’s Rulemaking Instruments*

UG-1.1.4 Regulations are made pursuant to Article 37 of the CBB Law. These instruments have general application throughout the Kingdom and bind all persons ordinarily affected by Bahraini legislative measures (i.e. residents and/or Bahraini persons wherever situated).

UG-1.1.5 Because Regulations have wide general application, they are subject to two important safeguards: (i) the CBB is under a duty to consult with interested parties and to review and consider their comments; and (ii) the finalised Regulations only become effective after they are published in the Official Gazette.

UG-1.1.6 Where Regulations are used to support Rulebook requirements, their contents are included in the CBB Rulebook, as well as published in the Official Gazette. They only have legal effect, however, when published in the Official Gazette.



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## **UG-1.1 Legal Basis (continued)**

### *CBB's Rulemaking Instruments (continued)*

- UG-1.1.7 Directives are made pursuant to Article 38 of the CBB Law. These instruments do not have general application in the Kingdom, but are rather addressed to specific licensees (or categories of licensees), approved persons or registered persons. Directives are binding on those to whom they are addressed.
- UG-1.1.8 Unlike Regulations, there is no duty on the CBB to either consult with addressees or publicise a Directive by publishing it in the Official Gazette (save that an addressee must obviously have actual or constructive notice of a Directive). However, as a matter of general policy, the CBB also consults on Rulebook content issued by way of a Directive.



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## UG-1.2 Status of Provisions

UG-1.2.1 The contents of the Rulebook have the formal status either of **Rules** or Guidance.

**UG-1.2.2 Rules have a binding effect and breaches of Rules constitute breaches of the CBB Law. If a licensee breaches a Rule to which it is subject, it is liable to enforcement action by CBB and, in certain cases, criminal proceedings by the Office of the Public Prosecutor.**

UG-1.2.3 Guidance is not binding. It is material that helps inform a particular Rule or set of Rules, or provides other general information. Where relevant, compliance with Guidance will generally lead the CBB to assess that the business has complied with the rule(s) to which the Guidance relates. Conversely, failure to comply with Guidance will generally be viewed by the CBB as tending to suggest breach of a Rule.

UG-1.2.4 The status of each Paragraph within the Rulebook can be identified by its text format, as follows:

- (a) **Rules are in bold, font size 12.** The Paragraph reference number is also highlighted in a coloured box.
- (b) Guidance is in normal type, font size 11.

**UG-1.2.5 The CBB's interpretation of all Rules and Guidance in this Volume is final.**

UG-1.2.6 Paragraph UG-1.2.5 does not prejudice the rights of an authorised person to make a judicial appeal, should it believe that the CBB is acting unreasonably or beyond its legal powers.

**UG-1.2.7 All Rulebook content has the formal status of at least a Directive. Some Rulebook content may also have the status of Regulations. Rulebook content that is categorised as a Rule is therefore legally mandatory and must be complied with by those to whom the content is addressed.**



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**UG-1.2**      **Status of Provisions (continued)**

**UG-1.2.8**      [This Paragraph was deleted in July 2012].

UG-1.2.9      The CBB's enforcement powers and processes are set out in Module EN.





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### **UG-1.3 Application**

- UG-1.3.1 Volume 1 of the CBB Rulebook for the most part applies only to conventional bank licensees and to individuals undertaking key functions in those licensees (so-called “approved persons”), except for representative offices of banks which are subject to the relevant requirements in Volume 5 (specialised activities) and Islamic banks which are covered in Volume 2.
- UG-1.3.2 A few Rules and Guidance have general applicability (and thus also have the formal status of a Regulation): for instance no one may carry on banking business within or from Bahrain without the appropriate license, and controllers of licensees are also subject to various requirements.
- UG-1.3.3 Each Module in Volume 1 contains a Scope of Application Chapter, setting out which Rules and Guidance apply to which particular type of conventional bank licensee or person, for the Module concerned. In addition, each Rule (or Section containing a series of Rules) is drafted such that its application is clearly highlighted for the user. Finally, each Module, in its Purpose Section, specifies in all cases the rulemaking instrument(s) used to issue the content of the Module in question (i.e. Directive and/or Regulation), and the legal basis underpinning the Module’s requirements.



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#### UG-1.4 Effective Date

##### UG-1.4.1

Volume 1 (conventional banks) of the CBB Rulebook was first issued in July 2004. It replaces all regulations previously issued with respect to conventional banks.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>UG: Users' Guide</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>UG-2 : Rulebook Structure and Format</b>

## UG-2.1 Rulebook Structure

### *Rulebook Volumes*

UG-2.1.1 The Rulebook is divided into 7 Volumes, covering different areas of financial services activity, as follows:

Volume 1	<i>Conventional Banks</i>
Volume 2	<i>Islamic Banks</i>
Volume 3	<i>Insurance</i>
Volume 4	<i>Investment Business</i>
Volume 5	<i>Specialised Activities</i>
Volume 6	<i>Capital Markets</i>
Volume 7	<i>Collective Investment Undertakings</i>

UG-2.1.2 Volume 5 (Specialised Activities) covers money changers; financing companies; representative offices; administrators; trust service providers, micro-finance institutions and providers of ancillary services to the financial sector.

### *Rulebook Contents (Overview)*

UG-2.1.3 Except for Volumes 5, 6 and 7 the basic structure of each Rulebook is the same. Each Volume starts with a contents page and User's Guide. Subsequent material is organised underneath the following headings:

- (a) High-level Standards;
- (b) Business Standards;
- (c) Prudential Requirements;
- (d) Reporting Requirements;
- (e) Enforcement and Redress; and, where appropriate
- (f) Sector Guides.

UG-2.1.4 Volume 5 is organised by the Category of specialised firm concerned, whilst Volume 6 by subject area (authorised exchanges; issuers of securities etc).

UG-2.1.5 The material in Volumes 1-4 is contained in Modules, each covering a specific area of requirements (e.g. High-level Controls). In turn, each Module is divided into Chapters, Sections and Paragraphs, as detailed below.

UG-2.1.6 Each Volume has its own appendix Volume containing relevant reporting and authorisation forms; a glossary; and any supplementary information. In all cases, the main Volume is called "Part A" and the appendix Volume is called "Part B".



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## **UG-2.2 Volume Structure**

### *Modules*

UG-2.2.1 Rulebook Volumes are subdivided into Modules, arranged in groups according to their subject matter, underneath the headings listed in Paragraph UG-2.1.3 above.

UG-2.2.2 Each Module in a Volume is referenced using a two-or three-letter code which is usually a contraction or abbreviation of its title. These codes are used for cross-referencing within the text.

### *Chapters*

UG-2.2.3 Each Module consists of Chapters, categorised into two types:  
(a) A standard introductory Chapter (referenced with a letter: e.g. UG-A); and  
(b) Chapters containing the substantive content of the Module (referenced with a number: e.g. CA-1, CA-2, etc.)

UG-2.2.4 The introductory Chapters summarise the purpose of the Module, its history (in terms of changes made to its contents). A separate introductory Chapter also prescribes the scope of application of the Module's requirements.

### *Sections and Paragraphs*

UG-2.2.5 Chapters are further sub-divided into Sections (numbered consecutively after the Chapter number: e.g. FC-1.1, FC-1.2, FC-1.3 etc). In turn, Sections are sub-divided into Paragraphs (numbered consecutively after the Chapter and Section numbers: e.g. FC-1.1.1, FC-1.1.2, FC-1.1.3 etc). Where appropriate, sub-Section headings may be used, to guide the reader through a Section: sub-Section headings are italicised and unnumbered, and act purely as an indicator (without limitation as to the status of the Paragraphs that follow).

### *Table of Contents*

UG-2.2.6 Each Volume's contents page lists all the Modules contained within it (Part A), and the information contained in the relevant appendix Volume (Part B).

UG-2.2.7 The contents page of each Module lists the Chapters, Sections and the latest version date of each Section in issue.



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## **UG-2.3      Format and Page Layout**

### *Headers*

UG-2.3.1      The top of each page in the Rulebook identifies the Volume, Module and Chapter in question. Each Module is a separate document. New Chapters start on a fresh page.

### *Footers*

UG-2.3.2      The bottom of each page in the Rulebook (on the left hand side) identifies the Module in question, its Section and page number. Page numbering starts afresh for each Section: the total number of pages in each respective Section is shown as well as the individual page number. The bottom right hand side shows an end-calendar quarter issue date. The Contents Page for each Module, and each Section in a Module, are each given their own issue date. In addition, the Module Contents page lists the latest issue date for each Section in that Module. The Contents page thus acts as a summary checklist of the current version in force for each Section. Further explanation is provided in Section UG-3.1 below.

### *Defined Terms*

UG-2.3.3      Defined terms used in the Rulebook are underlined. Each Volume has its own glossary listing defined terms and giving their meaning. Definitions of terms used apply only to the Volume in question. It is possible for the same term to be used in a different Volume with a different meaning.

### *Cross-references*

UG-2.3.4      Any cross-references given in a text state the Module code, followed (where appropriate) by the numbering convention for any particular Chapter, Section or paragraph being referred to. For example, the cross-reference FC-1.2.3 refers to the third Paragraph in the second Section of the first Chapter of the Financial Crime Module. Many references will be quite general, referring simply to a particular Module, Chapter or Section rather than a specific Paragraph.



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## **UG-2.3      Format and Page Layout (continued)**

### *Text Format*

UG-2.3.5      Each Paragraph is assigned a complete reference to the Module, Chapter, and Section, as well as its own Paragraph number, as explained in UG-2.3.4 above. The format of the Paragraph reference and Paragraph text indicates their status as either a Rule or Guidance, as explained in UG-1.2.4 above.

UG-2.3.6      When cross-referring to specific Paragraphs, and it is important to make clear the status of the Paragraph in question as a Rule or Guidance, then the words 'Rule' or 'Guidance' may be used instead of 'Paragraph', followed by the reference number (e.g. 'As required by Rule FC-1.1.1, licensees must...').



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>UG: Users' Guide</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>UG-3: Rulebook Maintenance and Access</b>

## **UG-3.1 Rulebook Maintenance**

### *Quarterly Updates*

- UG-3.1.1 Any changes to the Rulebook are generally made on a quarterly cycle (the only exception being when changes are urgently required), in early January, April, July and October. When changes are made to a Module, the amended Sections are given a new version date, in the bottom right-hand page.
- UG-3.1.2 The contents page for each amended Module is also updated; the table of contents is changed to show the new version date for each amended Section (in the 'Date Last Changed' Column), and the contents page itself is also given its own new version date in the bottom right-hand corner. The Module contents pages thus act as a checklist for hard-copy users to verify which are the current version dates for each Section in that Module.
- UG-3.1.3 A summary of any changes made to a Module is included in the Module History Section of each Module. The table summarises the nature of the change made, the date of the change and the Module components and relevant pages affected. The Module History can thus be used to identify which pages were updated within individual Sections.
- UG-3.1.4 Hard-copy users of the CBB Rulebook can check that they have the latest copy of each Module's contents pages, by referring to the overall table of contents for each Volume. The Volume table of contents lists the date each Module was last changed; users can use this table to check the date showing in the bottom right-hand corner of each Module's contents page.
- UG-3.1.5 The website version of the Rulebook acts at all times as the definitive version of the Rulebook. CBB tries to limit changes as much as possible, in order to minimise the compliance burden on licensees. The updates are posted to the CBB website, together with a summary of changes for that quarter. Licensees are in addition e-mailed the summary of each quarter's changes. Hard-copy users are required to print off the updated pages from the website to incorporate in their Rulebook in order to keep it current.



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## **UG-3.1 Rulebook Maintenance (continued)**

### *Changes to Numbering*

- UG-3.1.6 In order to limit the knock-on impact of inserting or deleting text on the numbering of text that follows the change, the following conventions apply:
- (a) Where a new Paragraph is to be included in a Section, such that it would impact the numbering of existing text that would follow it, the Paragraph retains the numbering of the existing Paragraph immediately preceding it, but with the addition of an "A"; a second inserted Paragraph that follows immediately afterwards would be numbered with a "B", and so on. For example, if a new Paragraph needs to be inserted after UG-3.1.6, it would be numbered UG-3.1.6A; a second new Paragraph would be numbered UG-3.1.6B, and so on. This convention avoids the need for renumbering existing text that follows an insertion. The same principle is applied where a new Section or a new Chapter needs to be inserted: for example, UG-3.1A (for a new Section), and UG-3A (for a new Chapter)
  - (b) Where a Paragraph is deleted, then the numbering of the old Paragraph is retained, and the following inserted in square brackets: '[This Paragraph was deleted in April 2006.]' (The date given being the actual end-calendar quarter date of the deletion.) The same principle is applied with respect to Sections and Chapters.
- UG-3.1.7 Where many such changes have built up over time, then the CBB may reissue the whole Section, Paragraph, Chapter or even Module concerned, consolidating all these changes.





<b>MODULE</b>	<b>UG:</b>	<b>Users' Guide</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>UG-3:</b>	<b>Rulebook Maintenance and Access</b>

## **UG-3.2 Rulebook Access**

### *Availability*

UG-3.2.1 The Rulebook is available on the CBB website.

### *Queries*

UG-3.2.2 Questions regarding the administration of the Rulebook (e.g. website availability, the updating of material etc) should be addressed to the Rulebook Section of the Licensing & Policy Directorate:

Rulebook Section  
Licensing & Policy Directorate  
Central Bank of Bahrain  
PO Box 27  
Manama  
Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel: + 973 - 17 54 7413  
Fax: + 973 - 17 53 0228  
E-mail: [rulebook@cbb.gov.bh](mailto:rulebook@cbb.gov.bh)  
Web: [www.cbb.gov.bh](http://www.cbb.gov.bh)

Questions regarding interpretation of the policy and requirements contained in the Rulebook should be addressed to the licensee's regular supervisory point of contact within the CBB.



## **CBB Rulebook Order Form**

**[This form was deleted in January 2013]**