



CBB REPORTING MODULE

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MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-A: Introduction

BR-A.1 Purpose

Executive Summary

BR-A.1.1 This Module sets out requirements applicable to investment firm licensees regarding reporting to the CBB. These include the provision of financial information to the CBB by way of quarterly prudential returns, as well as notification to the CBB of certain specified events, some of which require prior CBB approval. This Module also outlines the methods used by the CBB in gathering information required in the supervision of investment firm licensees.

BR-A.1.2 The requirements in this Module apply to all categories of investment firm licensees.

Legal Basis

BR-A.1.3 This Module contains the Central Bank of Bahrain ('CBB') Directive regarding CBB Reporting requirements applicable to investment firm licensees, and is issued under the powers available to the CBB under Article 38 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law 2006 ('CBB Law').

BR-A.1.4 For an explanation of the CBB's rule-making powers and different regulatory instruments, see section UG-1.1.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-A: Introduction

BR-A.2 Module History

Evolution of Module

BR-A.2.1 This Module was first issued in July 2007, as part of the second phase release of Volume 4's contents. It is dated July 2007. All subsequent changes to this Module are annotated with the end-calendar quarter date in which the change was made: UG-3 provides further details on Rulebook maintenance and version control.

BR-A.2.2 A list of recent changes made to this Module is provided below:

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
BR-1.1	10/2009	Updated to include CBB's new requirements for preparation and submission of Quarterly Prudential Report and Auditors Report.
BR-1.2	10/2009	Corrected Heading to read Annual Group Return.
BR-1.3	10/2009	Amended to include CBB's requirements for prudential and reporting dates of a branch.
BR-1.4	10/2009	New Section added to include CBB's reporting requirements in accordance with other Modules of Volume 4.
BR-2.2	10/2009	Updated to include CBB's notification requirements in accordance with other Modules of Volume 4.
BR-2.3	10/2009	Updated to include CBB's approval requirements in accordance with other Modules of Volume 4.

Superseded Requirements

BR-A.2.3 This Module supersedes the following provisions contained in circulars or other regulatory instruments:

Circular/ other reference	Provision	Subject
Circular No. BC/9/99 dated 6 June 1999	All provisions	Quarterly Information Report (QIR).
Circular No. BC/12/2000 dated 10 October 2000	All provisions	Quarterly Information Report (QIR).

BR-A.2.4 Further guidance on the implementation and transition to Volume 4 (Investment Business) is given in Module ES (Executive Summary).

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-B: Scope of Application

BR-B.1 License Categories

BR-B.1.1 The content of this Module – unless otherwise stated – applies to all categories of investment firm licensees authorised in the Kingdom.

BR-B.1.2 The effect of BR-B.1.1 is that this Module, unless otherwise stated, applies in full to all investment firm licensees authorised in Bahrain, whether or not the investment firm licensee is incorporated in Bahrain, or else is incorporated in an overseas territory and operates through a branch in the Kingdom.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.1 Quarterly Prudential Reporting

BR-1.1.1 All investment firm licensees must prepare and submit to the CBB a Quarterly Prudential Return ('Form QPR').

BR-1.1.2 A copy of Form QPR is contained in Part B of Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook. As per the reporting instructions for the Form, Category 1 investment firms and Category 2 investment firms are required to complete all sections of the Form. Category 3 investment firms are required to complete only a subset of the sections of the Form, reflecting their more limited range of activities.

BR-1.1.3 The Quarterly Prudential Return must be submitted to the CBB within 30 calendar days of each quarter end (as defined in Rule BR-1.3.1).

BR-1.1.4 For each submission, a certified hard copy of the Form, together with an electronic 'soft copy', must be submitted to the CBB.

Scope of the Quarterly Prudential Return

BR-1.1.5 The Quarterly Prudential Return must be submitted using the prescribed Form QPR, as contained in Part B of Volume 4 (Investment Business), together with the required auditor's report **only for the quarter ending 30 June (or semi-annually, depending on the licensee's financial year-end).**

BR-1.1.6 The Quarterly Prudential Return must be completed by every investment firm licensee as follows:

- (a) In the case of an investment firm licensee incorporated in Bahrain, the Quarterly Prudential Return must be completed on a solo or unconsolidated basis, i.e. showing the assets and liabilities of the licensee concerned (including any of its branches), but excluding the assets and liabilities of any of its subsidiaries or associates; and
- (b) In the case of an overseas investment firm licensee, the Quarterly Prudential Return must be completed in respect of the investment business booked by the overseas investment firm licensee in the Bahrain branch only.

Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

BR-1.1.7 Amounts included within the Quarterly Prudential Return must be determined in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles specified by International Financial Reporting Standards.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.1 Quarterly Prudential Reporting (continued)

Auditor's Report

BR-1.1.8 The Quarterly Prudential Returns for the quarter ending 30 June (or semi-annually, depending on the licensee's financial year-end) must be reviewed by the firm's external auditors, unless otherwise exempted in writing by CBB.

BR-1.1.9 The requirement in Rule BR-1.1.8 aims to ensure accuracy and consistency of the financial data presented in Form QPR. Where auditor reviews reveal no material errors in four successive reviews, an exemption from this requirement may be requested. The CBB will normally grant such an exemption, unless it has other supervisory concerns regarding the licensee. However, material reporting errors identified in subsequent Forms QPR may lead to the exemption being withdrawn.

BR-1.1.10 For the purpose of Rule BR-1.1.8, the time allowed for submission of the Auditor's report is 15 calendar days from the date of submission of the return to the CBB.

Preparation and Submission of the Quarterly Prudential Return

BR-1.1.11 If the CBB notifies an investment firm licensee that a Form submitted under Rule BR-1.1.1 appears to be inaccurate or incomplete, the investment firm licensee must promptly look into the matter and within 5 business days of the CBB notification (or as otherwise agreed), correct any inaccuracies or make good any omissions, and submit the amended parts of the Quarterly Prudential Return.

BR-1.1.12 The hard copy of the Quarterly Prudential Return must be signed by the Chief Executive (or General Manager, as appropriate) of the licensee or a senior official authorised by the Chief Executive to sign on his behalf.

Public Disclosure

BR-1.1.13 Submitted Forms QPR are not public documents and will not be disclosed to third parties by the CBB without the investment firm licensee's consent. However, the CBB may from time to time publish aggregate information derived from such Forms, relating to categories of investment firm licensees or the Bahrain investment business sector as a whole.

BR-1.1.14 Whilst submitted Forms QPR are not public documents, investment firm licensees are not prevented from providing complete copies (including all relevant certifications and reports) to third parties.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.2 Group Prudential Reporting

Annual Group Return

BR-1.2.1 Investment firm licensees that are part of a group must submit an Annual Group Return (Form AGR).

BR-1.2.2 Group reporting is required in order for the CBB to better assess the financial condition of the group as a whole and the possible impact this may have on the operations of investment firm licensees.

BR-1.2.3 Forms AGR must be prepared and submitted to the CBB in respect of the ultimate parent undertaking for each financial year, or as otherwise directed by the CBB.

BR-1.2.4 The financial year for the purposes of Rule BR-1.2.3 must coincide with that of the ultimate parent undertaking. In instances where the financial year end of the parent undertaking is other than 31 December, the investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the financial year end of the parent undertaking.

BR-1.2.5 For each submission of a Form AGR, a certified hard copy of the Form, together with an electronic 'soft copy', must be submitted to the CBB.

BR-1.2.6 Form AGR must be submitted to the CBB within 3 months of the ultimate parent undertaking's financial year end.

BR-1.2.7 Financial information contained in Form AGR must be extracted from the consolidated financial statements prepared in respect of the group as a whole.

BR-1.2.8 For the purposes of this Section:

- (a) A group means structures where an investment firm licensee has one or more parent undertakings, or is itself a parent undertaking; and
- (b) The ultimate parent undertaking means the highest parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee that undertakes regulated financial services or, in the case of holding companies, whose holdings are mainly in companies undertaking regulated financial services.

BR-1.2.9 Paragraphs BR-1.1.11 to BR-1.1.14 inclusive also apply with respect to Forms AGR.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.3 Prudential and Financial Reporting Dates

BR-1.3.1 For the purpose of reporting requirements under this Module, the quarter end of an investment firm licensee must be a 3 - month period ending on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September or 31 December.

BR-1.3.2 The financial year of an investment firm licensee must be a 12-month period ending on 31 December, except where the firm has obtained the written consent from the CBB for either the period or the period end to be other than 12 months and 31 December respectively. In any event, the financial year can never be less than a 6-month period or greater than an 18-month period.

BR-1.3.3 In instances where the financial year end of the parent undertaking is other than 31 December, the investment firm licensee must notify the CBB that its financial year will coincide with that of its parent undertaking.

BR-1.3.4 For the purposes of Rules BR-1.3.2 and BR-1.3.3, the CBB would usually accept that the financial year end of a branch to be the same as that of its head office (i.e. the company of which it is part). The CBB may also consider allowing licensees that are part of an overseas group to have a different year end, where imposing a December year-end would cause significant difficulties. Otherwise, the only time that the CBB would be likely to consider allowing an investment firm licensee to adopt a financial period of other than 12 months would be the year in which it is authorised, or when the company's shareholders have themselves approved a change in the reporting period for the purposes of its financial statements.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.4 Other Reporting Requirements

Reports Prepared by Licensee

BR-1.4.1 Investment firm licensees must submit, within 3 months of their financial year-end, a report on their controllers (ref. GR-5.1.8).

BR-1.4.2 Investment firm licensees must submit to the CBB, within 3 months of their financial year-end, a report on their close links (ref. GR-6.1.3).

BR-1.4.3 Where the investment firm licensee's group or parent reports its own capital adequacy position to its regulatory authority (on a group or 'solo' basis), a copy of this calculation must be provided to the CBB within 30 calendar days from the due date to the other regulatory authority (ref. RM-8.1.12). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-1.4.4 Investment firm licensees must summarise the results of the licensee's annual board review referred to in Paragraph HC-3.1.1 in the form of a written certification, to be signed by all Board members, and sent to the CBB within 3 months of the licensee's financial year-end (ref. HC-3.1.2). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-1.4.5 As specified in Article 62 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must submit to the CBB its final audited accounts within 3 months of the licensee's financial year-end. Such accounts should be submitted along with the Management Letter prepared by the Auditors for the financial year.

BR-1.4.6 Investment firm licensees must submit the reports referred to in Paragraph FC-4.2.1 to the Financial Intelligence Unit at the Ministry of the Interior, and submit a copy of the reports to the CBB's Compliance Directorate (FC-4.2.3).

BR-1.4.7 Investment firm licensees must report any actual or attempted fraud incident (however small) to the appropriate authorities (including the CBB) (ref. FC-10.1.4). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-1.4.8 Investment firm licensees must submit a Professional Indemnity Insurance Return (Form PIIR) on a quarterly basis (ref. GR-9.1.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 2 and Category 3 investment firm licensees only.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-1: Prudential Reporting

BR-1.4 Other Reporting Requirements (continued)

Reports Prepared by External Auditors

BR-1.4.9 Investment firm licensees must arrange for their external auditor to report on the licensee's compliance with the requirements contained in Module FC (Financial Crime), at least once a year, and submit the report to the CBB within four months of the licensee's financial year-end (ref. AA-3.3.1 and FC-3.3.5).

BR-1.4.10 Investment firm licensees that hold or control client assets (including where it pools financial instruments held for more than one client) must arrange for their external auditor to report on the licensees' compliance with the requirements contained in Module CL (Client Assets), and submit the report to the CBB within four months of the licensee's financial year end (ref. AA-3.2.1 and CL-1.5.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.



MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.1 Introduction

BR-2.1.1 All notifications and approvals required in this Chapter are to be submitted by investment firm licensees in writing.

BR-2.1.2 In this Module, the term 'in writing' includes electronic communication capable of being reproduced in paper form.

BR-2.1.3 An investment firm licensee must make the notifications and approvals required in Chapter BR-2 immediately it becomes aware, or has information which reasonably suggests, that any of the matters in Chapter BR-2 **have** occurred, may have occurred or may occur in the near future.

BR-2.1.4 The requirements imposed on investment firm licensees under this Chapter apply whether the event relates to a matter that has occurred in Bahrain or in any other jurisdiction.

BR-2.1.5 Investment firm licensees are required to provide the CBB with a range of information to enable it to monitor the investment firm licensee's compliance with Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook. Some of this information is provided through regular reports, whereas others are in response to the occurrence of a particular event (such as a change in name or address). The following lists the commonly occurring reports for which an investment firm licensee will be required to notify the CBB or seek its approval.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements

Matters Having a Serious Supervisory Impact

BR-2.2.1

An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB if any of the following has occurred, may have occurred or may occur in the near future:

- (a) The investment firm licensee failing to satisfy one or more of the Principles of Business referred to in Module PB;
- (b) Any matter which could have a significant adverse impact on the investment firm licensee's reputation;
- (c) Any matter which could affect the investment firm licensee's ability to continue to provide adequate services to its customers and which could result in serious detriment to a customer of the investment firm licensee;
- (d) Any matter in respect of the investment firm licensee that could result in serious financial consequences to the financial system or to other investment firm licensees;
- (e) A significant breach of any provision of the Rulebook (including a Principle);
- (f) A breach of any requirement imposed by the relevant law or by regulations or an order made under any relevant law by the CBB; or
- (g) If an investment firm licensee becomes aware, or has information that reasonably suggests that it has or may have provided the CBB with information that was or may have been false, misleading, incomplete or inaccurate, or has or may have changed in a material way, it must notify the CBB immediately (ref. BR-3.3.2).

BR-2.2.2

The circumstances that may give rise to any of the events in Paragraph BR-2.2.1 are wide-ranging and the probability of any matter resulting in such an outcome, and the severity of the outcome, may be difficult to determine. However, the CBB expects investment firm licensees to consider properly all potential consequences of events.

BR-2.2.3

In determining whether an event that may occur in the near future should be notified to the CBB, an investment firm licensee should consider both the probability of the event happening and the severity of the outcome should it happen. Matters having a supervisory impact could also include matters relating to a parent undertaking or controller that may indirectly have an effect on the investment firm licensee.

Legal, Professional, Administrative or other Proceedings Against an Investment firm licensee

BR-2.2.4

An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB immediately of any legal, professional or administrative or other proceedings instituted against the investment firm licensee, controller or a close link including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee that is known to the investment firm licensee and is significant in relation to the investment firm licensee's financial resources or its reputation.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements (continued)

BR-2.2.5 An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the bringing of a prosecution for, or conviction of, any offence under any relevant law against the investment firm licensee that would prevent the investment firm licensee from meeting the Principles or Business (Module PB) or any of its Directors, officers, approved persons, or appointed representatives from meeting the fit and proper requirements of Module AU.

Fraud, Errors and other Irregularities

BR-2.2.6 An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB immediately if one of the following events arises and the event is significant:

- (a) It becomes aware that an employee may have committed a fraud against one of its customers;
- (b) It becomes aware that a person, whether or not employed by it, is acting with intent to commit fraud against it;
- (c) It identifies irregularities in its accounting or other records, whether or not there is evidence of fraud;
- (d) It suspects that one of its employees may be guilty of serious misconduct concerning his honesty or integrity and which is connected with the investment firm licensee's regulated or ancillary activities; or
- (e) **Significant conflicts of interest.**

Meaning of the term “significant”

BR-2.2.7 For the purposes of this chapter, in determining whether a matter is significant, an investment firm licensee should have regard to:

- (a) The size of any monetary loss or potential monetary loss to itself or its customers (either in terms of a single incident or group of similar or related incidents);
- (b) The risk of reputational loss to the investment firm licensee; and
- (c) Whether the incident or a pattern of incidents reflects weaknesses in the investment firm licensee's internal controls.

BR-2.2.8 In addition, if the investment firm licensee may have suffered significant financial losses as a result of the incident, or may suffer reputational loss, the CBB will wish to consider this and whether the incident suggests weaknesses in the investment firm licensee's internal controls.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements (continued)

Insolvency, Bankruptcy and Winding Up

BR-2.2.9

Except in instances where the CBB has initiated the following actions, an investment firm licensee must notify the CBB immediately of any of the following events:

- (a) The calling of a meeting to consider a resolution for winding up the investment firm licensee, a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee;
- (b) An application to dissolve a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee or to strike the investment firm licensee off the Register of Investment Business Companies;
- (c) The presentation of a petition for the winding up of a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee;
- (d) The making of any proposals, or the making of, a composition or arrangement with any one or more of the investment firm licensee's creditors, for material amounts of debt;
- (e) An application for the appointment of an administrator or trustee in bankruptcy to a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee;
- (f) The appointment of a receiver to a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee (whether an administrative receiver or a receiver appointed over particular property); or
- (g) An application for an interim order against the investment firm licensee, a controller or close link, including a parent undertaking of the investment firm licensee under the Bankruptcy and Composition Law of 1987 or similar legislation in another jurisdiction.

Other Supervisors

BR-2.2.10

An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB immediately if it becomes subject to or ceases to be subject to the supervision of any overseas supervisor (including a home supervisor).

BR-2.2.11

The supervisory regime and any legislative or foreign provisions to which that investment firm licensee, including its branches, is subject, influence the CBB's approach to the supervision of the investment firm licensee.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements (continued)

Carrying out Business in Another Jurisdiction

BR-2.2.12 Where another jurisdiction's laws or regulations prevent a licensee (or any of its foreign branches or subsidiaries) from applying the same standards contained in Module FC (Financial Crime) or higher, the licensee must immediately inform the CBB in writing (ref. FC-B.2.2).

BR-2.2.13 Where conduct of business standards applied by overseas branches and subsidiaries of an investment firm licensee fall below the standards set out in Module BC (Business Conduct), the investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the fact (ref. BC-B.1.5).

BR-2.2.14 Where client asset rules applied by overseas branches and subsidiaries of an investment firm licensee fall below the standards set out in Module CL (Client Assets), the investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the fact (ref. CL-B.2.2).

External Auditor

BR-2.2.15 An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the following:

- (a) Removal or resignation of auditor (ref. AA-1.2.1); or
- (b) Change in audit partner (ref. AA-1.3.2).

Approved Persons

BR-2.2.16 An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the termination of employment of approved persons, including particulars of reasons for the termination and arrangements with regard to replacement (ref. Au-5.2.6 and AU-5.5.5).

Capital Adequacy

BR-2.2.17 In the event that an investment firm licensee fails to meet any of the requirements specified in Module CA (Capital Adequacy), it must, on becoming aware that it has breached the requirements, immediately notify the CBB in writing (ref. CA-1.1.4).

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements (continued)

BR-2.2.18 Category 1 and Category 2 investment firms must notify the CBB if:
 (a) The ratio of Regulatory Capital to their Regulatory Capital Requirement falls below 110%;
 (b) Any single probable contingency, financial commitment or large exposure exceeds 25% of their Regulatory Capital; and
 (c) Any instrument, transaction or situation does not appear to be catered for under Module CA (ref. CA-1.2.9).

BR-2.2.19 An investment firm licensee shall notify the CBB if it has counterparty exposures in repurchase and reverse repo transactions, including sale and buy back and securities lending (ref. CA-3.3.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-2.2.20 An investment firm licensee shall notify the CBB if it has counterparty exposures in swaps, forward contracts, over the counter options, contracts for differences and off-exchange futures (ref. CA-3.3.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-2.2.21 As specified in Article 58 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must notify the CBB immediately of any matter that may affect its financial position, currently or in the future, or limit its ability to meet its obligations.

Outsourcing Arrangements

BR-2.2.22 Investment firm licensees must immediately inform their normal supervisory contact at the CBB of any material problems encountered with an outsourcing provider (ref. RM-7.1.10).

Controllers

BR-2.2.23 If, as a result of circumstances outside the investment firm licensee's knowledge and/or control, one of the changes to their controllers specified in Paragraph GR-5.1.1 is triggered prior to CBB approval being sought or obtained, the investment firm licensee must notify the CBB as soon as it becomes aware of the fact and no later than 15 calendar days after the change occurs (ref. GR-5.1.5).

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.2 Notification Requirements (continued)

BR-2.2.24 As specified in Article 52 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of the following events:

- (a) If effective control over a licensee takes place indirectly whether by way of inheritance or otherwise.
- (b) Gaining control directly as a result of any action leading to it.
- (c) The intention to take any of the actions that would lead to control.

Registered Address

BR-2.2.25 An investment firm licensee must notify the CBB of a change in the address of its registered office (or its head office in the case of a branch of an overseas investment firm licensee).

Appointed Representatives

BR-2.2.26 All appointments of appointed representatives, variations in terms of appointment and cancellations of appointment must be notified in writing to the CBB no later than 5 working days after they have taken place (ref. GR-8.1.11).

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.3 Approval Requirements

Change in Name

BR-2.3.1 In accordance with Paragraph GR-2.1.1, an investment firm licensee must seek prior written approval from the CBB and give reasonable advance notice of a change in:

- (a) The investment firm licensee's name (which is the registered name if the investment firm licensee is a body corporate); or
- (b) The investment firm licensee's trade name, and that of its subsidiaries located in Bahrain (ref. GR-2.1.1).

BR-2.3.2 The request under Paragraph BR-2.3.1 must include the details of the proposed new name and the date on which the investment firm licensee intends to implement the change of name.

Change of Address

BR-2.3.3 As specified in Article 51 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must seek approval from the CBB and give reasonable advance notice of a change in the address of the investment firm licensee's principal place of business in Bahrain.

BR-2.3.4 The request under Paragraph BR-2.3.3 must include the details of the proposed new address and the date on which the investment firm licensee intends to implement the change of address.

BR-2.3.5 As specified in Article 51 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must seek approval from the CBB for its intention to carry on its business from new or additional premises in Bahrain. This requirement applies whether or not the premises are to be used for the purposes of transacting business with customers, administration of the business or as the head office in Bahrain of the investment firm licensee.

BR-2.3.6 Investment firm licensees are not required to seek approval from the CBB for premises where business on behalf of the investment firm licensee is carried out by appointed representatives of the investment firm licensee. However, the CBB expects the investment firm licensee to maintain a record of all such premises and to be able to produce that record should it be requested by the CBB.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.3 Approval Requirements (continued)

Change in Legal Status

BR-2.3.7 An investment firm licensee must seek CBB approval and give reasonable advance notice of a change in its legal status that may, in any way, affect its relationship with or limit its liability to its customers.

Change in Paid-up or Issued Capital

BR-2.3.8 As specified in Article 57(3) of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must seek CBB approval before making any modification to its issued or paid-up capital. In the case that an investment firm licensee has been granted approval to increase its paid-up capital, confirmation from the external auditor stating that the amount has been deposited in the licensee's bank account will subsequently be required.

Client Asset Transfers

BR-2.3.9 In accordance with Chapter GR-4, investment firm licensees must seek prior written approval from the CBB before transferring client assets to a third party, in circumstances other than when acting on instructions from the client concerned. This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

Controllers and Close Links

BR-2.3.10 In accordance with Section GR-5.1, investment firm licensees must seek CBB approval and give reasonable advance notice of any of the following events concerning the investment firm licensee:

- (a) A person acquiring control or ceasing to have control;
- (b) An existing controller acquiring an additional type of control (such as ownership or significant influence) or ceasing to have a type of control;
- (c) An existing controller increasing the percentage of shares or voting power beyond 10%, 20% or 50%; and
- (d) An existing controller becoming or ceasing to be a parent undertaking.

BR-2.3.11 Every investment firm licensee authorised in Bahrain is required to submit an annual report on its controllers, as per Paragraph GR-5.1.8, and close links as set out in Paragraph GR-6.1.3.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.3 Approval Requirements (continued)

Carrying out Business in Another Jurisdiction

BR-2.3.12 As specified in Article 51 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee must seek CBB approval and give three months' notice of its intention to undertake investment business activities in a jurisdiction other than Bahrain or, in the case of an overseas investment firm, a jurisdiction other than Bahrain, where that business is to be booked in the Bahrain branch, prior to commencing that business and where the effect of commencing that business may have a significant impact on:

- (a) The investment firm licensee's business in Bahrain; or
- (b) The capital resources of the investment firm licensee.

BR-2.3.13 Rule BR-2.3.9 applies whether or not the investment firm licensee is required to be regulated locally in the jurisdiction where it proposes to undertake the investment business.

BR-2.3.14 The CBB will use this information to consider whether or not it should refuse its approval or impose additional requirements on the licensee.

Mergers, Acquisitions, Disposals and Establishment of New Subsidiaries

BR-2.3.15 As specified in Article 57 of the CBB Law, a Bahraini investment firm licensee incorporated in Bahrain must seek CBB approval and give reasonable advance notice of its intention to enter into a:

- (a) Merger with another undertaking; or
- (b) Proposed acquisition, disposal or establishment of a new subsidiary undertaking.

BR-2.3.16 Bahraini investment firm licensees will also need to consider the implications of a merger, acquisition, disposal or establishment of a new subsidiary undertaking in the context of the controllers and close links rules set out in Module GR.

BR-2.3.17 An overseas investment firm licensee, whilst not having to give advance notice of a proposed merger with another undertaking, a proposed acquisition, disposal or establishment of a new subsidiary undertaking under Rule BR-2.3.17, will still need to consider the implications of such transactions in the context of the controllers and close links rules set out in Module GR.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
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BR-2.3 Approval Requirements (continued)

Share Option Schemes

BR-2.3.18 An investment firm licensee must seek prior approval from the CBB for any share option schemes it proposes to offer to its Directors or employees.

Outsourcing Arrangements

BR-2.3.19 An investment firm licensee must seek prior approval from the CBB for the following:

- (a) Outsourcing of their internal audit function (ref. HC-2.3.3 and RM-7.4)
- (b) Material intra-group outsourcing (ref. RM-7.3.3); or
- (c) Outsourcing other material functions (RM-7.1).

Matters Having a Serious Supervisory Impact

BR-2.3.20 An investment firm licensee must seek prior approval from the CBB for any material changes or proposed changes to the information provided to the CBB in support of an authorisation application that occurs after authorisation has been granted.

BR-2.3.21 Any licensee that wishes, intends or has been requested to do anything that might contravene, in its reasonable opinion, the provisions of UNSCR 1373 (and in particular Article 1, Paragraphs c) and d) of UNSCR 1373) must seek, in writing, the prior written opinion of the CBB on the matter (ref. FC-7.2.2).

BR-2.3.22 As specified in Article 57 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee wishing to modify its Memorandum or Articles of Association, must obtain prior written approval from the CBB.

BR-2.3.23 As specified in Article 57 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee wishing to transfer all or a major part of its assets or liabilities inside or outside the Kingdom, must obtain prior written approval from the CBB.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.3 Approval Requirements (continued)

Capital Adequacy

BR-2.3.24 Bahraini investment firm licensees, must obtain a letter of no-objection from the CBB to any dividend proposed, before submitting a proposal for a distribution of profits to a shareholder vote (ref. GR-3.1.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-2.3.25 An investment firm licensee must not redeem any Tier 1 instrument that it has included in its Regulatory Capital for the purpose of satisfying its Regulatory Capital Requirement without the prior written approval of the CBB (ref. CA-2.1.7).

BR-2.3.26 No value, for Regulatory Capital purposes, may be attributed to any other instrument or resource, without the CBB's written consent (ref. CA-2.1.12).

BR-2.3.27 Exceptional items of expenditure may also be excluded from relevant annual expenditure, as defined in Rule CA-3.1.2, subject to prior CBB written approval (ref. CA-3.1.2). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

Licensed Regulated Services

BR-2.3.28 Investment firm licensees must seek prior CBB approval before undertaking new activities (ref. Article 48 of the CBB Law and AU-5.4.1).

BR-2.3.29 As specified in Article 50 of the CBB Law, an investment firm licensee wishing to cease to provide all or any of its licensed regulated services, completely or at any of its branches, must obtain prior written approval from the CBB (ref. AU-5.5.1).

BR-2.3.30 Investment firm licensees must seek prior CBB approval before starting to undertake derivative transactions (ref. RM-6.1.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-2.3.31 An investment firm licensee must not undertake or otherwise engage in stock lending activity with or for a client unless the investment firm licensee has obtained the consent of the CBB and the client (ref. CL-1.2.1). This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-2: Notifications and Approvals

BR-2.3 Approval Requirements (continued)

Private Placement of Securities

BR-2.3.32 All Private Placement Memorandums (PPMs) relating to the issue of financial instruments by investment business licensees, with the exception of those made under Collective Investment Undertakings arrangements (which are covered under the CIU Module of CBB Rulebook Volume 6), must obtain the CBB's prior approval before distributing the offering document. This requirement is applicable to Category 1 and Category 2 investment firm licensees only.

BR-2.3.33 Investment business licensees are required to obtain the approval required under Rule BR-2.3.32 above from the Capital Markets Supervision Directorate at the CBB. The request must be supported by a draft proposal for private placements and addressed to the Director of Capital Markets Supervision Directorate.

External Auditor

BR-2.3.34 An investment firm licensee must seek prior approval from the CBB for the appointment or re-appointment of its external auditor (ref. AU-2.7.1 and AA-1.1.1).

Approved Persons

BR-2.3.35 An investment firm licensee must seek prior approval from the CBB for the appointment of persons undertaking a controlled function in an investment firm licensee (ref. Article 65 of the CBB Law, AU-1.2 and AU-5.2.1).

BR-2.3.36 Investment firm licensees must seek prior CBB approval before an approved person may move from one controlled function to another within the same licensee (ref. AU-5.4.5).

BR-2.3.37 If a controlled function falls vacant, an investment firm licensee making immediate interim arrangements for the controlled function affected, must obtain approval from the CBB for such arrangement (ref. AU-5.5.5).

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-3: Information Gathering by the CBB

BR-3.1 Power to Request Information

BR-3.1.1 Investment firm licensees must provide all information that the CBB may reasonably request in order to discharge its regulatory obligations.

Information Requested on Behalf of other Supervisors

BR-3.1.2 The CBB may ask an investment firm licensees to provide it with information at the request of or on behalf of other supervisors to enable them to discharge their functions properly. Those supervisors may include overseas supervisors or government agencies in Bahrain. The CBB may also, without notifying an investment firm licensee, pass on to those supervisors or agencies information that it already has in its possession.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-3: Information Gathering by the CBB

BR-3.2 Access to Premises

BR-3.2.1 An investment business licensee must permit representatives of the CBB, or persons appointed for the purpose by the CBB to have access, with or without notice, during reasonable business hours to any of its business premises in relation to the discharge of the CBB's functions under the relevant law.

BR-3.2.2 An investment business licensee must take reasonable steps to ensure that its agents, providers under outsourcing arrangements and appointed representatives permit such access to their business premises, to the CBB.

BR-3.2.3 An investment business licensee must take reasonable steps to ensure that each of its providers under material outsourcing arrangements deals in an open and cooperative way with the CBB in the discharge of its functions in relation to the investment business licensee.

BR-3.2.4 The cooperation that investment firm licensees are expected to procure from such providers is similar to that expected of investment firm licensees themselves.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-3: Information Gathering by the CBB

BR-3.3 Accuracy of Information

BR-3.3.1 Investment firm licensee must take reasonable steps to ensure that all information they give the CBB is:

- (a) Factually accurate or, in the case of estimates and judgements, fairly and properly based after appropriate enquiries have been made by the investment firm licensee; and
- (b) Complete, in that it should include anything of which the CBB would reasonably expect notice.

BR-3.3.2 If an investment firm licensee becomes aware, or has information that reasonably suggests that it has or may have provided the CBB with information that was or may have been false, misleading, incomplete or inaccurate, or has or may have changed in a material way, it must notify the CBB immediately. The notification must include:

- (a) Details of the information which is or may be false, misleading, incomplete or inaccurate, or has or may have changed;
- (b) An explanation why such information was or may have been provided; and
- (c) The correct information.

BR-3.3.3 If the information in Paragraph BR-3.3.2 cannot be submitted with the notification (because it is not immediately available), it must instead be submitted as soon as possible afterwards.

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-3: Information Gathering by the CBB

BR-3.4 Methods of Information Gathering

BR-3.4.1 The CBB uses various methods of information gathering on its own initiative which require the cooperation of investment firm licensees:

- (a) Representatives of the CBB may make onsite visits at the premises of the investment firm licensee. These visits may be made on a regular basis, on a sample basis, for special purposes such as theme visits (looking at a particular issue across a range of investment firm licensees), or when the CBB has a particular reason for visiting an investment firm licensee;
- (b) Appointees of the CBB may also make onsite visits at the premises of the investment firm licensee. Appointees of the CBB may include persons who are not CBB staff, but who have been appointed to undertake particular monitoring activities for the CBB, such as in the case of Appointed Experts (refer to Chapter EN-2).
- (c) The CBB may request the investment firm licensee to attend meetings at the CBB's premises or elsewhere;
- (d) The CBB may seek information or request documents by telephone, at meetings or in writing, including electronic communication;
- (e) The CBB may require investment firm licensees to submit various documents or notifications, as per Chapter BR-2, in the ordinary course of their business such as financial reports or on the happening of a particular event in relation to the investment firm licensee such as a change in control.

BR-3.4.2 When seeking meetings with an investment firm licensee or access to the licensee's premises, the CBB or the CBB appointee needs to have access to an investment firm licensee's documents and personnel. Such requests will be made during reasonable business hours and with proper notice. There may be instances where the CBB may seek access to the licensee's premises without prior notice. While such visits are not customary, the prospect of unannounced visits is intended to encourage investment firm licensees to comply at all times with the requirements and standards imposed by the CBB as per legislation and Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook.

BR-3.4.3 The CBB considers that an investment firm licensee should:

- (a) Make itself readily available for meetings with representatives or appointees of the CBB;
- (b) Give representatives or appointees of the CBB reasonable access to any records, files, tapes or computer systems, which are within the investment firm licensee's possession or control, and provide any facilities which the representatives or appointees may reasonably request;
- (c) Produce to representatives or appointees of the CBB specified documents, files, tapes, computer data or other material in the investment firm licensee's possession or control as reasonably requested;

MODULE	BR: CBB Reporting
CHAPTER	BR-3: Information Gathering by the CBB

BR-3.4 Methods of Information Gathering (continued)

- BR-3.4.3
- (d) Print information in the investment firm licensee's possession or control which is held on computer or on microfilm or otherwise convert it into a readily legible document or any other record which the CBB may reasonably request;
 - (e) Permit representatives or appointees of the CBB to copy documents of other material on the premises of the investment firm licensee at the investment firm licensee's expense and to remove copies and hold them elsewhere, or provide any copies, as reasonably requested; and
 - (f) Answer truthfully, fully and promptly all questions which representatives or appointees of the CBB reasonably put to it.
- BR-3.4.4
- The CBB considers that an investment firm licensee should take reasonable steps to ensure that the following persons act in the manner set out in Paragraph BR-3.4.3:
- (a) Its employees and appointed representatives; and
 - (b) Any other members of its group, and their employees and appointed representatives.
- BR-3.4.5
- In gathering information to fulfill its supervisory duties, the CBB acts in a professional manner and with due regard to maintaining confidential information obtained during the course of its information gathering activities.