



ENFORCEMENT MODULE



MODULE:	EN (Enforcement Module)
Table of Contents	

		Date Last Changed
EN-A	Introduction	
EN-A.1	Purpose	04/2016
EN-A.2	Module History	10/2019
EN-B	Scope of Application	
EN-B.1	Scope	04/2016
EN-B.2	The CBB's Approach	04/2019
EN-B.3	Prohibition on Insurance	04/2006
EN-B.4	Publicity	10/2019
EN-1	Formal Requests for Information	
EN-1.1	Legal Source	01/2007
EN-1.2	Procedure	10/2009
EN-2	Investigations	
EN-2.1	Legal Source	10/2011
EN-2.2	CBB Policy	10/2011
EN-2.3	Procedure [moved to BR-3.5]	10/2011
EN-2.4	The Required Report[moved to BR-3.5]	10/2011
EN-2.5	Other Notifications to the CBB[moved to BR-3.5]	10/2011
EN-3	Formal Warnings	
EN-3.1	Legal Source	01/2007
EN-3.2	CBB Policy	04/2006
EN-3.3	Procedure	04/2006
EN-4	Directions	
EN-4.1	Legal Source	10/2012
EN-4.2	CBB Policy	04/2006
EN-4.3	Procedure	04/2019
EN-5	Financial Penalties	
EN-5.1	Legal Source	04/2016
EN-5.2	CBB Policy	04/2016
EN-5.3	Module FC (Financial Crime)	04/2016
EN-5.3A	Financial Penalties for Date Sensitive Requirements	04/2017
EN-5.4	Procedure	04/2016
EN-5.5	Addressing a Compliance Failure	04/2016
EN-6	[This Chapter was deleted in April 2019].	



MODULE:	EN (Enforcement Module)
Table of Contents (continued)	

	Date Last Changed
EN-7 Cancellation or Amendment of License	
EN-7.1 Legal Source	04/2006
EN-7.2 CBB Policy	04/2006
EN-7.3 Procedure	04/2006
EN-8 Cancellation of 'Fit and Proper' Approval	
EN-8.1 Legal Source	07/2007
EN-8.2 CBB Policy	10/2009
EN-8.3 Procedure	10/2009
EN-9 [This Chapter deleted 07/2007.]	07/2007
EN-10 Criminal Sanctions	
EN-10.1 Overview	04/2006
EN-10.2 CBB Policy	04/2006
EN-10.2A Article 161	01/2013
EN-10.3 Article 163	07/2007
EN-10.4 Article 169	07/2007
EN-10.5 Article 170	07/2007
EN-10.6 Article 171	07/2007



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-A:	Introduction

EN-A.1 Purpose

Executive Summary

EN-A.1.1 This Module sets out the Central Bank of Bahrain's ('CBB') approach to enforcement, and the measures used by the CBB to address failures by authorised persons to comply with its regulatory requirements (whether they be investment firm licensees, approved persons or registered persons). The purpose of such measures is to encourage a high standard of compliance by all those authorised by the CBB, thus reducing risk to customers and the financial system.

Legal Basis

EN-A.1.2 This Module contains the CBB's Directive (as amended from time to time) relating to enforcement and is issued under the powers available to the CBB under Article 38 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law 2006 and its amendments ('CBB Law'). The Directive in this Module is applicable to all investment firm licensees (including their approved persons).

EN-A.1.3 For an explanation of the CBB's rule-making powers and different regulatory instruments, see Section UG-1.1.

EN-A.1.4 Investment firm licensees who are also members of the Bahrain Stock Exchange ('BSE') are reminded that the BSE is also empowered to exercise its own enforcement powers by virtue of the Bahrain Stock Exchange Decree – Law No. 4 of 1987 (the 'BSE Law'). Article 14 of the BSE Law lays down a number of penalties which the disciplinary Board of the BSE may impose on persons who violate the BSE Law and/or the regulations made thereunder. In appropriate circumstances, the CBB may ask the BSE to consider the exercise of its powers under Article 14 in support of the enforcement objectives of the CBB.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-A: Introduction

EN-A.2 Module History

Evolution of Module

- EN-A.2.1 This Module was first issued in April 2006 by the BMA, as part of the first phase of Volume 4 (Investment Business) to be released. 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.
- EN-A.2.2 When the CBB replaced the BMA in September 2006, the provisions of this Module remained in force. Volume 4 was updated in July 2007 to reflect the switch to the CBB; however, new calendar quarter dates were only issued where the update necessitated changes to actual requirements.
- EN-A.2.3 A list of recent changes made to this Module is provided below:

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
EN-A.1	07/2007	New Rule EN-A.1.2 introduced, categorising this Module as a Directive.
EN-1.1, EN-3.1, EN-4.1, EN-5.1, EN-8.1 and EN-9.1	07/2007	Insertion of new 'Legal Source' Sections, reflecting CBB Law.
EN-2.2.10	07/2007	New Rule inserted on Appointed Experts reflecting CBB Law.
EN-2.3	07/2007	New procedure section introduced for investigations.
EN-10.3, EN-10.4, EN-10.5 and EN-10.6	07/2007	Revised/new Sections describing criminal sanctions contained in CBB Law.
EN-1.2, EN-2.4, EN-2.5 and EN-8.3	10/2009	Amended/introduced to be consistent with other Volumes of CBB Rulebook.
EN-2.3	10/2009	Amended terminology to be consistent with other Volumes of CBB Rulebook.
EN-5.2.7	10/2009	Paragraph deleted and replaced as it is a repetition of EN-5.2.6.
EN-A.1.2	07/2010	Removed reference to registered administrators.
EN-A.1.2	01/2011	Clarified legal basis.
EN-2	10/2011	Chapter has been streamlined and repetitive information has been eliminated and reference is now made to Section BR-3.5.
EN-B.4.5 and EN-4.1.1	10/2012	Corrected typo.
EN-5.1.1	10/2012	Amended guidance.
EN-5.3A	10/2012	Added new Section on financial penalties for date sensitive requirements.
EN-10.2A	01/2013	Section added to refer to Article 161 of the CBB Law.
EN-5.3A.2(c)	01/2016	Corrected cross reference.
EN-A.1.2	04/2016	Reference added to amendments to the CBB Law.
EN-B.1.4	04/2016	New guidance Paragraph added to broaden the scope of the application of financial penalties to persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law.
EN-5	04/2016	Amended to be in line with amendments to Article 129 of the CBB Law.
EN-5.3A.3	04/2017	Amendment to financial penalties For Date Sensitive Requirements.
EN-B.2.9	04/2019	Guideline moved from Section EN-4.3.
EN-4.3.3	04/2019	Moved guideline to Section EN-B.2.
EN-6	04/2019	Deleted Chapter.
EN-B.4.6	10/2019	Added a new Paragraph on disclosure of financial penalties.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-A: Introduction

EN-A.2 Module History (continued)

Superseded Requirements

EN-A.2.4 This Module replaces CBB Circular No. ODG/249/2004 (the “Enforcement Circular”), issued on 22 July 2004.

EN-A.2.5 Guidance on the implementation and transition to Volume 4 (Investment Business) is given in Module ES (Executive Summary).



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-B:	Scope of Application

EN-B.1 Scope

- EN-B.1.1 The contents of this Module mostly consist of Guidance material, explaining the different measures that CBB can employ to ensure compliance with Volume 4 (Investment Business). Certain Rules, applicable to investment firm licensees, are however contained in Paragraphs EN-B.3.1, EN-B.4.5, EN-2.2.4, EN-2.2.10 and EN-8.2.4.
- EN-B.1.2 With the exception of Chapter EN-9, Chapters EN-1 to EN-10 of this Module are generally relevant to investment firm licensees. In the case of overseas investment firm licensees, the CBB's enforcement powers apply only to the branch operating in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- EN-B.1.3 In addition, Chapters EN-8 and EN-10 of this Module are relevant to approved persons, whilst Chapter EN-9 is relevant to registered persons.
- EN-B.1.4 Section EN-5 dealing with financial penalties is applicable to investment firm licensees as well as to persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-B: Scope of Application

EN-B.2 The CBB's Approach

- EN-B.2.1 The CBB favours an open, pragmatic and collaborative relationship with authorised persons, within the boundaries set by the CBB Law and Rulebook. Whilst the CBB wishes to avoid a legalistic and confrontational style of supervision, it believes that effective supervision requires effective and timely enforcement of its requirements. Should authorised persons fail to cooperate, then the CBB will use the means described in this Module to achieve compliance.
- EN-B.2.2 In the CBB's view, it is generally neither practical nor effective to prescribe in detail the exact regulatory response for each and every potential contravention. There are a large number of potential contraventions. Moreover, individual circumstances are unlikely to be identical in all cases, and may warrant different responses.
- EN-B.2.3 In deciding any given supervisory response, the CBB will nonetheless consistently assess the individual circumstance of each contravention against the principles described in this Module. The CBB's overall approach is to take into account:
- (a) The seriousness of the contravention concerned (including the risks posed to customers and other market participants);
 - (b) The compliance track record of the authorised person concerned (including the extent to which the contravention reflects systemic weaknesses or reckless behaviour); and
 - (c) Which measures are most likely to achieve the desired result of remedying the contravention.
- EN-B.2.4 Such an approach reduces the risk of inappropriate enforcement actions, by allowing regulatory measures to be tailored to individual circumstances. By taking into account an authorised person's compliance record and attitude, it also creates positive incentives and encourages an open and collaborative approach. By assessing individual cases against the same broad principles, the CBB also aims to achieve an overall consistency in its regulatory actions.
- EN-B.2.5 Underlying the CBB's approach outlined in Paragraph EN-B.2.3 is the fundamental principle of proportionality. The enforcement measures contained in this Module are of varying severity, and will be used accordingly in keeping with the CBB's assessment of the contravention. Thus, the CBB will reserve its most serious enforcement measures – such as cancellation of license or withdrawal of “fit and proper” status – for the most serious contraventions.
- EN-B.2.6 In keeping with the proportionality principle, and to the extent consistent with the CBB's enforcement approach in Paragraph EN-B.2.3, the CBB will usually opt for the least severe of appropriate enforcement measures. In most cases, the CBB expects to use a Formal Warning before resorting to more severe measures; the need for further measures will then usually be dependent on the response of the authorised person concerned.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-B: Scope of Application

EN-B.2 The CBB's Approach (continued)

- EN-B.2.7 Where a significant element of judgement is required to assess compliance with a requirement, the CBB will usually discuss the matter with the authorised person concerned, before using one of this Module's enforcement mechanisms. This is likely to be the case, for example, with respect to requirements for adequate systems and controls. Conversely, where there are clear-cut contraventions of CBB requirements, then the CBB will usually move immediately to one or more of the enforcement mechanisms outlined in this Module. This is more likely to occur in cases where quantitative requirements - such as those relating to capital and/or large exposures – are concerned. In most such cases, though, the CBB also expects to continue an active dialogue with the authorised person concerned, aimed at remedying the contravention.
- EN-B.2.8 Except in the limited circumstances outlined below, the CBB will usually only apply an enforcement measure after the authorised person concerned has been given a suitable opportunity to make representations. In the case of measures described in Chapters EN-6 and EN-7, certain procedures are set out in the CBB Law.
- EN-B.2.9 In extreme circumstances, where the CBB believes that immediate action is required to prevent real damage to Bahrain's financial markets, its users or to customers of the licensee concerned, it may amend or cancel a license, place a licensee under administration, or suspend a license (cf. Articles 48(g), 130(b) and 131 of the CBB Law).



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-B:	Scope of Application

EN-B.3 Prohibition on Insurance

EN-B.3.1

To help the CBB achieve the purpose of this Module, investment firm licensees may not enter into or make a claim under a contract of insurance that is intended to, or has the effect of, indemnifying them from the financial penalties provided for in this Module.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-B: Scope of Application

EN-B.4 Publicity

EN-B.4.1 The CBB will not as a matter of general policy publicise individual cases when it uses the measures described in Chapters EN-2 to EN-5, and EN-8. However, in such cases the CBB may inform (where relevant) an authorised person's external auditors and – in the case of licensees with overseas operations – relevant overseas regulators.

EN-B.4.2 In exceptional circumstances, the CBB may decide to publicise individual cases when the measures set out in Chapters EN-2 to EN-5 and EN-8 are used, where there is a strong case that doing so would help achieve the CBB's supervisory objectives. In such instances, the CBB will usually allow the licensee or person concerned the opportunity to make representations to the CBB before a public statement is issued.

EN-B.4.3 Without prejudice to the above policy, the CBB may from time to time publish aggregate information on its use of enforcement measures, without identifying the licensees or persons concerned.

EN-B.4.4 By their nature, the penalties in Chapters EN-6, EN-7 and EN-9 are public acts, once applied. The CBB will in these instances generally issue a public statement explaining the circumstances of the case.

EN-B.4.5 Investment firm licensees subject to a CBB enforcement measure (with the exception of formal requests for information) must inform their external auditor of the fact.

EN-B.4.6 Investment firm licensees must disclose in their annual audited financial statements any financial penalties served on them, together with a factual description of the reasons given by the Central Bank for applying the penalty. In addition, the CBB may publicise the issuance of a financial penalty notice, where there is a strong case that doing so would help achieve the CBB's supervisory objectives, as mentioned in Article 132 of the pre-mentioned Law.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-1: Formal Requests for Information

EN-1.1 Legal Source

EN-1.1.1 As part of its on-going supervision, under Articles 111 and 123 of the CBB Law, the CBB may specifically request information or temporary reporting from a licensee or individual. Recipients of such requests are bound to respond to such requests under the terms of their license. Such requests are in effect a type of Direction.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-1: Formal Requests for Information

EN-1.2 Procedure

- EN-1.2.1 To clearly identify formal information requests, these will always be made in writing, under signature of a Director or more senior official of the CBB. They will include the statement, “This is a formal request for information as defined in Chapter 1 of Module EN of Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook”; and will state the deadline by which the information is to be communicated to the CBB.
- EN-1.2.2 Failure to respond to such formal requests within the deadline set will be viewed as a significant breach of regulatory requirements and may result in a formal warning or other enforcement measure, specified under Articles 163 and 170 of the CBB Law, as decided by the CBB depending on the circumstances of the case.
- EN-1.2.3 The deadline set in the request will vary depending on individual circumstances. A recipient may submit a case for an extension to the deadline; it should do so as soon as possible if it believes that an extension will be required, and in any event prior to the passing of the original deadline. The Central Bank will respond before the original deadline has passed; if it fails to do so, then the requested extension will apply. Whilst waiting for a reply, the recipient must assume that the original deadline will apply.
- EN-1.2.4 The above procedures do not prevent individual Central Bank supervisors making oral requests for information as part of their day-to-day interaction with licensees. The Central Bank expects licensees to maintain their cooperative response to such requests; however, in the interests of clarity, the Central Bank will not view failures to respond to oral requests as a breach of regulatory requirements.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2: Investigations

EN-2.1 Legal Source

- EN-2.1.1 Articles 121 to 123 of the CBB Law empower the CBB to order investigations of licensees, in order to help it assess a licensee's compliance with the provisions of the CBB Law. Such investigations may be carried out either by its own officials or appointed experts. Articles 111 and 124 require licensees to make available to the CBB's inspectors and appointed experts their books and other records, and to provide all relevant information within the time limits deemed reasonable by the inspectors and/or appointed experts.
- EN-2.1.2 Articles 163 and 170 of the CBB Law provide for criminal sanctions where false or misleading statements are made to the CBB, or an investigation by the CBB is otherwise obstructed (see Section EN-10.3).



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2: Investigations

EN-2.2 CBB Policy

EN-2.2.1 The CBB uses its own inspectors to undertake on-site examinations of licensees as an integral part of its regular supervisory efforts. In addition, the CBB may commission special investigations of licensees in order to help it assess their compliance with CBB requirements, as contained in Article 121 of the CBB Law. Such investigations may be carried out either by the CBB's own officials, by duly qualified experts appointed for the purpose by the CBB (appointed experts), or a combination of the two.

EN-2.2.2 Failure by licensees to cooperate fully with the CBB's inspectors, or its appointed experts, or to respond to their examination reports within the time limit specified, will be treated as demonstrating a material lack of cooperation with the CBB which will result in other enforcement measures being considered, as described elsewhere in this Module. This guidance is supported by Article 124(a) of the CBB Law.

EN-2.2.3 The CBB may appoint an individual or a firm as an appointed expert. Examples of appointed experts are lawyers, audit firms and expert witnesses. The appointment of appointed experts is not necessarily indicative of a contravention of CBB requirements or suspicion of such a contravention. For instance, an appointed expert may be commissioned to provide an expert opinion on a technical matter.

EN-2.2.4 **Appointed experts report in a form and within a scope defined by the CBB, and are solely responsible to the CBB for the work they undertake in relation to the investigation concerned. The report produced by the appointed experts is the property of the CBB (but is usually shared by the CBB with the firm concerned). The cost of the appointed experts' work must be borne by the licensee concerned.**

EN-2.2.5 In selecting an appointed expert, the CBB will take into account the level of fees proposed and aim to limit these to the lowest level consistent with an adequate review of the matters at hand, given the qualifications, track record and independence of the persons concerned. Because the costs of such investigations are met by the licensee, the CBB makes only selective use of appointed experts, when essential to supplement CBB's other supervisory tools and resources.

EN-2.2.6 [This Paragraph was moved to Section BR-3.5]



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2: Investigations

EN-2.2 CBB Policy (continued)

EN-2.2.7 [This Paragraph was moved to Section BR-3.5]

EN-2.2.8 [This Paragraph was moved to Section BR-3.5]

EN-2.2.6 The CBB may commission reports, which require appointed experts to review information from another company within the reporting investment firm licensee's group even when that other entity is not subject to any CBB requirements.

EN-2.2.7 In accordance with Articles 114 and 123 of the CBB Law, investment firm licensee must provide all relevant information and assistance to appointed experts on demand.

EN-2.2.11 [This Paragraph was moved to Section BR-3.5]



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2:	Investigations

EN-2.3 Procedure

[The contents of this Section was moved to Section BR-3.5 in October 2011]



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2:	Investigations

EN-2.4 The Required Report

[The Content of this Section was moved to Section BR-3.5 in October 2011]



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-2:	Investigations

EN-2.5 Other Notifications to the CBB

[The Content of this Section was moved to Section BR-3.5 in October 2011]



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-3:	Formal Warnings

EN-3.1 CBB Legal Source

EN-3.1.1 Article 38 of the CBB Law empowers the CBB to issue formal warnings to investment firm licensees or individuals. The CBB will issue such warnings where it reasonably believes that these are required to achieve its statutory objectives.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-3: Formal Warnings

EN-3.2 CBB Policy

- EN-3.2.1 Formal warnings are clearly identified as such and represent the CBB's first level formal enforcement measure. They are intended to clearly set out the CBB's concerns to a licensee or individual regarding an issue, and should be viewed by the recipient with the appropriate degree of seriousness.
- EN-3.2.2 As indicated in Paragraph EN-B.2.7, the CBB will usually discuss concerns it may have prior to resorting to a formal enforcement measure, especially where a significant element of judgement is required in assessing compliance with a regulatory requirement.
- EN-3.2.3 Where such discussions fail to resolve matters to the CBB's satisfaction, then it may issue a formal warning. Failure to respond adequately to a formal warning will lead the CBB to consider more severe enforcement measures. However, more severe measures do not require the prior issuance of a formal warning – depending on its assessment of the circumstances, the CBB may decide to have immediate recourse to other measures. Similarly, there may be circumstances where the CBB issues a formal warning without prior discussion with the licensee or individual concerned: this would usually be the case where a clear-cut compliance failing has occurred.
- EN-3.2.4 When considering whether to issue a formal warning, the criteria taken into consideration by the CBB therefore include the following:
- (a) The seriousness of the actual or potential contravention, in relation to the requirement(s) concerned and the risks posed to customers, market participants and other stakeholders;
 - (b) In the case of an actual contravention, its duration and/or frequency of the contravention; the extent to which it reflects more widespread weaknesses in controls and/or management; and the extent to which it was attributable to deliberate or reckless behaviour; and
 - (c) The extent to which the CBB's supervisory objectives would be better served by issuance of a formal warning as opposed to another type of regulatory action.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-3: Formal Warnings

EN-3.3 Procedure

- EN-3.3.1 Proposals to issue formal warnings are carefully considered against the criteria listed in Paragraph EN-3.2.4. They require approval of a Director or more senior CBB official, and include the statement “This is a formal warning as defined in Chapter EN-3 of Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook”.
- EN-3.3.2 Depending on the issue in question, recipients of a formal warning may be required to respond to the contents of the notice. Where a formal warning is served prior to imposing any penalties or administrative proceedings, Articles 125(c) and 126 of the CBB Law provide the recipients the right to object or challenge the formal warning.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-4:	Directions

EN-4.1 Legal Source

EN-4.1.1 Article 38 of the CBB Law empowers the CBB to issue Directions to investment firm licensees or individuals. The powers conveyed allow the CBB to issue whatever Directions, it reasonably believes, are required to achieve its statutory objectives.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-4: Directions

EN-4.2 CBB Policy

- EN-4.2.1 The types of Directions that the CBB may issue in practice vary and will depend on the individual circumstances of a case. Generally, however, Directions require a licensee or individual either to undertake or to stop specific actions in order to address or mitigate certain perceived risks. They may also include restrictions on a licensee's activities until those risks have been addressed – for instance, a ban on the acceptance of new customers.
- EN-4.2.2 The CBB is conscious of the powerful nature of a Direction and, in the case of a licensee, the fact that it subordinates the role of its Board and management on a specific issue. The CBB will carefully consider the need for a Direction, and whether alternative measures may not achieve the same end. Where feasible, the CBB will try to achieve the desired outcome through persuasion, rather than recourse to a Direction.
- EN-4.2.3 In considering whether to issue a Direction, the criteria taken into consideration by the CBB include the following:
- (a) The seriousness of the actual or potential contravention, in relation to the requirement(s) concerned and the risks posed to customers, market participants and other stakeholders ;
 - (b) In the case of an actual contravention, its duration and/or frequency of the contravention; the extent to which it reflects more widespread weaknesses in controls and/or management; and the extent to which it was attributable to deliberate or reckless behaviour; and
 - (c) The extent to which the CBB's supervisory objectives would be better served by issuance of a Direction as opposed to another type of regulatory action.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-4:	Directions

EN-4.3 Procedure

- EN-4.3.1 Proposals to issue Directions are carefully considered against the criteria listed in Paragraph EN-4.2.3. They require approval of an Executive Director or more senior official of the CBB, and include the statement “This is a formal Direction as defined in Chapter EN-4 of Volume 4 of the CBB Rulebook”.
- EN-4.3.2 The subject of the Direction will normally be given 30 calendar days from the Direction’s date of issuance in which to make representations to the CBB concerning the actions required. This must be done in writing, and addressed to the issuer of the original Direction. Should a representation be made, the CBB will make a final determination within 30 calendar days of the date of the representation, as specified in Articles 125(c) and 126 of the CBB Law.
- EN-4.3.3 [This Paragraph was moved to Section EN-B.2 in April 2019].



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5:	Financial Penalties

EN-5.1 Legal Source

EN-5.1.1 Article 129 of the CBB Law, provides the CBB the power to impose financial penalties on licensees or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law. Their use is generally limited to situations where major breaches of regulatory requirements have taken place and a licensee has failed to respond in an acceptable manner to the concerns expressed by the CBB. Financial penalties may be preceded by the issuance of a written formal warning and/or Direction.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5: Financial Penalties

EN-5.2 CBB Policy

- EN-5.2.1 The level of financial penalty applied is determined by the nature of the contravention and the amount of additional supervisory attention and resources taken up by a licensee's or persons' referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law behaviour and by limits set in the CBB Law. The CBB intends that the impact of a penalty should derive more from its signalling effect than from the actual amount of money involved.
- EN-5.2.2 In accordance with Article 132 of the CBB Law, the CBB may publicise the issuance of a financial penalty notice, by way of its website or through other means, where there is a strong case that doing so would help achieve the CBB's supervisory objectives.
- EN-5.2.3 In assessing whether to serve a financial penalty notice, the CBB takes into account the following criteria:
- (a) The seriousness of the contravention, in relation to the requirement(s) concerned;
 - (b) The duration and/or frequency of the contravention, and the extent to which it reflects more widespread weaknesses in controls and/or management;
 - (c) The extent to which the contravention was deliberate or reckless;
 - (d) The licensee's past compliance record and conduct following the contravention; and
 - (e) The scope of any other action taken by the CBB or other regulators against the licensee, in response to the compliance failures in question.
- EN-5.2.4 Part 11 of the CBB Law outlines instances where financial penalties may be imposed. Examples of the types of compliance failings that may lead to the serving of a financial penalty notice include (but are not limited to):
- (a) Failures to address persistent delays and/or significant inaccuracies in regulatory reporting to the CBB;
 - (b) Repeated failures to respond to formal requests for information from the CBB, within the deadlines set;
 - (c) The submission of information to the CBB known to be false or misleading; and
 - (d) Major failures in maintaining adequate systems and controls in accordance with CBB's requirements, subjecting investors and other customers to significant risk of financial loss.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5:	Financial Penalties

EN-5.2 CBB Policy (continued)

- EN-5.2.5 In accordance with Article 125 of the CBB Law, a written notice of a financial penalty must be issued before imposing any financial penalty. The written notice must contain the following information:
- (a) The violations committed by the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law with respect to the CBB Law; the CBB Rulebook; any Directions, Warnings or Formal Requests for Information; or violations of the terms and conditions of the license issued to the licensee;
 - (b) Evidence or proof to support the above;
 - (c) The level of financial penalty to be imposed; and
 - (d) The grace period to be allowed to the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law for challenging the intended penalty (which will not be less than 30 calendar days).
- EN-5.2.6 The licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law may either pay the penalty or, pursuant to Article 126 of the CBB Law, may object within the period noted in Sub-Paragraph EN-5.2.5(d). In accordance with Article 127 of the CBB Law, the CBB will consider any objection and make a formal resolution within 30 calendar days of receiving the objection. Thereafter, the resolution and any accompanying penalties are final and must be paid within 30 calendar days.
- EN-5.2.7 The imposition of a financial penalty does not preclude the CBB from also using other enforcement measures to remedy the same violation (for instance, a Direction).



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5: Financial Penalties

EN-5.3 Module FC (Financial Crime)

- EN-5.3.1 In addition to the general circumstances set out in Section EN-5.2, a financial penalty of up to BD 100,000 may be applied by the CBB in cases where a licensee fails to comply with any of the requirements in Module FC (Financial Crime). The fine shall be multiplied by the number of violations.
- EN-5.3.2 As with the imposition of financial penalties in response to breaches of other regulatory requirements, the CBB will apply financial penalties with respect to Module FC, based on the criteria set out in paragraph EN-5.2.3.
- EN-5.3.3 A failure to comply with Module FC (Financial Crime) that warrants a financial penalty would not trigger also a financial penalty under Section EN-5.2.
- EN-5.3.4 Any financial penalties applied by the CBB as regards the implementation of Module FC, are without prejudice to the criminal sanctions available to the Bahraini courts under the Decree – Law No. 4 of 2001, with respect to the prevention and prohibition of the laundering of money. As with other financial penalties, the imposition of a financial penalty with regards to breaches of Module FC does not prevent the CBB from also using other enforcement measures to remedy the same violation (for instance, a Direction).



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5: Financial Penalties

EN-5.3A Financial Penalties for Date Sensitive Requirements

EN-5.3A.1 Modules AU, FC, BR and PD contain specific requirements where investment firm licensees must comply with, by a precise date. Where a specific due date is involved, the CBB's financial penalties are based on a per diem basis.

EN-5.3A.2 This Section applies to date sensitive requirements for:

- Reporting requirements included in Module BR;
- Public disclosure requirements included in Module PD;
- The report of the external auditor or approved consultancy firm required as per Paragraph FC-3.3.1B(d); and
- Annual licensing fees required as per Section AU-6.2.


EN-5.3A.3 Financial penalties related to late filing or other date sensitive requirements are calculated as per the following per diem basis:

- For category 1 investment firm licensees, the financial penalty for late filing is BD 80 per day;
- For category 2 investment firm licensees, the financial penalty for late filing is BD 60 per day; and
- For category 3 investment firm licensees, the financial penalty is BD 40 per day.

EN-5.3A.4 In accordance with Article 129 of the CBB Law, the maximum financial penalty levied for failing to comply with date sensitive requirements is BD 100,000. The fine shall be multiplied by the number of violations. The CBB may opt to limit the amount of the financial penalty and use other enforcement measures as outlined in Module EN (Enforcement), such as imposing restrictions on an investment firm license limiting the scope of operations.

EN-5.3A.5 The various deadlines for submission of reports and annual fees referred to in Modules BR, FC, PD and AU are defined:

- In terms of a specified number of days or months following a given date, such as the last date of a calendar quarter;
- A specified number of days or months after the occurrence of a specific event; or
- A specific date.

	Central Bank of Bahrain Rulebook	Volume 4: Investment Business
MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5:	Financial Penalties

EN-5.3A Financial Penalties for Date Sensitive Requirements (continued)

- EN-5.3A.6 In imposing financial penalties for date sensitive requirements, the following criteria apply:
- (a) Where the due date falls on a holiday as designated by the CBB, the first business day following the holiday will be considered as being the due date;
 - (b) Where a due date is not complied with by the end of the day on which it is due, holidays and weekend days are included in the number of days the item is considered late;
 - (c) For returns and other filings, the date received is the date recorded by the CBB's systems in case of returns filed electronically;
 - (d) In the case of returns filed in hard copy, the CBB stamp is the date received;
 - (e) All returns are to be sent to the respective Supervision Directorate and the annual fees to the Accounts Directorate, on or before the due date, to be considered filed on time;
 - (f) A day ends at midnight in the case of returns that must be filed electronically, or at the close of CBB business day, in the case returns are filed in hard copy; and
 - (g) An incomplete return, where completeness is determined in relation to the requirements of the relevant instructions and Module BR, is considered 'not filed' until the CBB receives all necessary elements of the return.
- EN-5.3A.7 The CBB does not require any particular method of delivery for returns and filings that are filed in hard copy. The use of the Bahrain postal services, private courier services or other methods of delivery is entirely at the discretion and risk of the licensee. For the payment of annual fees, licensees must follow the requirements of Form ALF, included under Part B of Volume 4.
- EN-5.3A.8 A decision to impose a financial penalty for date sensitive requirements is unrelated to whether the CBB issues a reminder; it is the licensee's responsibility to file and disclose on time as per the requirements of Volume 4 (Investment Business) Rulebook.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5: Financial Penalties

EN-5.4 Procedure

- EN-5.4.1 A written financial penalty notice will be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer or General Manager of the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law concerned. This written notification will describe the contravention concerned, the CBB's evidence supporting a financial penalty, and the factors justifying the level of penalty proposed. Only an Executive Director or more senior member of the CBB's management may sign the notification.
- EN-5.4.2 The licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law has 30 calendar days from the notification's date of issuance to submit any representations it wishes to make to the CBB, in writing and addressed to the issuer of the original notification. If the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law decides not to submit representations, it has 30 calendar days from the notification's date of issuance in which to pay the penalty.
- EN-5.4.3 Should the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law make representations challenging the proposed penalty, the CBB has 30 calendar days from the issuance of those representations in which to re-examine the facts of the case and its conclusions. If the CBB confirms application of a penalty, payment is required within 30 calendar days of a final notice being issued.
- EN-5.4.4 Failure to pay a penalty within the required deadlines will be considered a breach of CBB's regulatory requirements, and will also result in other measures being considered, as described elsewhere in this Module.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-5: Financial Penalties

EN-5.5 Addressing a Compliance Failure

- EN-5.5.1 Payment of a financial penalty does not by itself absolve a licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law from remedying the compliance failure concerned. The CBB will expect the licensee or persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (68 bis 1) of the CBB Law to address the contravention within a reasonable timescale, to be agreed on a case-by-case basis. Failure to do so will result in other measures being considered.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-6:	[This Chapter was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.1 [This Section was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.1.1 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.1.2 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.1.3 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-6:	[This Chapter was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.2 [This Section was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.2.1 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.2.2 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.2.3 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-6:	[This Chapter was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.3 [This Section was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.3.1 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.3.2 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].

EN-6.3.3 [This Paragraph was deleted in April 2019].



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-7: Cancellation or Amendment of License

EN-7.1 Legal Source

- EN-7.1.1 Article 48 of the CBB empowers the CBB to cancel or amend a license under certain circumstances. These include cases where a licensee has:
- (a) Failed to satisfy its license conditions;
 - (b) Violated the terms of the CBB Law, regulations or Rulebook;
 - (c) Failed to start business within six months from the date of the license being issued;
 - (d) Ceased to carry out the licensed activities permitted; or
 - (e) Not acted in the legitimate interest of its customers or creditors.
- EN-7.1.2 Article 48(d) of the CBB Law requires the CBB to give the licensee concerned at least 30 calendar days in which to appeal any proposed cancellation or amendment of its license.



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-7: Cancellation or Amendment of License

EN-7.2 CBB Policy

- EN-7.2.1 When used as an enforcement tool, the CBB views cancelling a license as appropriate only in the most serious of circumstances, when faced with the gravest of contraventions or when left with no other reasonable means of successfully addressing the regulatory failings in question. Cancellation or amendment of a license, however, may also be required in circumstances outside of an enforcement context, for instance because of a change in the business profile of a licensee.
- EN-7.2.2 When used as an enforcement tool, the criteria used by the CBB in assessing whether to seek the cancellation or amendment of a license include:
- (a) The extent to which the interests of the market, its users and those who have a claim on the licensee would be best served by the cancellation or amendment of the license;
 - (b) The extent to which other supervisory penalties could reasonably be expected to achieve the CBB's desired supervisory objectives;
 - (c) The extent to which the licensee has contravened the conditions of its license and/or the CBB Law, including the seriousness, duration and/or frequency of the contravention(s) concerned, and the extent to which the contraventions reflect more widespread or systemic weaknesses in controls and/or management;
 - (d) The extent to which the licensee has been involved in financial crime or other criminal conduct; and
 - (e) The licensee's past compliance record and conduct following the contravention(s).
- EN-7.2.3 When the CBB issues a notice of cancellation or amendment as an enforcement tool, it will only implement the actual change once it is satisfied that there are no longer any regulated activities for which it is necessary to keep the current authorisation in force. Until such time as these activities have been run off or moved to another licensee, the CBB will control these activities through other means (such as taking the licensee into administration or through issuing Directions).



MODULE	EN: Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-7: Cancellation or Amendment of License

EN-7.3 Procedure

- EN-7.3.1 All proposals for cancelling or amending a license as an enforcement tool are subject to a thorough review by the CBB of all relevant facts, assessed against the criteria outlined in Paragraphs EN-7.2.1 and EN-7.2.2. After being assessed at the Executive Director level, proposals are submitted to H.E. the Governor for approval.
- EN-7.3.2 Once approved within the CBB, a formal notice of cancellation or amendment is issued to the licensee concerned. The notice of cancellation or amendment will describe the factual circumstances of the contraventions concerned, and the CBB's rationale for the proposed cancellation or amendment, as measured against the criteria outlined in Paragraphs EN-7.2.1 and EN-7.2.2.
- EN-7.3.3 The licensee has 30 calendar days from the date of the notice in which to lodge an appeal. The appeal should be addressed to the Board of the CBB, and copied to H.E. the Governor of the CBB.
- EN-7.3.4 If an appeal is lodged, the Board of the CBB will make a final ruling within 60 calendar days of its date of issuance.
- EN-7.3.5 A licensee may appeal to a competent court within 60 days of the above final ruling for a decision. The court's decision will then be final.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-8:	Cancellation of 'Fit and Proper' Approval

EN-8.1 Legal Source

EN-8.1.1 Article 65 of the CBB Law allows the CBB to determine the level of qualifications, experience and training of licensee's officers or employees. Article 65(c) of the CBB Law empowers the CBB the right to remove any official, being a Board member or in an executive position, that is unqualified or unsuitable for the assigned position.

EN-8.1.2 In addition, Chapter AU-3 of Module AU (Authorisation), specifies that approved persons must be assessed by the CBB as 'fit and proper' to hold such a position. The Chapter specifies various factors that the CBB takes into account when reaching such a decision.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement Measures
CHAPTER	EN-8:	Cancellation of 'Fit and Proper' Approval

EN-8.2 CBB Policy

EN-8.2.1 Chapter AU-3 of Module AU (Authorisation), specifies that approved persons must be assessed by the CBB as 'fit and proper' to hold such a position. The Chapter specifies various factors that the CBB takes into account when reaching such a decision.

EN-8.2.2 The CBB is conscious of the impact that assessing someone as not 'fit and proper' may have on an individual approved person. Such assessments are carefully reviewed in the light of all relevant facts. The criteria used in reaching a decision include the following:

- (a) The extent to which the factors set out in Chapter AU-3 have not been met;
- (b) The extent to which the person has deliberately or recklessly breached requirements of the CBB law or Volume 4 (Investment Business);
- (c) The person's past compliance record and conduct following any such breaches;
- (d) The length of time since factors indicating a lack of fitness or propriety occurred; and
- (e) The risk the person poses to licensees and their customers.

EN-8.2.3 Amongst other matters, the CBB will normally consider as grounds for the revocation of approved person status the following events affecting the approved person:

- (a) The conviction by a court, whether in Bahrain or elsewhere, for a crime affecting honesty;
- (b) A declaration of bankruptcy by a court of law;
- (c) A court ruling that the approved person's legal capacity is totally or partially impaired; or
- (d) The sanction by a professional body of a fine, suspension, expulsion or censure.

EN-8.2.4 **Investment firm licensees must inform the CBB immediately when they become aware of any of the events listed in Paragraph EN-8.2.3, affecting one of their approved persons.**

EN-8.2.5 If the CBB has grounds for considering that an individual is no longer fit and proper to continue to hold their existing controlled function(s), it will revoke the approved person status granted to that individual. The individual will then be required to resign from each of the controlled functions to which this revocation applies. This revocation does not automatically preclude them from applying to hold other controlled functions in the future, but will be taken into account in considering new requests from investment firm licensees that pertain to that individual.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement Measures
CHAPTER	EN-8:	Cancellation of 'Fit and Proper' Approval

EN-8.2 CBB Policy (continued)

EN-8.2.6 Depending on the seriousness of the situation, the CBB may impose further measures, which may include disqualification from:

- (a) Holding any controlled function;
- (b) Performing any function in relation to any regulated activity carried out by a licensed firm; or
- (c) Being a controller of any licensed firm.

EN-8.2.7 In assessing evidence, the CBB applies a lower threshold than is applied in a criminal court of law, reflecting the administrative nature of the sanction. The CBB may also take into account the cumulative effect of factors which, when considered individually, may not in themselves be sufficient to justify an adverse 'fit and proper' finding.

EN-8.2.8 The CBB may also take into account the particular function being undertaken in the licensee by the individual concerned, and the size and nature of the licensee itself, particularly when assessing the suitability of a person's experience or qualifications. Thus, the fact that a person was deemed 'fit and proper' for a particular position in a particular firm does not necessarily mean he would be suitable in a different position or in a different firm.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement Measures
CHAPTER	EN-8:	Cancellation of 'Fit and Proper' Approval

EN-8.3 Procedure

- EN-8.3.1 All proposals for issuing an adverse 'fit and proper' finding are subject to a thorough review by the CBB of all relevant facts, assessed against the criteria outlined in Paragraph EN-8.2.2. In some instances, it may be appropriate for the CBB to request the licensee or person concerned to provide further information, in order to help reach a decision.
- EN-8.3.2 All adverse findings have to be approved by an Executive Director of the CBB. Once approved, a notice of intent is issued to the person concerned and copied to the Board/senior management of the licensee, setting out the circumstances and the basis for the CBB's proposed adverse finding. The person has 30 calendar days from the date of the notice in which to make written representations, addressed to the Executive Director concerned, failing which a final notice is issued by the CBB.
- EN-8.3.3 If representations are made, then the CBB has 30 calendar days from the date of the representation in which to consider any mitigating evidence submitted and make a final determination.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-9:	[This Chapter deleted 07/2007.]



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.1 Overview

- EN-10.1.1 The CBB Law provides for a number of criminal sanctions in cases where certain of its provisions are contravened. This Section provides a summary of those sanctions most relevant to licensees, their Directors and employees. What follows is not a complete list of all sanctions provided for in the CBB Law, nor is it a substitute for reading the Law and being fully aware of its provisions.
- EN-10.1.2 Licensees, their Directors and employees should also be aware of the criminal sanctions provided for under other relevant Bahraini laws, such as the Decree – Law No. 4 of 2001, with respect to the prevention and prohibition of the laundering of money.
- EN-10.1.3 In all cases to do with criminal sanctions, the CBB can only refer the matter to the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The CBB has no authority to apply such sanctions without recourse to the courts.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.2 CBB Policy

- EN-10.2.1 Because of their criminal status, and their provision for custodial sentences, the sanctions provided for under the CBB Law are viewed by the CBB as very powerful measures, to be pursued sparingly. In most situations, the CBB will seek to address regulatory failures through administrative sanctions, as outlined in the preceding Chapters, rather than by pursuing the criminal sanctions outlined here.
- EN-10.2.2 Where, however, the nature of the offence is such that there is strong evidence of a reckless or intentional breach of the CBB Law relevant to the following Articles, then the CBB will refer the matter to the Office of the Public Prosecutor.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.2A Article 161

EN-10.2.1A Article 161 of the CBB Law provides for a penalty of up to BD 1 million, without prejudice to any other penalty prescribed in any other law, in case of any person who breaches the provisions of Resolution No.(16) for the year 2012 issued pursuant to Article 42 of the CBB Law. The Court may also confiscate the proceeds resulting from breaching the Resolution.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.3 Article 163

EN-10.3.1 Article 163 of the CBB Law provides for a term of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to BD 20,000, without prejudice to any other penalty prescribed in any other law, in case of conviction of a Director, manager, official, agent or representative of any licensee who:

- (a) Conceals any records, information or documents requested by the CBB (or any person appointed by the CBB to conduct an investigation or inspection);
- (b) Provides statements or information in bad faith which do not reflect the actual financial position of the licensee;
- (c) Conceals from an external auditor any records, information or documents necessary for auditing the accounts of the licensee; or
- (d) Provides in bad faith any misleading or inaccurate statements to an external auditor which do not reflect the actual financial position of the licensee.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.4 Article 169

- EN-10.4.1 Article 169 provides for a term of imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to BD 20,000 for any Director, manager, official or employee, who acts or permits an act in violation of Article 134 of the CBB Law, dealing with the effects of insolvency, where he knows (or should have known) that the licensee is insolvent.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.5 Article 170

EN-10.5.1 Article 170(2) of the CBB Law provides for terms of imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding BD 3,000 if any Director, manager, official or employee intentionally obstructs an investigation by the CBB or an Appointed Expert.



MODULE	EN:	Enforcement
CHAPTER	EN-10:	Criminal Sanctions

EN-10.6 Article 171

EN-10.6.1 Article 171 of the CBB Law provides for a term of imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding BD 10,000, if any Director, manager, official or employee discloses in bad faith any confidential information relating to a customer of a licensee.