



# **FINANCIAL CRIME MODULE**

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MLRO	[This form is deleted 07/2010]	

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FC-(i)	Decree Law No. 4 (2001)	04/2006
FC-(i)(a)	Decree Law No. 54 (2006)	07/2007
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FC-(ii)	UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)	04/2006
FC-(iii)	UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999)	04/2006
FC-(iv)	Examples of Suspicious Transactions	04/2006
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<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-A:</b>	<b>Introduction</b>

## FC-A.1 Purpose

### *Executive Summary*

FC-A.1.1 This Module applies, to all investment firm licensees, a comprehensive framework of Rules and Guidance aimed at combating money laundering and terrorist financing. In so doing, it helps implement the FATF Recommendations on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism & proliferation, issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), that are relevant to investment firm licensees. It also helps implement IOSCO guidance in this area. (Further information on these can be found in Chapter FC-9.) The Module also contains measures relating to the combating of fraud in the investment business sector.

FC-A.1.2 The Module requires investment firm licensees to have effective anti-money laundering ('AML') policies and procedures, in addition to measures for combating the financing of terrorism ('CFT'). The Module contains detailed requirements relating to customer due diligence, reporting and the role and duties of the Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO). Furthermore, examples of suspicious activity are provided, to assist investment firm licensees monitor transactions and fulfil their reporting obligations under Bahrain law.

FC-A.1.3 This Module also covers measures in place to combat fraud: these apply to Category 1 investment firms and Category 2 investment firms. Chapter FC-10 sets out basic requirements regarding measures to deter, detect and report instances of fraud and attempted fraud.

### *Legal Basis*

**FC-A.1.4** This Module contains the Central Bank of Bahrain's ('CBB') Directive (as amended from time to time) regarding the combating money laundering and terrorism financing 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'). The Directive in this Module is applicable to all investment firm licensees.

FC-A.1.5 For an explanation of the CBB's rule-making powers and different regulatory instruments, see Section UG-1.1.

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## FC-A.2 Module History

### *Evolution of Module*

FC-A.2.1 This Module was first issued in April 2006, as part of the first phase of Volume 4 (Investment Business) to be released by the BMA. 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.

FC-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.

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

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
FC-4.3.1	07/2006	Updated telephone number for the Director, Compliance Directorate.
FC-A.1	07/2007	Updated to reflect new CBB Law: new Rule FC-A.1.4 introduced Categorising this Module as a Directive.
FC-4.3.1	07/2007	Updated new e-mail address for the Compliance Directorate.
FC-3.3.7	04/2008	Clarified to whom in the CBB, the reports required under Paragraph FC-3.3.1 should be submitted to.
Table of Contents	07/2008	Added Supplementary Information Documents to Part B.
FC-1.1.11	07/2010	Cross reference added.
FC-1.2.1, FC-1.2.3, FC-1.2.5, FC-1.9, FC-3.1, FC-3.2.1, FC-3.3.7, FC-4.2.3 and FC-4.3.1	07/2010	Paragraphs amended.
FC-1.6 and FC-1.7	07/2010	New sections added regarding enhanced CDD for charities, clubs and societies and “pooled funds”.
FC-3.3	07/2010	Heading amended.
FC-A.1.4	01/2011	Clarified legal basis.
FC-1.6.4	01/2011	Corrected name of Compliance Directorate.
FC-3.1.6	01/2011	Amended requirements for position of MLRO.
FC-3.1.6	10/2011	Corrected minor typo to be in line with other Volumes of the CBB Rulebook.
FC-3.3	10/2011	Amended Section to allow for CBB-approved consultancy firm to do required sample testing and report under Paragraph FC-3.3.1.
FC-3.3.5 and FC-3.3.6	01/2012	Amended to reflect the addition of approved consultancy firm.
FC	10/2014	Updated to reflect February 2012 update to FATF Recommendations.
FC-1.1.11	10/2015	Clarified Rule for incomplete customer due diligence.
FC-10.1.4	01/2016	Clarified Rule.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-A: Introduction</b>

## FC-A.2 Module History (continued)

### FC-A.2.3 Cont'd

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
FC-1.2.8	07/2016	Change made for consistency across CBB Rulebook.
FC-1.5.1	07/2016	Aligned definition of PEPs as per FATF Recommendations.
FC-1.5.4	07/2016	Definition of PEPs is already included in Glossary so this guidance paragraph was deleted.
FC-4.2.3	07/2016	Updated instructions for STR.
FC-1.2.9A	01/2017	Added guidance paragraph on CR printing
FC-7.2.1AA	04/2017	Implementing and complying with the United Nations Security Council resolutions requirement.
FC-1.1.2B	10/2017	Amended paragraph on CDD requirements.
FC-1.2.7	10/2017	Amended paragraph.
FC-1.2.8A	10/2017	Added new paragraph on legal entities or legal arrangements CDD.
FC-2.2.10 – FC-2.2.11	10/2017	Amended paragraphs on On-going CDD and Transaction Monitoring.
FC-3.1.3A	10/2017	Added paragraph on combining MLRO or DMLRO position with any other position within the licensee.
FC-B.2.4	01/2018	Amended paragraph.
FC-1.8.1	01/2018	Amended paragraph.
FC-1.10.1	01/2018	Deleted sub-paragraph.
FC-4.2.6	01/2018	Amended paragraph.
FC-7.1.4	01/2018	Amended paragraph.
FC-7.2.2	01/2018	Deleted paragraph.
FC-1.1.2	07/2018	Deleted sub-paragraph (a).
FC-1.2.1	07/2018	Amended Paragraph deleting the threshold.
FC-1.10.2	07/2018	Amended Paragraph.
FC-1.10.3	07/2018	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-1.10.9	07/2018	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-1.10.1	01/2019	Amended references.
FC-3.3.2 - FC-3.3.5	01/2019	Amended references.
FC-3.3.7	01/2019	Amended references.
FC-6.1.2	01/2019	Amended references.
FC-1.9.2	10/2019	Amended authority name.
FC-3.1.7	10/2019	Amended authority name.
FC-3.2.1	10/2019	Amended authority name.
FC-4.2.3	10/2019	Amended authority name.
FC-4.3.2	10/2019	Amended authority address.
FC-7.2.1AA	10/2019	Defined 'without delay'.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-A:</b>	<b>Introduction</b>

## FC-A.2 Module History (continued)

FC-A.2.3 Cont'd

Module Ref.	Change Date	Description of Changes
FC-1.1.1	01/2020	Amended Paragraph on procedures approval.
FC-1.2.1	01/2020	Added a new sub-Paragraph.
FC-3.2.1(d) & (e)	01/2020	Amended sub-Paragraphs.
FC-3.3.5	01/2020	Amended Paragraph on report submission date.
FC-3.3.7	01/2020	Amended Paragraphs references.
FC-2.1.3 & FC-2.1.4	04/2020	Added a new Paragraph on KPIs compliance with AML/CFT requirements.
FC-5.1.6A	01/2021	Added a new Paragraph on requirements to hire new employees.
FC-A.1.4	01/2022	Amended Paragraph to replace financial crime with money laundering and terrorism financing
FC-C	01/2022	New chapter on risk-based approach (RBA)
FC-1.1	01/2022	Amended Section to introduce additional rules for non-resident customers, amendments to customers onboarded prior to full completion of customer due diligence, digital onboarding etc.
FC-1.2	01/2022	Amended Section to include E-KYC and electronic documents law requirements.
FC-1.3	01/2022	Amended Section on enhanced due diligence requirements for customers identified as having higher risk profile.
FC-1.4	01/2022	Amended Section to introduce detailed requirements for digital onboarding and related requirements.
FC-1.5.2	01/2022	Amended Paragraph on onboarding non-Bahraini PEPs using digital ID applications.
FC-1.6	01/2022	Amended Section on Enhanced Due Diligence: Charities, Clubs and Other Societies.
FC-1.10.8A	01/2022	Added a new Paragraph on not applying simplified CDD in situations where the licensee has identified high ML/TF/PF risks.
FC-2.2.5	01/2022	Amended Paragraph.
FC-3.3.1B	01/2022	Amended Paragraph.
FC-3.3.2	01/2022	Amended Paragraph.
FC-3.3.5	01/2022	Amended Paragraph.
FC-3.3.6	01/2022	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-3.3.7	01/2022	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-5.1.6A	01/2022	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-C.2.3	01/2023	Minor amendment to Paragraph.
FC-7.2.4(c)	01/2023	Added a new Sub-paragraph on reporting any frozen assets or actions taken.
FC-1.1.12A	10/2023	Amended Sub-Paragraph on the enhanced diligence for the non-resident accounts.
FC-1.1.12G	10/2023	Deleted Paragraph.
FC-1.1.15	10/2023	Added a new Paragraph on CDD and Customer onboarding requirements.
FC-1.11	10/2023	Added a new Section on reliance on third parties for customer due diligence.
FC-1.2.1	01/2024	Amended Paragraph on customer due diligence.
FC-11	01/2024	Added a new Chapter on Crypto-assets.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-A: Introduction</b>

### *Superseded Requirements*

FC-A.2.4 Prior to the introduction of this Module, the CBB had issued various regulatory instruments containing requirements covering different aspects of financial crime. These requirements were consolidated and updated into a comprehensive financial crime regulation, issued in January 2006 to all non-bank and non-insurance licensees (including investment firm licensees, except those licensed as Bahrain Stock Exchange brokers). In turn, this new consolidated regulation was transposed, with no major changes, into the initial version of this Module. This and other instruments replaced by this Module are listed below:

Document Ref.	Date of Issue	Module Ref. (Version 01)	Document Subject
BC/17/97	10 Nov 1997	FC-B.1	Money Laundering.
OG/308/89	14 Oct 1989	FC-B.1	Money Laundering.
EDBC/6/01	14 Oct 2001	FC-1, FC-4 to FC-7	Re: Money Laundering Module.
BC/1/02	27 Jan 2002	FC-3	FATF Special Recommendations on Terrorism Financing.
BC/3/00	5 Mar 2000	FC-1.5	Re: Accounts for Charity Organisations.
Resolution No 1	31 Dec 2003	FC-1, FC-2, FC-4 to FC-7	Money Laundering (NB This Module replaces Resolution No. 1 with respect to BSE brokers, custodians and registrars only: Resolution No. 1, as amended, continues to apply to the BSE and issuers of securities.)
FIS/C/001/2006	2 Jan 2006	FC-A to FC-10	New Financial Crime Regulation.

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



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-B:</b>	<b>Scope of Application</b>

## FC-B.1 License Categories

### FC-B.1.1

This Module applies to all categories of investment firm licensees (i.e. categories 1, 2 and 3). Category 3 investment firms are exempt from Chapter FC-10, however.

FC-B.1.2 This Module applies to all investment firm licensees, irrespective of whether they are a Bahraini investment firm licensee or an overseas investment firm licensee operating in Bahrain as a branch. Overseas investment firm licensees, and Bahraini investment firm licensees that are subsidiaries of an overseas-based group, may apply additional AML/CFT policies and procedures, provided they satisfy the minimum requirements contained in this Module.

FC-B.1.3 Category 3 investment firms are exempt from Chapter FC-10 because of the limited nature of their business.

FC-B.1.4 The scope provided for simplified customer due diligence requirements – as set out in Section FC-1.8 – will reduce the burden of customer due diligence for many investment firm licensees.

FC-B.1.5 The requirements of this Module are in addition to and supplement Decree Law No. (4) of 2001 with respect to the prevention and prohibition of the laundering of money; this Law was subsequently updated, with the issuance of Decree Law No. 54 of 2006 with respect to amending certain provisions of Decree No. 4 of 2001 (collectively, ‘the AML Law’). The AML Law imposes obligations generally in relation to the prevention of money laundering and the combating of the financing of terrorism, to all persons resident in Bahrain (including financial services firms such as investment firm licensees). All investment firm licensees are therefore under the statutory obligations of that Law, in addition to the more specific requirements contained in this Module. Nothing in this Module is intended to restrict the application of the AML Law (a copy of which is contained in Part B of Volume 4 (Investment Business), under ‘Supplementary Information’). Also included in Part B is a copy of Decree Law No. 58 of 2006 with respect to the protection of society from terrorism activities (‘the anti-terrorism law’).

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC B:</b>	<b>Scope of Application</b>

## FC-B.2 Overseas Subsidiaries and Branches

### FC-B.2.1

**Investment firm licensees must apply the requirements in this Module to all their branches and subsidiaries operating both in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in foreign jurisdictions. Where local standards differ, the higher standard must be followed. Investment firm licensees must pay particular attention to procedures in branches or subsidiaries in countries that do not or insufficiently apply the FATF Recommendations and do not have adequate AML/CFT systems (see also Section FC-7.1).**

### FC-B.2.2

**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 this Module or higher, the licensee must immediately inform the CBB in writing.**

### FC-B.2.3

In such instances, the CBB will review alternatives with the licensee. Should the CBB and the licensee be unable to reach agreement on the satisfactory implementation of this Module in a foreign subsidiary or branch, the licensee may be required by the CBB to cease the operations of the subsidiary or branch in the foreign jurisdiction in question.

### FC-B.2.4

**Financial groups (e.g. an investment firm with its subsidiary) must implement groupwide programmes against money laundering and terrorist financing, including policies and procedures for sharing information within the group for AML/CFT purposes, which must also be applicable, and appropriate to, all branches and subsidiaries of the financial group. These must include:**

- (a) The development of internal policies, procedures and controls, including appropriate compliance management arrangements, and adequate screening procedures to ensure high standards when hiring employees;
- (b) An ongoing employee training programme;
- (c) An independent audit function to test the system;
- (d) Policies and procedures for sharing information required for the purposes of CDD and money laundering and terrorist financing risk management;
- (e) The provision at group-level compliance, audit, and/or AML/CFT functions of customer, account and transaction information from branches and subsidiaries when necessary for AML/CFT purposes; and
- (f) Adequate safeguards on the confidentiality and use of information exchanged.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-C:</b>	<b>Risk Based Approach</b>

## FC-C.1 Risk Based Approach

### FC-C.1.1

A investment firm licensee must implement Risk Based Approach (RBA) in establishing an AML/CFT/CPF program and conduct ML/TF/PF risk assessments prior to and during the establishment of a business relationship and, on an ongoing basis, throughout the course of its relationship with the customer. The licensee must establish and implement policies, procedures, tools and systems commensurate with the size, nature and complexity of its business operations to support its RBA.

### FC-C.1.2

An investment firm licensee must perform enhanced measures where higher ML/TF/PF risks are identified to effectively manage and mitigate those higher risks.

### FC-C.1.3

An investment firm licensee must maintain and regularly review and update the documented risk assessment. The risk management and mitigation measures implemented by a licensee must be commensurate with the identified ML/TF/PF risks.

### FC-C.1.4

Investment firm licensees must allocate adequate financial, human and technical resources and expertise to effectively implement and take appropriate preventive measures to mitigate ML/TF/PF risks.

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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-C:</b>	<b>Risk Based Approach</b>

## FC-C.2 Risk Assessment

**FC-C.2.1** An investment firm licensee must ensure that it takes measures to identify, assess, monitor, manage and mitigate ML/TF/PF risks to which it is exposed and that the measures taken are commensurate with the nature, scale and complexities of its activities. The risk assessment must enable the licensee to understand how, and to what extent, it is vulnerable to ML/TF/PF.

**FC-C.2.2** In the context of the risk assessment, “proliferation financing risk” refers to the potential breach, non-implementation or evasion of the targeted financial sanctions obligations referred to in FATF Recommendation 7.

**FC-C.2.3** The risk assessment must be properly documented, regularly updated and communicated to the investment firm licensee’s senior management. Licensees must have in place policies, controls and procedures, which are approved by senior management, to enable them to manage and mitigate the risks that have been identified. In conducting its risk assessments, the licensee must consider quantitative and qualitative information obtained from the relevant internal and external sources to identify, manage and mitigate these risks. This must include consideration of the risk and threat assessments using, national risk assessments, sectorial risk assessments, crime statistics, typologies, risk indicators, red flags, guidance and advisories issued by inter-governmental organisations, national competent authorities and the FATF, and AML/CFT/CPF mutual evaluation and follow-up reports by the FATF or associated assessment bodies.

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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-C:</b>	<b>Risk Based Approach</b>

## FC-C.2 Risk Assessment (continued)

### FC-C.2.4

An investment firm licensee must assess country/geographic risk, customer/investor risk, product/ service/ transactions risk and distribution channel risk taking into consideration the appropriate factors in identifying and assessing the ML/TF/PF risks, including the following:

- (a) The nature, scale, diversity and complexity of its business, products and target markets;
- (b) Products, services and transactions that inherently provide more anonymity, ability to pool underlying customers/funds, cash-based, face-to-face, non face-to-face, domestic or cross-border;
- (c) The volume and size of its transactions, nature of activity and the profile of its customers;
- (d) The proportion of customers identified as high risk;
- (e) Its target markets and the jurisdictions it is exposed to, either through its own activities or the activities of customers, especially jurisdictions with relatively higher levels of corruption or organised crime, and/or deficient AML/CFT/CPF controls and listed by FATF;
- (f) The complexity of the transaction chain (e.g. complex layers of intermediaries and sub intermediaries or distribution channels that may anonymise or obscure the chain of transactions) and types of distributors or intermediaries;
- (g) The distribution channels, including the extent to which the licensee deals directly with the customer and the extent to which it relies (or is allowed to rely) on third parties to conduct CDD and the use of technology; and
- (h) Internal audit, external audit or regulatory inspection findings.

#### *Country/Geographic risk*

### FC-C.2.5

Country/geographic area risk, in conjunction with other risk factors, provides useful information as to potential ML/TF/PF risks. Factors that may be considered as indicators of higher risk include:

- (a) Countries identified by credible sources, such as mutual evaluation or detailed assessment reports or published follow-up reports, as not having adequate AML/CFT/CPF systems;
- (b) Countries or geographic areas identified by credible sources as providing funding or support for terrorist activities, or that have designated terrorist organisations operating within their country;

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## FC-C.2 Risk Assessment (continued)

- (c) Countries identified by credible sources as having significant levels of corruption or organized crime or other criminal activity, including source or transit countries for illegal drugs, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal gambling;
- (d) Countries subject to sanctions, embargoes or similar measures issued by international organisations such as the United Nations Organisation; and
- (e) Countries identified by credible sources as having weak governance, law enforcement, and regulatory regimes, including countries identified by the FATF statements as having weak AML/CFT/CPF regimes, and for which financial institutions should give special attention to business relationships and transactions.

### *Customer/Investor risk*

#### FC-C.2.6

Categories of customers which may indicate a higher risk include:

- (a) The business relationship is conducted in unusual circumstances (e.g. significant unexplained geographic distance between the financial institution and the customer).
- (b) Non-resident customers;
- (c) Legal persons or arrangements that are personal asset-holding vehicles;
- (d) Companies that have nominee shareholders or shares in bearer form;
- (e) Businesses that are cash-intensive;
- (f) The ownership structure of the company appears unusual or excessively complex given the nature of the company's business;
- (g) Customer is sanctioned by the relevant national competent authority for non-compliance with the applicable AML/CFT/CPF regime and is not engaging in remediation to improve its compliance;
- (h) Customer is a PEP or customer's family members, or close associates are PEPs (including where a beneficial owner of a customer is a PEP);
- (i) Customer resides in or whose primary source of income originates from high-risk jurisdictions;
- (j) Customer resides in countries considered to be uncooperative in providing beneficial ownership information; customer has been mentioned in negative news reports from credible media, particularly those related to predicate offences for AML/CFT/CPF or to financial crimes;
- (k) Customer's transactions indicate a potential connection with criminal involvement, typologies or red flags provided in reports produced by the FATF or national competent authorities;
- (l) Customer is engaged in, or derives wealth or revenues from, a high-risk cash-intensive business;
- (m) The number of STRs and their potential concentration on particular client groups;
- (n) Customers who have sanction exposure; and
- (o) Customer has a non-transparent ownership structure.

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## FC-C.2 Risk Assessment (continued)

### *Product/Service/Transactions risk*

- FC-C.2.7 An overall risk assessment should include determining the potential risks presented by product, service, transaction or the delivery channel of the investment firm licensee. A licensee should assess, using a RBA, the extent to which the offering of its product, service, transaction or the delivery channel presents potential vulnerabilities to placement, layering or integration of criminal proceeds into the financial system.
- FC-C.2.8 Determining the risks of product, service, transaction or the delivery channel offered to customers may include a consideration of their attributes, as well as any associated risk mitigation measures. Products and services that may indicate a higher risk include:
- (a) Wealth management/private banking;
  - (b) Anonymous transactions (which may include cash);
  - (c) Non-face-to-face business relationships or transactions;
  - (d) Payment received from unknown or un-associated third parties;
  - (e) Products or services that may inherently favour anonymity or obscure information about underlying customer transactions;
  - (f) The geographical reach of the product or service offered, such as those emanating from higher risk jurisdictions;
  - (g) Products with unusual complexity or structure and with no obvious economic purpose;
  - (h) Products or services that permit the unrestricted or anonymous transfer of value (by payment or change of asset ownership) to an unrelated third party, particularly those residing in a higher risk jurisdiction; and
  - (i) Use of new technologies or payment methods not used in the normal course of business by the investment firm licensee.

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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-C:</b>	<b>Risk Based Approach</b>

## FC-C.2 Risk Assessment (continued)

### *Distribution Channel Risk*

- FC-C.2.9 A customer may request transactions that pose an inherently higher risk to the investment firm licensee. Factors that may be considered as indicators of higher risk include:
- (a) A request is made to transfer funds to a higher risk jurisdiction/country/region without a reasonable business purpose provided; and
  - (b) A transaction is requested to be executed, where the licensee is made aware that the transaction will be cleared/settled through an unregulated entity.
- FC-C.2.10 An investment firm licensee should analyse the specific risk factors, which arise from the use of intermediaries and their services. Intermediaries' involvement may vary with respect to the activity they undertake and their relationship with the licensees. Licensee should understand who the intermediary is and perform a risk assessment on the intermediary prior to establishing a business relationship. Licensees and intermediaries should establish clearly their respective responsibilities for compliance with applicable regulation.



<b>REGULATION</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1: Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

## FC-1.1 General Requirements

### *Verification of Identity and Source of Funds*

#### FC-1.1.1

Investment firm licensees must establish effective systematic internal procedures for establishing and verifying the identity of their customers and the source of their funds. Such procedures must be set out in writing and approved by the investment firm licensee's senior management and must be strictly adhered to.

#### FC-1.1.2

Investment firm licensees must implement the customer due diligence measures outlined in Chapter FC-1 when:

- (a) [This Sub-paragraph was deleted in July 2018];
- (b) Establishing business relations with a new or existing customer;
- (c) A change to the signatory or beneficiary of an existing account or business relationship is made;
- (d) Customer documentation standards change substantially;
- (e) The licensee has doubts about the veracity or adequacy of previously obtained customer due diligence information;
- (f) A significant transaction takes place;
- (g) There is a material change in the way that an account is operated or in the manner in which the business relationship is conducted;  
or
- (h) There is a suspicion of money laundering or terrorist financing.

#### FC-1.1.2A

Investment firm licensees must understand, and as appropriate, obtain information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship.

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## FC-1.1 General Requirements (continued)

### FC-1.1.2B

Investment firm licensees must conduct ongoing due diligence on the business relationship, including;

- (a) Scrutinizing of transactions undertaken throughout the course of that relationship to ensure that the transactions being conducted are consistent with the institution's knowledge of the customer, their business and risk profile, including, where necessary, the source of funds; and
- (b) Ensuring that documents, data and information collected under the CDD process is kept up-to-date and relevant, by undertaking reviews of existing records, particularly for higher risk categories of customers.

### FC-1.1.2C

An investment firm licensee must also review and update the customer's risk profile based on their level of ML/TF/PF risk upon onboarding the customer and regularly throughout the life of the relationship. The risk management and mitigation measures implemented by a licensee must be commensurate with the risk profile of a particular customer or type of customer.

FC-1.1.3 For the purposes of this Module, 'customer' includes counterparties such as financial markets counterparties, except where financial institutions are acting as principals where simplified due diligence measures may apply. These simplified measures are set out in Section FC-1.8.

FC-1.1.4 The CBB's specific minimum standards to be followed with respect to verifying customer identity and source of funds are contained in Section FC-1.2, with further explanations provided in Guidance Notes (see Supplementary Information, item FC-(v), in Part B of Volume 4). Enhanced requirements apply under certain high-risk situations: these requirements are contained in Sections FC-1.3 to FC-1.5 inclusive. Additional requirements apply where a licensee is relying on a professional intermediary to perform certain parts of the customer due diligence process: these are detailed in Section FC-1.6. Simplified customer due diligence measures may apply in defined circumstances: these are set out in Section FC-1.8.

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## FC-1.1 General Requirements (continued)

### *Verification of Third Parties*

FC-1.1.5

Investment firm licensees must obtain a signed statement, in hard copy or through digital means from all new customers confirming whether or not the customer is acting on his own behalf or not. This undertaking must be obtained prior to conducting any transactions with the customer concerned.

FC-1.1.6

Where a customer is acting on behalf of a third party, the licensee must also obtain a signed statement from the third party, confirming they have given authority to the customer to act on their behalf. Where the third party is a legal person, the licensee must have sight of the original Board resolution (or other applicable document) authorising the customer to act on the third party's behalf and retain a certified copy.

FC-1.1.7

Investment firm licensees must establish and verify the identity of the customer and (where applicable) the party/parties on whose behalf the customer is acting, including the Beneficial Owner of the funds. Verification must take place in accordance with the requirements specified in this Chapter.

FC-1.1.8

Where financial services are provided to a minor or other person lacking full legal capacity, the normal identification procedures as set out in this Chapter must be followed. In the case of minors, investment firm licensees must additionally verify the identity of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Where a third party on behalf of a person lacking full legal capacity wishes to open business relations, the licensee must establish the identity of that third party as well as the person conducting the business.



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## FC-1.1 General Requirements (continued)

### *Anonymous and Nominee Accounts*

#### FC-1.1.9

Investment firm licensees must not establish or keep anonymous accounts or accounts in fictitious names. Where investment firm licensees maintain a nominee account, which is controlled by or held for the benefit of another person, the identity of that person must be disclosed to the licensee and verified by it in accordance with the requirements specified in this Chapter.

### *Timing of Verification*

#### FC-1.1.10

Investment firm licensees must not commence a business relationship or undertake a transaction with a customer before completion of the relevant customer due diligence ('CDD') measures specified in Chapter FC-1. Licensees must also adopt risk management procedures with respect to the conditions under which a customer may utilise the business relationship prior to verification. However, verification may be completed after receipt of funds in the case of non face-to-face business, or the subsequent submission of CDD documents by the customer after undertaking initial customer due diligence provided that no disbursement of funds takes place until after the requirements of this Chapter have been fully met.

### *Incomplete Customer Due Diligence*

#### FC-1.1.11

Where a licensee is unable to comply with the requirements specified in Chapter FC-1, it must consider whether to terminate the relationship or not proceed with the transaction. If funds have been received, these must be returned to the counterparty in the same method as originally received. If it proceeds with the transaction (to avoid tipping off the customer), it should additionally consider whether it should file a suspicious transaction report (STR).

#### FC-1.1.12

See also Chapter FC-4, which covers the filing of suspicious transaction reports. Regarding the return of funds to the counterparty, if funds are received in cash, funds should be returned in cash. If funds are received by wire transfer, they should be returned by wire transfer.



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## FC-1.1 General Requirements (continued)

### *Non-Resident Accounts*

#### FC-1.1.12A

Investment firm licensees that open accounts or otherwise-transact or deal with non-resident customers who are natural persons must have documented criteria for acceptance of business with such persons. For non-resident customers, assessed as high risk, investment firm licensees must ensure the following:

- (a) Ensure there is a viable economic reason for the business relationship;
- (b) Perform enhanced due diligence where required in accordance with Paragraph FC-1.1.15;
- (c) Obtain and document the country of residence for tax purposes where relevant;
- (d) Obtain evidence of banking relationships in the country of residence;
- (e) Obtain the reasons for dealing with licensee in Bahrain;
- (f) Obtain an indicative transaction volume and/or value of incoming funds; and
- (g) Test that the persons are contactable without unreasonable delays.

#### FC-1.1.12B

Investment firm licensees must not accept non-residents customers from high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action by FATF.

#### FC-1.1.12C

Investment firm licensees must take adequate precautions and risk mitigation measures before onboarding non-resident customers from high-risk jurisdictions. The licensees must establish detailed assessments and criteria that take into consideration FATF mutual evaluations, FATF guidance, the country national risk assessments (NRAs) and other available guidance on onboarding and retaining non-resident customers from the following high-risk jurisdictions:

- (a) Jurisdictions under increased monitoring by FATF;
- (b) Countries upon which United Nations sanctions have been imposed except those referred to in Paragraph FC-1.1.12B; and
- (c) Countries that are the subject of any other sanctions.



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## FC-1.1 General Requirements (continued)

**FC-1.1.12D** Investment firm licensees must establish systems and measures that are proportional to the risk relevant to each jurisdiction and this must be documented. Such a document must show the risks, mitigation measures for each jurisdiction and for each non-resident customer.

**FC-1.1.12E** Investment firm licensees must establish a comprehensive documented policy and procedures describing also the tools, methodology and systems that support the licensee's processes for:

- (a) The application of RBA;
- (b) Customer due diligence;
- (c) Ongoing transaction monitoring; and
- (d) Reporting in relation to their transactions or dealings with non-resident customers.

**FC-1.1.12F** Investment firm licensees must ensure that only the official/government documents are accepted for the purpose of information in Subparagraphs FC-1.2.1 (a) to (f) in the case of non-resident customers.

**FC-1.1.12G** [This Paragraph has been deleted in October 2023].

**FC-1.1.13** [This Paragraph was deleted in October 2014].

FC-1.1.14 [This Paragraph was deleted in October 2014].

**FC-1.1.15** Investment firm licensees must follow the below CDD and customer onboarding requirements:

	Enhanced Due Diligence	Digital Onboarding
Bahrainis and GCC nationals (wherever they reside) and expatriates resident in Bahrain	No	Yes
Others	Yes	Yes



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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business

### *Natural Persons*

#### FC-1.2.1

If the customer is a natural person, investment firm licensees must identify the person's identity and obtain the following information before providing financial services of any kind:

- (a) Full legal name and any other names used;
- (b) Full permanent address (i.e. the residential address of the customer; a post office box is insufficient);
- (c) Date of birth;
- (d) Nationality;
- (e) Passport number (if the customer is a passport holder);
- (f) Current CPR or residency permit number (for residents of Bahrain or GCC states) or government issued national identification proof;
- (g) Telephone/fax number and email address (where applicable);
- (h) Occupation or public position held (where applicable);
- (i) Employer's name and address (if self-employed, the nature of the self-employment);
- (j) Type of account, and nature and volume of anticipated business dealings with the licensee;
- (k) Signature of the customer(s);
- (l) Source of funds;
- (m) Reason for opening the account; and
- (n) Place of birth.

#### FC-1.2.1A

Investment firm licensees obtaining the information and customer signature electronically using digital applications must comply with the applicable laws governing the onboarding/business relationship including but not limited to the Electronic Communications and Transactions Law (Law No. 54 of 2018) for the purposes of obtaining signatures as required in Subparagraph FC-1.2.1 (k) above.

FC-1.2.2 See the Guidance Notes (filed under Supplementary Information in Part B of Volume 4) for further information on source of funds (FC-1.2.1 (1)) and CDD requirements for Bahrain residents (FC-1.2.1 (c) & (f)).



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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business

### FC-1.2.3

Investment firm licensees must verify the information in Paragraph FC-1.2.1 (a) to (f), by the following methods below; at least one of the copies of the identification documents mentioned in (a) and (b) below must include a clear photograph of the customer:

- (a) Confirmation of the date of birth and legal name, by use of the national E-KYC application and if this is not practical, obtaining a copy of a current valid official original identification document (e.g. birth certificate, passport, national identity card, CPR or Iqama);
- (b) Confirmation of the permanent residential address by use of the national E-KYC application and if this is not practical, obtaining a copy of a recent utility bill, bank statement or similar statement from another licensee or financial institution, or some form of official correspondence or official documentation card, such as national identity card or CPR, from a public/governmental authority, or a tenancy agreement or record of home visit by an official of the licensee; and
- (c) Where appropriate, direct contact with the customer by phone, letter or email to confirm relevant information, such as residential address information.

### FC-1.2.4

Any document copied or obtained for the purpose of identification verification in a face-to-face customer due diligence process must be an original. An authorised official of the licensee must certify the copy, by writing on it the words 'original sighted', together with the date and his signature. Equivalent measures must be taken for electronic copies.

### FC-1.2.5

Identity documents which are not obtained by an authorised official of the licensee in original form (e.g. due to a customer sending a copy by post following an initial meeting) must instead be certified (as per FC-1.2.4) by one of the following from a GCC or FATF member state:

- (a) A lawyer;
- (b) A notary;
- (c) A chartered/certified accountant;
- (d) An official of a government ministry;
- (e) An official of an embassy or consulate; or
- (f) An official of another licensed financial institution or of a licensed associate company of the licensee.





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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business (continued)

### FC-1.2.6

The individual making the certification under FC-1.2.5 must give clear contact details (e.g. by attaching a business card or company stamp). The licensee must verify the identity of the person providing the certification through checking membership of a professional organisation (for lawyers or accountants), or through checking against databases/websites, or by direct phone or email contact.

#### *Legal Entities or Legal Arrangements (such as trusts)*

### FC-1.2.7

If the customer is a legal entity or a legal arrangement such as a trust, the licensee must obtain and record the following information from original identification documents, databases or websites, in hard copy or electronic form, to identify the customer and to take reasonable measures to verify its identity, legal existence and structure:

- (a) The entity's full name and other trading names used;
- (b) Registration number (or equivalent);
- (c) Legal form and proof of existence;
- (d) Registered address and trading address (where applicable);
- (e) Type of business activity;
- (f) Date and place of incorporation or establishment;
- (g) Telephone, fax number and email address;
- (h) Regulatory body or listing body (for regulated activities such as financial services and listed companies);
- (hh) The names of the relevant persons having a senior management position in the legal entity or legal arrangement;
- (i) Name of external auditor (where applicable);
- (j) Type of account, and nature and volume of anticipated business dealings with the licensee; and
- (k) Source of funds.

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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business (continued)

### FC-1.2.8

The information provided under FC-1.2.7 must be verified by obtaining certified copies of the following documents, as applicable (depending on the legal form of the entity):

- (a) Certificate of incorporation and/or certificate of commercial registration or trust deed;
- (b) Memorandum of association;
- (c) Articles of association;
- (d) Partnership agreement;
- (e) Board resolution seeking the financial services (only necessary in the case of private or unlisted companies);
- (f) Identification documentation of the authorised signatories of the account (certification not necessary for companies listed in a GCC/FATF state);
- (g) Copy of the latest financial report and accounts, audited where possible (audited copies do not need to be certified); and
- (h) List of persons authorised to do business on behalf of the company and in the case of the opening of an account, a Board resolution (or other applicable document) authorising the named persons to operate the account (resolution only necessary for private or unlisted companies).

### FC-1.2.8A

For customers that are legal persons, Investment firm licensees must identify and take reasonable measures to verify the identity of beneficial owners through the following information:

- (a) The identity of the natural person(s) who ultimately have a controlling ownership interest in a legal person, and
- (b) To the extent that there is doubt under (a) as to whether the person(s) with the controlling ownership interest is the beneficial owner(s), or where no natural person exerts control of the legal person or arrangement through other means; and
- (c) Where no natural person is identified under (a) or (b) above, the identity of the relevant natural person who holds the position of senior managing official.

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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business (continued)

**FC-1.2.9** Documents obtained to satisfy the requirements in Paragraph FC-1.2.8 above must be certified in the manner specified in Paragraphs FC-1.2.4 to FC-1.2.6.

FC-1.2.9A For the purpose of Paragraph FC-1.2.8(a), the requirement to obtain a certified copy of the commercial registration, may be satisfied by obtaining a commercial registration abstract printed directly from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism’s website, through “SIJILAT Commercial Registration Portal”.

FC-1.2.10 The documentary requirements in Paragraph FC-1.2.8 above do not apply in the case of FATF/GCC listed companies: see Section FC-1.8 below. Also, the documents listed in Paragraph FC-1.2.8 above are not exhaustive: for customers from overseas jurisdictions, documents of an equivalent nature may be produced as satisfactory evidence of a customer’s identity.

**FC-1.2.11** Investment firm licensees must also obtain and document the following due diligence information. These due diligence requirements must be incorporated in the licensee’s new business procedures:

- (a) Enquire as to the structure of the legal entity or trust sufficient to determine and verify the identity of the ultimate beneficial owner of the funds, the ultimate provider of funds (if different), and the ultimate controller of the funds (if different);
- (b) Ascertain whether the legal entity has been or is in the process of being wound up, dissolved, struck off or terminated;
- (c) Obtain the names, country of residence and nationality of Directors or partners (only necessary for private or unlisted companies);
- (d) Require, through new customer documentation or other transparent means, updates on significant changes to corporate ownership and/or legal structure;
- (e) Obtain and verify the identity of shareholders holding 20% or more of the issued capital (where applicable). The requirement to verify the identity of these shareholders does not apply in the case of FATF/GCC listed companies;
- (f) In the case of trusts or similar arrangements, establish the identity of the settlor(s), trustee(s), and beneficiaries (including making such reasonable enquiries as to ascertain the identity of any other potential beneficiary, in addition to the named beneficiaries of the trust); and
- (g) Where a licensee has reasonable grounds for questioning the authenticity of the information supplied by a customer, conduct additional due diligence to confirm the above information.



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## FC-1.2 Face-to-face Business (continued)

FC-1.2.12 For the purposes of Paragraph FC-1.2.11, acceptable means of undertaking such due diligence might include taking bank references; visiting or contacting the company by telephone; undertaking a company search or other commercial enquiries; accessing public and private databases (such as stock exchange lists); making enquiries through a business information service or credit bureau; confirming a company's status with an appropriate legal or accounting firm; or undertaking other enquiries that are commercially reasonable.

FC-1.2.13 In cases where an investment firm licensee is providing investment management services to a regulated mutual fund and is not responsible for receiving investors' funds being paid into the fund, it may limit its CDD to confirming that the administrator of the fund is subject to FATF-equivalent customer due diligence measures (see FC-1.6 for applicable measures). Where there are reasonable grounds for believing that investors' funds being paid into the fund are not being adequately verified by the administrator, then the investment firm licensee should consider terminating its relationship with the fund.



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### FC-1.3 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: General Requirements

#### FC-1.3.1

Enhanced customer due diligence must be performed on those customers identified as having a higher risk profile, and additional inquiries made or information obtained in respect of those customers.

FC-1.3.2 Licensees should examine, as far as reasonably possible, the background and purpose of all complex, unusual large transactions, and all unusual patterns of transactions, which have no apparent economic or lawful purpose. Where the risks of money laundering or terrorist financing are higher, licensees should conduct enhanced CDD measures, consistent with the risks identified. In particular, they should increase the degree and nature of monitoring of the business relationship, in order to determine whether those transactions or activities appear unusual or suspicious. The additional inquiries or information referred to in Paragraph FC-1.3.1 include:

- (a) Obtaining additional information on the customer (e.g. occupation, volume of assets, information available through public databases, internet, etc.), and updating more regularly the identification data of customer and beneficial owner;
- (b) Obtaining additional information on the intended nature of the business relationship;
- (c) Obtaining information on the source of funds or source of wealth of the customer;
- (d) Obtaining information on the reasons for intended or performed transactions;
- (e) Obtaining the approval of senior management to commence or continue the business relationship;
- (f) Conducting enhanced monitoring of the business relationship, by increasing the number and timing of controls applied, and selecting patterns of transactions that need further examination;
- (g) Taking specific measures to identify the source of the first payment in this account and applying RBA to ensure that there is a plausible explanation in any case where the first payment was not received from the same customer's account;
- (h) Obtaining evidence of a person's permanent address through the use of a credit reference agency search, or through independent governmental database or by home visit;
- (i) Obtaining a personal reference (e.g. by an existing customer of the licensee);
- (j) Obtaining another licensed entity's reference and contact with the concerned licensee regarding the customer;
- (k) Obtaining documentation outlining the customer's source of wealth;
- (l) Obtaining additional documentation outlining the customer's source of income; and
- (m) Obtaining additional independent verification of employment or public position held.



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**FC-1.3      Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: General Requirements  
(continued)**

FC-1.3.3      In addition to the general Rule contained in Paragraph FC-1.3.1 above, special care is required in the circumstances specified in Sections FC-1.4 to FC-1.7 inclusive.



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## FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies

**FC-1.4.1** Investment firm licensees must establish specific procedures for verifying customer identity where no face-to-face contact takes place.

**FC-1.4.2** Where no face-to-face contact takes place, investment firm licensees must take additional measures (to those specified in Section FC-1.2), in order to mitigate the potentially higher risk associated with such business. In particular, investment firm licensees must take measures:

- (a) To ensure that the customer is the person they claim to be; and
- (b) To ensure that the address provided is genuinely the customer's.

FC-1.4.3 There are a number of checks that can provide a licensee with a reasonable degree of assurance as to the authenticity of the applicant. They include:

- (a) Telephone contact with the applicant on an independently verified home or business number;
- (b) With the customer's consent, contacting an employer to confirm employment, via phone through a listed number or in writing;
- (c) Salary details appearing on recent bank statements;
- (d) Independent verification of employment (e.g.: through the use of a national E-KYC application, or public position held;
- (e) Carrying out additional searches (e.g. internet searches using independent and open sources) to better inform the customer risk profile;
- (f) Carrying out additional searches focused on financial crime risk indicator (i.e. negative news);
- (g) Evaluating the information provided with regard to the destination of fund and the reasons for the transaction;
- (h) Seeking and verifying additional information from the customer about the purpose and intended nature of the transaction or the business relationship; and
- (i) Increasing the frequency and intensity of transaction monitoring.

**FC-1.4.4** Financial services provided using digital channels or internet pose greater challenges for customer identification and AML/CFT purposes. Investment firm licensees must identify and assess the money laundering or terrorist financing risks relevant to any new technology or channel and establish procedures to prevent the misuse of technological developments in money laundering or terrorist financing schemes. The risk assessments must be consistent with the requirements in Section FC-C.2.

**FC-1.4.5** Investment firm licensees must identify and assess the money laundering or terrorist financing risks that may arise in relation to:

- (a) The development of new products and new business practices, including new delivery mechanisms; and
- (b) The use of new or developing technologies for both new and pre-existing products.



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#### FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies (continued)

##### FC-1.4.6

For purposes of Paragraph FC-1.4.5, such a risk assessment consistent with the requirements in Section FC-C.2 and must take place prior to the launch of the new products, business practices or the use of new or developing technologies. Investment firm licensees must take appropriate measures to manage and mitigate those risks.

##### *Enhanced Monitoring*

##### FC-1.4.7

Customers onboarded digitally must be subject to enhanced on-going account monitoring measures.

##### FC-1.4.8

The CBB may require a licensee to share the details of the enhanced monitoring and the on-going monitoring process for non face-to-face customer relationships.

##### *Licensee's digital ID applications*

##### FC- 1.4.9

Investment firm licensees may use its digital ID applications that use secure audio-visual real time (live video conferencing/live photo selfies) communication means to identify the natural person.

##### FC- 1.4.10

Investment firm licensees must maintain a document available upon request for the use of its digital ID applications that includes all the following information:

- (a) A description of the nature of products and services for which the proprietary digital ID application is planned to be used with specific references to the rules in this Module for which it will be used;
- (b) A description of the systems and IT infrastructure that are planned to be used;
- (c) A description of the technology and applications that have the features for facial recognition or biometric recognition to authenticate independently and match the face and the customer identification information available with the licensee. The process and the features used in conjunction with video conferencing include, among others, face recognition, three-dimensional face matching techniques etc;
- (d) "Liveness" checks created in the course of the identification process;
- (e) A description of the governance arrangements related to this activity including the availability of specially trained personnel with sufficient level of seniority; and
- (f) Record keeping arrangements for electronic records to be maintained and the relative audit.





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CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

#### FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies (continued)

##### FC-1.4.11

Investment firm licensees that intends to use its digital ID application to identify the customer and verify identity information must meet the following additional requirements:

- (a) The digital ID application must make use of secure audio visual real time (live video conferencing/ live photo selfies) technology to (i) identify the customer, (ii) verify his/her identity, and also (iii) ensure the data and documents provided are authentic;
- (b) The picture/sound quality must be adequate to facilitate unambiguous identification;
- (c) The digital ID application must include or be combined with capability to read and decrypt the information stored in the identification document's machine-readable zone (MRZ) for authenticity checks from independent and reliable sources;
- (d) Where the MRZ reader is with an outsourced provider, the licensee must ensure that such party is authorized to carry out such services and the information is current and up to date and readily available such that the licensee can check that the decrypted information matches the other information in the identification document;
- (e) The digital ID application has the features for allowing facial recognition or biometric recognition that can authenticate and match the face and the customer identification documents independently;
- (f) The digital ID solution has been tested by an independent expert covering the governance and control processes to ensure the integrity of the solution and underlying methodologies, technology and processes and risk mitigation. The report of the expert's findings must be retained and available upon request;
- (g) The digital ID application must enable an ongoing process of retrieving and updating the digital files, identity attributes, or data fields which are subject to documented access rights and authorities for updating and changes; and
- (h) The digital ID application must have the geo-location features which must be used by the licensee to ensure that it is able to identify any suspicious locations and to make additional inquiries if the location from which a customer is completing the onboarding process does not match the location of the customer based on the information and documentation submitted.



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#### FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies (continued)

##### FC-1.4.12

Investment firm licensees using its digital ID application must establish and implement an approved policy which lays down the governance, control mechanisms, systems and procedures for the CDD which include:

- (a) A description of the nature of products and services for which customer due diligence may be conducted through video conferencing or equivalent electronic means;
- (b) A description of the systems, controls and IT infrastructure planned to be used;
- (c) Governance mechanism related to this activity;
- (d) Specially trained personnel with sufficient level of seniority; and
- (e) Record keeping arrangements for electronic records to be maintained and the relative audit trail.

##### FC-1.4.13

Investment firm licensees must ensure that the information referred to in Paragraph FC-1.2.1 is collected in adherence to privacy laws and other applicable laws of the country of residence of the customer.

##### FC-1.4.14

Investment firm licensees must ensure that the information referred to in Subparagraphs FC-1.2.1 (a) to (f) is obtained prior to commencing the digital verification such that:

- (a) The licensee can perform its due diligence prior to the digital interaction/communication and can raise targeted questions at such interaction/communication session; and
- (b) The licensee can verify the authenticity, validity and accuracy of such information through digital means (See Paragraph FC.1.4.16 below) or by use of the methods mentioned in Paragraph FC-1.2.3 and /or FC-1.4.3 as appropriate.

##### FC-1.4.15

The licensee must also obtain the customer's explicit consent to record the session and capture images as may be needed.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

#### FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies (continued)

##### FC-1.4.16

Investment firm licensees must verify the information in Paragraph FC-1.2.1 (a) to (f) by the following methods below:

- (a) Confirmation of the date of birth and legal name by digital reading and authenticating current valid passport or other official original identification using machine readable zone (MRZ) or other technology which has been approved under paragraph FC-1.4.9, unless the information was verified using national E-KYC application;
- (b) Performing real time video calls with the applicant to identify the person and match the person's face and /other features through facial recognition or bio-metric means with the office documentation, (e.g. passport, CPR);
- (c) Matching the official identification document, (e.g. passport, CPR) and related information provided with the document captured/displayed on the live video call; and
- (d) Confirmation of the permanent residential address by, unless the information was verified using national E-KYC application capturing live, the recent utility bill, bank statement or similar statement from another licensee or financial institution, or some form of official correspondence or official documentation card, such as national identity card or CPR, from a public/governmental authority, or a tenancy agreement or record of home visit by an official of the investment firm licensee.

FC-1.4.17 For the purposes of Paragraph FC-1.4.16, actions taken for obtaining and verifying customer identity could include:

- (a) *Collection*: Present and collect identity attributes and evidence, either in person and/or online (e.g., by filling out an online form, sending a selfie photo, uploading photos of documents such as passport or driver's license, etc.);
- (b) *Certification*: Digital or physical inspection to ensure the document is authentic and its data or information is accurate (for example, checking physical security features, expiration dates, and verifying attributes via other services);
- (c) *De-duplication*: Establish that the identity attributes and evidence relate to a unique person in the ID system (e.g., via duplicate record searches, biometric recognition and/or deduplication algorithms);
- (d) *Verification*: Link the individual to the identity evidence provided (e.g., using biometric solutions like facial recognition and liveness detection); and
- (e) *Enrolment* in identity account and binding: Create the identity account and issue and link one or more authenticators with the identity account (e.g., passwords, one-time code (OTC) generator on a smartphone, etc.). This process enables authentication.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1:</b>	<b>Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

#### FC-1.4 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Non face-to-face Business and New Technologies (continued)

FC-1.4.18 Not all elements of a digital ID system are necessarily digital. Some elements of identity proofing and enrolment can be either digital or physical (documentary), or a combination, but binding and authentication must be digital.

**FC-1.4.19** Sufficient controls must be put in place to safeguard the data relating to customer information collected through the video conference and due regard must be paid to the requirements of the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL). Additionally, controls must be put in place to minimize the increased impersonation fraud risk in such non face-to-face relationship where there is a chance that customer may not be who he claims he is.

##### *Overseas branches*

**FC-1.4.20** Where investment firm licensees intend to use a digital ID application in a foreign jurisdiction in which it operates, it must ensure that the digital ID application meets with the requirements under Paragraph FC-B.2.1.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

## FC-1.5 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Politically Exposed Persons ('PEPs')

### FC-1.5.1

Investment firm licensees must have appropriate risk management systems to determine whether a customer or beneficial owner is a Politically Exposed Person ('PEP'), both at the time of establishing business relations and thereafter on a periodic basis. Investment firm licensees must utilise publicly available databases and information to establish whether a customer is a PEP.

### FC-1.5.2

Investment firm licensees must establish a client acceptance policy with regard to PEPs, taking into account the reputational and other risks involved. Senior management approval must be obtained before a PEP is accepted as a customer. Licensees must not accept a non-Bahraini PEP as a customer based on customer due diligence undertaken using digital ID applications.

### FC-1.5.3

Where an existing customer is a PEP, or subsequently becomes a PEP, enhanced monitoring and customer due diligence measures must include:

- (a) Analysis of complex financial structures, including trusts, foundations or international business corporations;
- (b) A written record in the customer file to establish that reasonable measures have been taken to establish both the source of wealth and the source of funds;
- (c) Development of a profile of anticipated customer activity, to be used in on-going monitoring;
- (d) Approval of senior management for allowing the customer relationship to continue; and
- (e) On-going account monitoring of the PEP's account by senior management (such as the MLRO).

### FC-1.5.3A

In cases of higher risk business relationships with such persons, mentioned in Paragraph FC-1.5.1, investment firm licensees must apply the measures referred to in (b), (d) and (e) of Paragraph FC-1.5.3.

### FC-1.5.3B

The requirements for all types of PEP must also apply to family or close associates of such PEPs.

### FC-1.5.3C

For the purpose of Paragraph FC-1.5.3B, 'family' means spouse, father, mother, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers. 'Associates' are persons associated with a PEP whether such association is due to the person being an employee or partner of the PEP or of a firm represented or owned by the PEP, or family links or otherwise.



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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1: Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

**FC-1.5 Enhanced Customer Due Diligence: Politically Exposed Persons ('PEPs') (continued)**

FC-1.5.4 [This Paragraph was deleted in July 2016 as definition is included under Part B in the Glossary.]

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1: Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

## FC-1.6 Enhanced Due Diligence: Charities, Clubs and Other Societies

**FC-1.6.1** Financial services must not be provided to charitable funds and religious, sporting, social, cooperative, professional and other societies, until an original certificate authenticated by the relevant Ministry confirming the identities of those purporting to act on their behalf (and authorising them to obtain the said service) has been obtained.

**FC-1.6.1A** For the purpose of Paragraph FC-1.6.1, for clubs and societies registered with the Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs, licensees must contact the Ministry to clarify whether the account may be opened in accordance with the rules of the Ministry. In addition, in the case of sport associations registered with the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), licensees must contact BOC to clarify whether the account may be opened in accordance with the rules of BOC.

FC-1.6.2 Investment firm licensees are reminded that clubs and societies registered with Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs may only have one account with banks in Bahrain.

**FC-1.6.2A** Pursuant to Article (20) of the Consolidated Financial Regulations for Sports Clubs issued in 2005, licensees must not change or open additional accounts for Clubs and Youth Centres without obtaining the prior approval of the Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs.

**FC-1.6.3** Charities should be subject to enhanced transaction monitoring by licensees. Investment firm licensees should develop a profile of anticipated account activity (in terms of payee countries and recipient organisations in particular).

**FC-1.6.4** Investment firm licensees must provide a monthly report of all payments and transfers of BD3,000 (or equivalent in foreign currencies) and above, from accounts held by charities registered in Bahrain. The report must be submitted to the CBB's Compliance Directorate (see FC-4.3 for contact address), giving details of the amount transferred, account name, number and beneficiary name account and bank details. Investment firm licensees must ensure that such transfers are in accordance with the spending plans of the charity (in terms of amount, recipient and country).

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1:</b>	<b>Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

## FC-1.7 Enhanced Due Diligence: ‘Pooled Funds’

### FC-1.7.1

Where investment firm licensees receive pooled funds managed by professional intermediaries (such as investment and pension fund managers, stockbrokers and lawyers or authorised money transferors), they must apply CDD measures contained in Section FC-1.8 to the professional intermediary. In addition, investment firm licensees must verify the identity of the beneficial owners of the funds where required as shown in Paragraphs FC-1.7.2 or FC-1.7.3 below.

### FC-1.7.2

Where funds pooled in an account are not co-mingled (i.e. where there are ‘sub-accounts’ attributable to each beneficiary), all beneficial owners must be identified by the investment firm licensee, and their identity verified in accordance with the requirements in Section FC-1.2.

### FC-1.7.3

For accounts held by intermediaries resident in Bahrain, where such funds are co-mingled, the investment firm licensee must make a reasonable effort (in the context of the nature and amount of the funds received) to look beyond the intermediary and determine the identity of the beneficial owners or underlying clients, particularly where funds are banked and then transferred onward to other financial institutions (e.g. in the case of accounts held on behalf of authorised money transferors). Where, however, the intermediary is subject to equivalent regulatory and money laundering regulation and procedures (and, in particular, is subject to the same due diligence standards in respect of its client base) the CBB will not insist upon all beneficial owners being identified provided the licensee has undertaken reasonable measures to determine that the intermediary has engaged in a sound customer due diligence process, consistent with the requirements in Section FC-1.8.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1: Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

## FC-1.7 Enhanced Due Diligence: ‘Pooled Funds’ (cont’d)

### FC-1.7.4

For accounts held by intermediaries from foreign jurisdictions, the intermediary must be subject to requirements to combat money laundering and terrorist financing consistent with the FATF Recommendations and the intermediary must be supervised for compliance with those requirements. The licensee must obtain documentary evidence to support the case for not carrying out customer due diligence measures beyond identifying the intermediary. The licensee must satisfy itself that the intermediary has identified the underlying beneficiaries and has the systems and controls to allocate the assets in the pooled accounts to the relevant beneficiaries. The due diligence process contained in Section FC-1.8 must be followed.

### FC-1.7.5

Where the intermediary is not empowered to provide the required information on beneficial owners (e.g. lawyers bound by professional confidentiality rules) or where the intermediary is not subject to the same due diligence standards referred to above, a licensee must not permit the intermediary to open an account or allow the account to continue to operate, unless specific permission has been obtained in writing from the CBB.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

## FC-1.8 Introduced Business from Professional Intermediaries

### FC-1.8.1

A licensee may only accept customers introduced to it by other financial institutions or intermediaries, if it has satisfied itself that the introducer concerned is subject to FATF-equivalent measures and customer due diligence measures. Where investment firm licensees delegate part of the customer due diligence measures to an introducer, the responsibility for meeting the requirements of Chapters 1 and 2 remains with the licensee, not the introducer.

### FC-1.8.2

Investment firm licensees may only accept introduced business if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The customer due diligence measures applied by the introducer are consistent with those required by the FATF Recommendations;
- (b) A formal agreement is in place defining the respective roles of the licensee and the introducer in relation to customer due diligence measures. The agreement must specify that the customer due diligence measures of the introducer will comply with the FATF Recommendations;
- (c) The introducer immediately provides all necessary information required in Paragraphs FC-1.2.1 or FC-1.2.7 and FC-1.1.2A pertaining to the customer's identity, the identity of the customer and beneficial owner of the funds (where different), the purpose of relationship and, where applicable, the party/parties on whose behalf the customer is acting; also, the introducer has confirmed that the licensee will be allowed to verify the customer due diligence measures undertaken by the introducer at any stage; and
- (a) Written confirmation is provided by the introducer confirming that all customer due diligence measures required by the FATF Recommendations have been followed and the customer's identity established and verified. In addition, the confirmation must state that any identification documents or other customer due diligence material can be accessed by the licensee and that these documents will be kept for at least five years after the business relationship has ended.

### FC-1.8.3

The licensee must perform periodic reviews ensuring that any introducer on which it relies is in compliance with the FATF Recommendations. Where the introducer is resident in another jurisdiction, the licensee must also perform periodic reviews to verify whether the jurisdiction is in compliance with the FATF Recommendations.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
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**FC-1.8 Introduced Business from Professional Intermediaries  
(continued)**

**FC-1.8.4**

Should the licensee not be satisfied that the introducer is in compliance with the requirements of the FATF Recommendations, the licensee must conduct its own customer due diligence on introduced business, or not accept further introductions, or discontinue the business relationship with the introducer.



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CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

## FC-1.9 Shell Banks

### FC-1.9.1

Investment firm licensees must not establish business relations with banks which have no physical presence or ‘mind and management’ in the jurisdiction in which they are licensed and which are unaffiliated with a regulated financial group (‘shell banks’). Investment firm licensees must not knowingly establish relations with financial institutions that have relations with shell banks.

### FC-1.9.2

Investment firm licensees must make a suspicious transaction report to the Financial Intelligence Directorate and the Compliance Directorate if they are approached by a shell bank or an institution they suspect of being a shell bank.



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-1: Customer Due Diligence Requirements

## FC-1.10 Simplified Customer Due Diligence

### FC-1.10.1

Investment firm licensees may apply simplified customer due diligence measures, as described in Paragraphs FC-1.10.2 to FC-1.10.8, if:

- (a) [This Subparagraph was deleted in January 2018].
- (b) The transaction concerns the sale of a security listed on the Bahrain Bourse ('BHB') and issued as a result of an initial public offering after January 2006, and the customer already holds an investor number, an allotment letter and a valid BHB Form 2 in place. Furthermore, the BHB should have advised the broker (by circular) that all necessary customer due diligence information and copies of all original identification documents will be made available upon request without delay;
- (c) The customer is a company listed on a GCC or FATF member state stock exchange with equivalent disclosure standards to those of the BHB;
- (d) The customer is a financial institution whose entire operations are subject to AML/CFT requirements consistent with the FATF Recommendations and it is supervised by a financial services supervisor in a FATF or GCC member state for compliance with those requirements;
- (e) The customer is a financial institution which is a subsidiary of a financial institution located in a FATF or GCC member state, and the AML/CFT requirements applied to its parent also apply to the subsidiary;
- (f) The customer is the Central Bank of Bahrain ('CBB'), the BHB or a licensee of the CBB; or
- (g) The customer is a Ministry of a Gulf Cooperation Council ('GCC') or Financial Action Task Force ('FATF') member state government, a company in which a GCC government is a majority shareholder, or a company established by decree in the GCC.

### FC-1.10.2

For customers falling under category (b) in Paragraph FC-1.10.1, the customer's name and contact information must be recorded. However, the verification, certification and due diligence requirements (contained in Paragraphs FC-1.2.3, FC-1.2.5, FC-1.2.8, FC-1.2.9 and FC-1.2.11), may be dispensed with.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-1:</b>	<b>Customer Due Diligence Requirements</b>

## FC-1.10 Simplified Customer Due Diligence (continued)

FC-1.10.3 [This Paragraph was deleted in July 2018].

**FC-1.10.4** For customers falling under categories (c) to (g) in Paragraph FC-1.10.1, the information required under Paragraph FC-1.2.1 (for natural persons) or FC-1.2.7 (for legal entities) must be obtained. However, the verification, certification and due diligence requirements (contained in Paragraphs FC-1.2.3, FC-1.2.5, FC-1.2.8, FC-1.2.9 and FC-1.2.11), may be dispensed with.

**FC-1.10.5** Investment firm licensees wishing to apply simplified due diligence measures as allowed for under categories (c) to (g) of Paragraph FC-1.10.1 must retain documentary evidence supporting their categorisation of the customer.

FC-1.10.6 Examples of such documentary evidence may include a printout from a regulator's website, confirming the licensed status of an institution, and internal papers attesting to a review of the AML/CFT measures applied in a jurisdiction.

**FC-1.10.7** Investment firm licensees may use authenticated SWIFT messages as a basis for confirmation of the identity of a financial institution under FC-1.10.1 (d) and (e) where it is dealing as principal. For customers coming under Paragraph FC-1.10.1 (d) and (e), investment firm licensees must also obtain and retain a written statement from the parent institution of the subsidiary concerned, confirming that the subsidiary is subject to the same AML/CFT measures as its parent.

**FC-1.10.8** Simplified customer due diligence measures must not be applied where a licensee knows, suspects, or has reason to suspect, that the applicant is engaged in money laundering or terrorism financing or that the transaction is carried out on behalf of another person engaged in money laundering or terrorism financing.

**FC-1.10.8A** Simplified customer due diligence measures must not be applied in situations where the licensee has identified high ML/TF/PF risks.

FC-1.10.9 [This Paragraph was deleted in July 2018].



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-1:	Customer Due Diligence Requirements

## FC-1.11 Reliance on Third Parties for Customer Due Diligence

### FC-1.11.1

Licensees are permitted to rely on third parties to perform elements of CDD measures and recordkeeping requirements stipulated in Chapter FC-1 related to customer and beneficial owner identity, verification of their identity and information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship with the licensee, subject to complying with the below:

- (a) Licensees remain ultimately responsible for CDD measures;
- (b) Licensees immediately obtain the relevant CDD information from the third party upon onboarding clients;
- (c) There is an agreement with the third party for the arrangement with clear contractual terms on the obligations of the third party;
- (d) The third party without delay makes available the relevant documentation relating to the CDD requirements upon request;
- (e) Licensees ensure that the third party is a financial institution that is regulated and supervised for, and has measures in place for compliance with, CDD and recordkeeping requirements in line with FATF Recommendations 10 and 11; and
- (f) For third parties based abroad, licensees must consider the information available on the level of country risk.

### FC-1.11.2

Where a licensee relies on a third-party that is part of the same financial group, the licensee can consider that:

- (a) The requirements under Subparagraphs FC-1.11.1 (d) and (e) are complied with through its group programme, provided the group satisfies the following conditions:
  - (i) The group applies CDD and record keeping requirements consistent with FATF Recommendations 10, 11 and 12 and has in place internal controls in accordance with FATF Recommendation 18; and
  - (ii) The implementation of CDD, record keeping and AML/CFT measures are supervised at a group level by a financial services regulatory authority for compliance with AML/CFT requirements consistent with standards set by the FATF.
- (b) The requirement under Subparagraph FC-1.11.1 (f) is complied with if the country risk is adequately mitigated by the group's AML/CFT policies.

### FC-1.11.3

This Section does not apply to outsourcing or agency arrangements in which the outsourced entity applies the CDD measures on behalf of the delegating licensee, in accordance with its procedures.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-2:	AML / CFT Systems and Controls

## FC-2.1 General Requirements

### FC-2.1.1

Investment firm licensees must implement programmes against money laundering and terrorist financing which establish and maintain appropriate systems and controls for compliance with the requirements of this Module and which limit their vulnerability to financial crime. These systems and controls must be documented and approved and reviewed annually by the Board of the licensee. The documentation, and the Board's review and approval, must be made available upon request to the CBB.

### FC-2.1.2

The above systems and controls, and associated documented policies and procedures, should cover standards for customer acceptance, on-going monitoring of high-risk accounts, staff training and adequate screening procedures to ensure high standards when hiring employees.

### FC-2.1.3

Investment firm licensees must incorporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure compliance with AML/CFT requirements by all staff. The performance against the KPIs must be adequately reflected in their annual performance evaluation and in their remuneration (See also Paragraph HC-5.3.3).

### FC-2.1.4

In implementing the policies, procedures and monitoring tools for ensuring compliance with Paragraph FC-2.1.3, investment firm licensees should consider the following:

- (a) The business policies and practices should be designed to reduce incentives for staff to expose the investment firm licensees to AML/CFT compliance risk;
- (b) The performance measures of departments/divisions/units and personnel should include measures to address AML/CFT compliance obligations;
- (c) AML/CFT compliance breaches and deficiencies should be attributed to the relevant departments/divisions/units and personnel within the organisation as appropriate;
- (d) Remuneration and bonuses should be adjusted for AML/CFT compliance breaches and deficiencies; and
- (e) Both quantitative measures and human judgement should play a role in determining any adjustments to the remuneration and bonuses resulting from the above.





MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-2:	AML / CFT Systems and Controls

## FC-2.2 On-going Customer Due Diligence and Transaction Monitoring

### *Risk Based Monitoring*

#### FC-2.2.1

Investment firm licensees must develop risk-based monitoring systems appropriate to the complexity of their business, their number of clients and types of transactions. These systems must be configured to identify significant or abnormal transactions or patterns of activity. Such systems must include limits on the number, types or size of transactions undertaken outside expected norms; and must include limits for cash and non-cash transactions.

#### FC-2.2.2

Investment firm licensees' risk-based monitoring systems should therefore be configured to help identify:

- (a) Transactions which do not appear to have a clear purpose or which make no obvious economic sense;
- (b) Significant or large transactions not consistent with the normal or expected behaviour of a customer; and
- (c) Unusual patterns of activity (relative to other customers of the same profile or of similar types of transactions, for instance because of differences in terms of volumes, transaction type, or flows to or from certain countries), or activity outside the expected or regular pattern of a customer's account activity.

### *Automated Transaction Monitoring*

#### FC-2.2.3

Investment firm licensees must consider the need to include automated transaction monitoring as part of their risk-based monitoring systems to spot abnormal or unusual flows of funds. In the absence of automated transaction monitoring systems, all transactions above BD 6,000 must be viewed as 'significant' and be captured in a daily transactions report for monitoring by the MLRO or a relevant delegated official, and records retained by the licensee for five years after the date of the transaction.

#### FC-2.2.4

The CBB would expect larger investment firm licensees to include automated transaction monitoring as part of their risk-based monitoring systems. See also Chapters FC-3 and FC-6, regarding the responsibilities of the MLRO and record-keeping requirements. Where the investment firm licensee is not receiving funds – for instance where it is simply acting as agent on behalf of a principal, and the customer is directly remitting funds to the principal – then the investment firm licensee may agree with the principal that the latter should be responsible for the daily monitoring of such transactions.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-2:	AML / CFT Systems and Controls

## FC-2.2 On-going Customer Due Diligence and Transaction Monitoring (continued)

### *Unusual Transactions or Customer Behaviour*

#### FC-2.2.5

Where a licensee's risk-based monitoring systems identify significant or abnormal transactions (as defined in FC-2.2.2 and FC-2.2.3), it must verify the source of funds for those transactions, particularly where the transactions are above the transactions threshold of BD 6,000. Furthermore, investment firm licensees must examine the background and purpose to those transactions and document their findings. In the case of one-off transactions where there is no on-going account relationship, the licensee must file an STR if it is unable to verify the source of funds to its satisfaction (see Chapter FC-4).

#### FC-2.2.6

The investigations required under Paragraph FC-2.2.5 must be carried out by the MLRO (or relevant delegated official). The documents relating to these findings must be maintained for five years from the date when the transaction was completed (see also FC-6.1.1 (b)).

#### FC-2.2.7

Investment firm licensees must consider instances where there is a significant, unexpected or unexplained change in customer activity.

#### FC-2.2.8

When an existing customer closes one account and opens another, the licensee must review its customer identity information and update its records accordingly. Where the information available falls short of the requirements contained in Chapter FC-1, the missing or out of date information must be obtained and re-verified with the customer.

#### FC-2.2.9

Once identification procedures have been satisfactorily completed and, as long as records concerning the customer are maintained in line with Chapters FC-1 and FC-6, no further evidence of identity is needed when transactions are subsequently undertaken within the expected level and type of activity for that customer, provided reasonably regular contact has been maintained between the parties and no doubts have arisen as to the customer's identity.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-2:	AML / CFT Systems and Controls

## FC-2.2 On-going Customer Due Diligence and Transaction Monitoring (continued)

### *On-going Monitoring*

#### FC-2.2.10

Investment firm licensees must take reasonable steps to:

- (a) Scrutinize transactions undertaken throughout the course of that relationship to ensure that transactions being conducted are consistent with the investment firm licensee's knowledge of the customer, their business risk and risk profile; and
- (b) Ensure that they receive and maintain up-to-date and relevant copies of the identification documents specified in Chapter FC-1, by undertaking reviews of existing records, particularly for higher risk categories of customers Investment firm licensees must require all customers to provide up-to-date identification documents in their standard terms and conditions of business.

#### FC-2.2.11

Investment firm licensees must review and update their customer due diligence information at least every three years, particularly for higher risk categories of customers. If, upon performing such a review, copies of identification documents are more than 12 months out of date, the licensee must take steps to obtain updated copies as soon as possible.



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)

## FC-3.1 Appointment of MLRO

**FC-3.1.1** Investment firm licensees must appoint a Money Laundering reporting officer (“MLRO”). The position of MLRO is a controlled function and the MLRO is an approved person.

FC-3.1.1A For details of CBB’s requirements regarding controlled functions and approved persons, see Section AU-1.2. Amongst other things, approved persons require CBB approval before being appointed, which is granted only if they are assessed as ‘fit and proper’ for the function in question. A completed Form 3 must accompany any request for CBB approval.

**FC-3.1.2** The position of MLRO must not be combined with functions that create potential conflicts of interest, such as an internal auditor or business line head. The position of MLRO may not be outsourced.

FC-3.1.3 Subject to Paragraph FC-3.1.2, however, the position of MLRO may otherwise be combined with other functions in the licensee, such as that of Compliance Officer, in cases where the volume and geographical spread of the business is limited and, therefore, the demands of the function are not likely to require a full-time resource.

FC-3.1.3A For purpose of Paragraphs FC-3.1.2 and FC-3.1.3 above, Investment firm licensees must clearly state in the Application for Approved Person Status – Form 3 – when combining the MLRO or DMLRO position with any other position within the Investment firm licensee.

**FC-3.1.4** Investment firm licensees must appoint at least one deputy MLRO (or more depending on the scale and complexity of the licensee’s operations). The deputy MLRO must be resident in Bahrain unless otherwise agreed with the CBB.

FC-3.1.5 Investment firm licensees should note that although the MLRO may delegate some of his functions, either to other employees of the licensee or even (in the case of larger groups) to individuals performing similar functions for other group entities, the responsibility for compliance with the requirements of this Module remains with the licensee and the designated MLRO. The deputy MLRO should be able to support the MLRO discharge his responsibilities and to deputise for him in his absence.



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)

### FC-3.1 Appointment of MLRO (continued)

#### FC-3.1.6

So that he can carry out his functions effectively, investment firm licensees must ensure that their MLRO:

- (a) Is a member of senior management of the licensee and has a sufficient level of seniority within the licensee, has the authority to act without interference from business line management and has direct access to the Board and senior management (where necessary);
- (b) [Subparagraph (b) combined with (a) in January 2011];
- (c) Has sufficient resources, including sufficient time and (if necessary) support staff, and has designated a replacement to carry out the function should the MLRO be unable to perform his duties;
- (d) Has unrestricted access to all transactional information relating to any financial services provided by the licensee to a customer, or any transactions conducted by the licensee on behalf of that customer;
- (e) Is provided with timely information needed to identify, analyse and effectively monitor customer accounts;
- (f) Has access to all customer due diligence information obtained by the licensee; and
- (g) Is resident in Bahrain.

#### FC-3.1.7

In addition, investment firm licensees must ensure that their MLRO is able to:

- (a) Monitor the day-to-day operation of its policies and procedures relevant to this Module; and
- (b) Respond promptly to any reasonable request for information made by the Financial Intelligence Directorate or the CBB.

#### FC-3.1.8

If the position of MLRO falls vacant, the licensee must appoint a permanent replacement (after obtaining CBB approval), within 120 calendar days of the vacancy occurring. Pending the appointment of a permanent replacement, the licensee must make immediate interim arrangements (including the appointment of an acting MLRO) to ensure continuity in the MLRO function's performance. These interim arrangements must be approved by the CBB.



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC 3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)

## FC-3.2 Responsibilities of the MLRO

### FC-3.2.1

The MLRO is responsible for:

- (a) Establishing and maintaining the licensee's AML/CFT policies and procedures;
- (b) Ensuring that the licensee complies with the AML Law, any other applicable AML/CFT legislation and this Module;
- (c) Ensuring day-to-day compliance with the licensee's own internal AML/CFT policies and procedures;
- (d) Acting as the licensee's main point of contact in respect of handling internal suspicious transaction reports from the licensee's staff (refer to Section FC-4.1) and as the main contact for the Financial Intelligence Directorate, the CBB and other concerned bodies regarding AML/CFT;
- (e) Making external suspicious transaction reports to the Financial Intelligence Directorate and Compliance Directorate (refer to Section FC-4.2);
- (f) Taking reasonable steps to establish and maintain adequate arrangements for staff awareness and training on AML/CFT matters (whether internal or external), as per Chapter FC-5;
- (g) Producing annual reports on the effectiveness of the licensee's AML/CFT controls, for consideration by senior management, as per Paragraph FC-3.3.3;
- (h) On-going monitoring of what may, in his opinion, constitute high-risk customer accounts; and
- (i) Ensuring that the investment firm licensee maintains all necessary CDD, transactions, STR and staff training records for the required periods (refer to Section FC-6.1).



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)

### FC-3.3 Compliance Monitoring

#### *Annual Compliance Review*

##### FC-3.3.1

Investment firm licensees must take appropriate steps to identify and assess their money laundering and terrorist financing risks (for customers, countries or geographic areas; and products, services, transactions or delivery channels). They must document those assessments in order to be able to demonstrate their basis, keep these assessments up to date, and have appropriate mechanisms to provide risk assessment information to the CBB. The nature and extent of any assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing risks must be appropriate to the nature and size of the business.

##### FC-3.3.1A

Investment firm licensees should always understand their money laundering and terrorist financing risks, but the CBB may determine that individual documented risk assessments are not required, if the specific risks inherent to the sector are clearly identified and understood.

##### FC-3.3.1B

Investment firm licensees must review the effectiveness of its AML/CFT procedures, systems and controls at least once each calendar year. The review must cover the licensee and its branches and subsidiaries both inside and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain. An investment firm licensee must monitor the implementation of those controls and enhance them if necessary. The scope of the review must include:

- (a) A report, containing the number of internal reports made in accordance with Section FC-4.1, a breakdown of all the results of those internal reports and their outcomes for each segment of the licensee's business, and an analysis of whether controls or training need to be enhanced;
- (b) A report, indicating the number of external reports made in accordance with Section FC-4.2 and, where a licensee has made an internal report but not made an external report, noting why no external report was made;
- (c) A sample test of compliance with this Module's customer due diligence requirements; and
- (d) A report as to the quality of the licensee's anti-money laundering procedures, systems and controls, and compliance with the AML Law and this Module.

##### FC-3.3.2

The reports listed under Paragraph FC-3.3.1B (a) and (b) must be made by the MLRO. The sample testing and report required under Paragraph FC-3.3.1B (c) and (d) must be made by the licensee's external auditor or a consultancy firm approved by the CBB.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)</b>

### **FC-3.3 Compliance Monitoring (continued)**

FC-3.3.2A In order for a consultancy firm to be approved by the CBB for the purposes of Paragraph FC-3.3.2, such firm should provide the CBB's Compliance Directorate with:

- (a) A sample AML/CFT report prepared for a financial institution;
- (b) A list of other AML/CFT related work undertaken by the firm;
- (c) A list of other audit/review assignments undertaken, specifying the nature of the work done, date and name of the licensee; and
- (d) An outline of any assignment conducted for or in cooperation with an international audit firm.

FC-3.3.2B The firm should indicate which personnel (by name) will work on the report (including, where appropriate, which individual will be the team leader) and demonstrate that all such persons have appropriate qualifications in one of the following areas:

- (a) Audit;
- (b) Accounting;
- (c) Law; or
- (d) Banking/Finance.

FC-3.3.2C At least two persons working on the report (one of whom would normally expected to be the team leader) should have:

- (a) A minimum of 5 years professional experience dealing with AML/CFT issues; and
- (b) Formal AML/CFT training.

FC-3.3.2D Submission of a curriculum vitae for all personnel to be engaged on the report is encouraged for the purposes of evidencing the above requirements.

FC-3.3.2E Upon receipt of the above required information, the CBB Compliance Directorate will assess the firm and communicate to it whether it meets the criteria required to be approved by the CBB for this purpose. The CBB may also request any other information it considers necessary in order to conduct the assessment.





MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-3: Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO)

### FC-3.3 Compliance Monitoring (continued)

**FC-3.3.3** The reports listed under Paragraph FC-3.3.1B must be submitted to the licensee's Board, for it to review and commission any required remedial measures and copied to the licensee's senior management.

FC-3.3.4 The purpose of the annual compliance review is to assist a licensee's Board and senior management to assess, amongst other things, whether internal and external reports are being made (as required under Chapter FC-4), and whether the overall number of such reports (which may otherwise appear satisfactory) does not conceal inadequate reporting in a particular segment of the licensee's business (or, where relevant, in particular branches or subsidiaries). Investment firm licensees should use their judgement as to how the reports listed under Paragraph FC-3.3.1B (a) and (b) should be broken down in order to achieve this aim (e.g. by branches, departments, product lines, etc).

**FC-3.3.5** Investment firm licensees must instruct their appointed firm to produce the report referred to in Paragraph FC-3.3.1B (c) and (d). The report must be submitted to the CBB by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June of the following year. The findings of this review must be received and acted upon by the licensee.

FC-3.3.6 [This Paragraph has been deleted in January 2022].

**FC-3.3.7** [This Paragraph has been deleted in January 2022].



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-4: Suspicious Transaction Reporting

## FC-4.1 Internal Reporting

**FC-4.1.1** Investment firm licensees must implement procedures to ensure that staff who handle customer business (or are managerially responsible for such staff) make a report promptly to the MLRO if they know or suspect that a customer (or a person on whose behalf a customer may be acting) is engaged in money laundering or terrorism financing, or if the transaction or the customer's conduct otherwise appears unusual or suspicious. These procedures must include arrangements for disciplining any member of staff who fails, without reasonable excuse, to make such a report.

**FC-4.1.2** Where investment firm licensees' internal processes provide for staff to consult with their line managers before sending a report to the MLRO, such processes must not be used to prevent reports reaching the MLRO, where staff have stated that they have knowledge or suspicion that a transaction may involve money laundering or terrorist financing.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-4:	Suspicious Transaction Reporting

## FC-4.2 External Reporting

### FC-4.2.1

Investment firm licensees must take reasonable steps to ensure that all reports made under Section FC-4.1 are considered by the MLRO (or his duly authorised delegate). Having considered the report and any other relevant information, if the MLRO (or his duly authorised delegate), still suspects that a person has been engaged in money laundering or terrorism financing, or the activity concerned is otherwise still regarded as suspicious, he must report the fact promptly to the relevant authorities. Where no report is made, the MLRO must document the reasons why.

### FC-4.2.2

To take reasonable steps, as required under Paragraph FC-4.2.1, investment firm licensees must:

- (a) Require the MLRO to consider reports made under Section FC-4.1 in the light of all relevant information accessible to or reasonably obtainable by the MLRO;
- (b) Permit the MLRO to have access to any information, including know your customer information, in the licensee's possession which could be relevant; and
- (c) Ensure that where the MLRO, or his duly authorised delegate, suspects that a person has been engaged in money laundering or terrorist financing, a report is made by the MLRO which is not subject to the consent or approval of any other person.

### FC-4.2.3

Reports to the relevant authorities made under Paragraph FC-4.2.1 must be sent to the Financial Intelligence Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, and to the CBB's Compliance Directorate using the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Online System (Online STR system). STRs in paper format will not be accepted.

### FC-4.2.4

Investment firm licensees must report all suspicious transactions or attempted transactions. This reporting requirement applies regardless of whether the transaction involves tax matters.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-4:	Suspicious Transaction Reporting

## FC-4.2 External Reporting (continued)

**FC-4.2.5** Investment firm licensees must retain all relevant details of STRs submitted to the relevant authorities, for at least five years.

**FC-4.2.6** In accordance with the AML Law, investment firm licensees, their Directors, officers and employees:

- (a) Must not warn or inform ('tipping off') their customers, the beneficial owner or other subjects of the STR when information relating to them is being reported to the relevant authorities; and
- (b) In cases where investment firm licensees form a suspicion that transactions relate to money laundering or terrorist financing, they must take into account the risk of tipping-off when performing the CDD process. If the investment firm licensee reasonably believes that performing the CDD process will tip-off the customer or potential customer, it may choose not to pursue that process, and must file an STR.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-4:</b>	<b>Suspicious Transaction Reporting</b>

### FC-4.3 Contacting the Relevant Authorities

**FC-4.3.1** Reports made by the MLRO or his duly authorised delegate under Section FC-4.2 must be sent electronically using the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Online System (Online STR system).

**FC-4.3.2** The relevant authorities are:  
Financial Intelligence Directorate (FID)  
Ministry of Interior  
P.O. Box 26698  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Telephone: + 973 17 749397  
Fax: + 973 17 715502  
E-mail: [bahrainfid@moipolice.bh](mailto:bahrainfid@moipolice.bh)

Director of Compliance Directorate  
Central Bank of Bahrain  
P.O. Box 27  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Telephone: 17 547107  
Fax: 17 535673  
E-mail: [Compliance@cbb.gov.bh](mailto:Compliance@cbb.gov.bh)



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-5: Staff Training and Recruitment

## FC-5.1 General Requirements

**FC-5.1.1** Investment firm licensees must take reasonable steps to provide periodic training and information to ensure that staff who handle customer transactions, or are managerially responsible for such transactions, are made aware of:

- (a) Their responsibilities under the AML Law, this Module, and any other relevant AML/CFT laws and Regulations;
- (b) The identity and responsibilities of the MLRO and his deputy;
- (c) The potential consequences, both individual and corporate, of any breach of the AML Law, this Module and any other relevant AML/CFT laws or Regulations;
- (d) The licensee's current AML/CFT policies and procedures;
- (e) Money laundering and terrorist financing typologies and trends;
- (f) The type of customer activity or transaction that may justify an internal report in accordance with Section FC-4.1;
- (g) The licensee's procedures for making an internal report as per Section FC-4.1; and
- (h) Customer due diligence measures with respect to establishing business relations with customers.

**FC-5.1.2** The information referred to in Paragraph FC-5.1.1 must be brought to the attention of relevant new employees of investment firm licensees and must remain available for reference by staff during their period of employment.

**FC-5.1.3** Relevant new employees must be given AML/CFT training within three months of joining a licensee.

**FC-5.1.4** Investment firm licensees must ensure that their AML/CFT training for relevant staff remains up-to-date and is appropriate given the licensee's activities and customer base.

FC-5.1.5 The CBB would normally expect AML/CFT training to be provided to relevant staff at least once a year.

**FC-5.1.6** Investment firm licensees must develop adequate screening procedures to ensure high standards when hiring employees. These procedures must include controls to prevent criminals or their FC- from being employed by investment firm licensees.

**FC-5.1.6A** [This Paragraph was deleted in January 2022].



MODULE	FC: Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-6: Record-keeping

## FC-6.1 General Requirements

### *CDD and Transaction Records*

#### FC-6.1.1

Investment firm licensees must comply with the record-keeping requirements contained in the AML Law and in the CBB Law. Investment firm licensees must therefore retain adequate records (including accounting and identification records), for the following minimum periods:

- (a) For customers, in relation to evidence of identity and business relationship records (such as application forms, account files and business correspondence, including the results of any analysis undertaken (e.g. enquiries to establish the background and purpose of complex, unusual large transactions)), for at least five years after the customer relationship has ceased; and
- (b) For transactions, in relation to documents enabling a reconstitution of the transaction concerned, for at least five years after the transaction was completed.

### *Compliance Records*

#### FC-6.1.2

Investment firm licensees must retain copies of the reports produced for their annual compliance review, as specified in Paragraph FC-3.3.1B, for at least five years. Investment firm licensees must also maintain for five years reports made to, or by, the MLRO made in accordance with Sections FC-4.1 and 4.2, and records showing how these reports were dealt with and what action, if any, was taken as a consequence of those reports.

### *Training Records*

#### FC-6.1.3

Investment firm licensees must maintain for at least five years, records showing the dates when AML/CFT training was given, the nature of the training, and the names of the staff that received the training.

### *Access*

#### FC-6.1.4

All records required to be kept under this Section must be made available for prompt and swift access by the relevant authorities or other authorised persons.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-7:</b>	<b>NCCT Measures and Terrorist Financing</b>

## FC-7.1 Special Measures for Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories ('NCCTs')

### FC-7.1.1

Investment firm licensees must give special attention to any dealings they may have with entities or persons domiciled in countries or territories which are:

- (a) Identified by the FATF as being 'non-cooperative'; or
- (b) Notified to investment firm licensees from time to time by the CBB.

### FC-7.1.2

Whenever transactions with such parties have no apparent economic or visible lawful purpose, their background and purpose must be re-examined and the findings documented. If suspicions remain about the transaction, these must be reported to the relevant authorities in accordance with Section FC-4.2.

### FC-7.1.3

Investment firm licensees must apply enhanced due diligence measures to business relationships and transactions with natural and legal persons, and financial institutions, from countries where such measures are called for by the FATF. The type of enhanced due diligence measures applied must be effective and proportionate to the risks.

### FC-7.1.4

With regard to jurisdictions identified as NCCTs or those which in the opinion of the CBB, do not have adequate AML/CFT systems, the CBB reserves the right to:

- (a) Refuse the establishment of subsidiaries or branches or representative offices of financial institutions from such jurisdictions;
- (b) Limit business relationships or financial transactions with such jurisdictions or persons in those jurisdictions;
- (c) Prohibit financial institutions from relying on third parties located in such jurisdictions to conduct elements of the CDD process;
- (d) Require financial institutions to review and amend, or if necessary terminate, correspondent relationships with financial institutions in such jurisdictions;
- (e) Require increased supervisory examination and/or external audit requirements for branches and subsidiaries of financial institutions based in such jurisdictions; or
- (f) Require increased external audit requirements for financial groups with respect to any of their branches and subsidiaries located in such jurisdictions.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-7:</b>	<b>NCCT Measures and Terrorist Financing</b>

## FC-7.2 Terrorist Financing

**FC-7.2.1AA** Investment firm licensees must implement and comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and terrorist financing. Investment firm licensees must freeze, without delay, the funds or other assets of, and to ensure that no funds or other assets are made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of, any person or entity either (i) designated by, or under the authority of, the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, including in accordance with resolution 1267(1999) and its successor resolutions as well as Resolution 2178(2014) or (ii) designated as pursuant to Resolution 1373(2001).

**FC-7.2.1** Investment firm licensees must comply in full with the provisions of the UN Security Council Anti-terrorism Resolution No. 1373 of 2001 ('UNSCR 1373').

**FC-7.2.2** [This Paragraph was deleted in January 2018].

FC-7.2.3 A copy of UNSCR 1373 is included in Part B of Volume 1 (Conventional Banks), under 'Supplementary Information' on the CBB Website.

**FC-7.2.4** Investment firm licensees must report to the CBB details of:

- (a) Funds or other financial assets or economic resources held with them which may be the subject of Article 1, Paragraphs c) and d) of UNSCR 1373;
- (b) All claims, whether actual or contingent, which the licensee has on persons and entities which may be the subject of Article 1, Paragraphs c) and d) of UNSCR 1373; and
- (c) All assets frozen or actions taken in compliance with the prohibition requirements of the relevant UNSCRs, including attempted transactions.

FC-7.2.5 For the purposes of Paragraph FC-7.2.4, 'funds or other financial resources' includes (but is not limited to) shares in any undertaking owned or controlled by the persons and entities referred to in Article 1, Paragraph c) and d) of UNSCR 1373, and any associated dividends received by the licensee.

**FC-7.2.6** All reports or notifications under this Section must be made to the CBB's Compliance Directorate.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-7:</b>	<b>NCCT Measures and Terrorist Financing</b>

## **FC-7.2 Terrorist Financing (continued)**

FC-7.2.7 See Section FC-4.3 for the Compliance Directorate's contact details.



MODULE	FC:	Financial Crime
CHAPTER	FC-7:	NCCT Measures and Terrorist Financing

### FC-7.3 Designated Persons and Entities

#### FC-7.3.1

Without prejudice to the general duty of all investment firm licensees to exercise the utmost care when dealing with persons or entities who might come under Article 1, Paragraphs (c) and (d) of UNSCR 1373, investment firm licensees must not deal with any persons or entities designated by the CBB as potentially linked to terrorist activity.

#### FC-7.3.2

The CBB from time-to-time issues to investment firm licensees lists of designated persons and entities believed linked to terrorism. Investment firm licensees are required to verify that they have no dealings with these designated persons and entities, and report back their findings to the CBB. Names designated by the CBB include persons and entities designated by the United Nations, under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 ('UNSCR 1267').

#### FC-7.3.3

Investment firm licensees must report to the relevant authorities, using the procedures contained in Section FC-4.2, details of any accounts or other dealings with designated persons and entities, and comply with any subsequent directions issued by the relevant authorities.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-8:</b>	<b>Enforcement Measures</b>

## FC-8.1 Regulatory Penalties

### FC-8.1.1

Without prejudice to any other penalty imposed by the CBB Law, the AML Law No. 4 or the Penal Code of the Kingdom of Bahrain, failure by a licensee to comply with this Module or any direction given hereunder shall result in the levying by the CBB, without need of a court order and at the CBB's discretion, of a fine of up to BD 20,000.

### FC-8.1.2

Module EN provides further information on the assessment of financial penalties and the criteria taken into account prior to imposing such fines (see Paragraph EN-5.1.4). Other enforcement measures may also be applied by the CBB in response to a failure by a licensee to comply with this Module; these other measures are also set out in Module EN.

### FC-8.1.3

The CBB will endeavour to assist investment firm licensees to interpret and apply the requirements of this Module. Investment firm licensees may seek clarification on any issue by contacting the Compliance Directorate (see Section FC-4.3 for contact details).

### FC-8.1.4

Without prejudice to the CBB's general powers under the law, the CBB may amend, clarify or issue further directions on any provision of this Module from time to time, by notice to its investment firm licensees.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-9:</b>	<b>AML / CFT Guidance and Best Practice</b>

## FC-9.1 Guidance Provided by International Bodies

### *FATF Recommendations*

- FC-9.1.1 The FATF Recommendations (see [www.fatf-gafi.org](http://www.fatf-gafi.org)) (together with their associated interpretative notes and best practices papers) issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), provide the basic framework for combating money laundering activities and the financing of terrorism. FATF Recommendations 2, 9-12, 15, 17-21, 26-27, 33-35 and 40 and the AML/CFT Methodology are relevant to the investment business sector.
- FC-9.1.2 The relevant authorities in Bahrain believe that the principles established by these Recommendations should be followed by investment firm licensees in all material respects, as representing best practice and prudence in this area.

### *Other Website References Relevant to AML/CFT*

- FC-9.1.3 The following lists a selection of other websites relevant to AML/CFT:
- (a) The Middle East North Africa Financial Action Task Force: [www.menafatf.org](http://www.menafatf.org) ;
  - (b) The Egmont Group: [www.egmontgroup.org](http://www.egmontgroup.org) ;
  - (c) The United Nations: [www.un.org/terrorism](http://www.un.org/terrorism) ;
  - (d) The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee: [www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1373/](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1373/) ;
  - (e) The UN list of designated individuals: [www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm) ;
  - (f) The Wolfsberg Group: [www.wolfsberg-principles.com](http://www.wolfsberg-principles.com) ; and
  - (g) The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists: [www.acams.org](http://www.acams.org).

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC:</b>	<b>Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-10:</b>	<b>Fraud</b>

## FC-10.1 General Requirements

**FC-10.1.1** The requirements of this Chapter apply to Category 1 investment firms and Category 2 investment firms only.

**FC-10.1.2** Investment firm licensees must ensure that they allocate appropriate resources and have in place systems and controls to deter, detect, and record instances of fraud or attempted fraud.

FC-10.1.3 Fraud may arise from internal sources originating from changes or weaknesses to processes, products and internal systems and controls. Fraud can also arise from external sources, for instance through false invoicing or advance fee frauds. Further guidance – and occasional investor alerts – can be found on the CBB’s website ([www.cbb.gov.bh](http://www.cbb.gov.bh)).

**FC-10.1.4** Any actual or attempted fraud incident (however small) must be reported to the appropriate authorities (including the Compliance Directorate at the CBB) and followed up. Monitoring systems must be designed to measure fraud patterns that might reveal a series of related fraud incidents.

**FC-10.1.5** Investment firm licensees must ensure that a person, of sufficient seniority, is given overall responsibility for the prevention, detection and remedying of fraud within the organisation.

**FC-10.1.6** Investment firm licensees must ensure the effective segregation of functions and responsibilities, between different individuals and departments, such that the possibility of financial crime is reduced and that no single individual is able to initiate, process and control a transaction.

**FC-10.1.7** Investment firm licensees must provide regular training to their management and staff, to make them aware of potential fraud risks.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-11: Crypto-assets</b>

## FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers

**FC-11.1.1** This section is applicable to investment firm licensees who undertake regulated investment services involving transfers of crypto-assets. The CBB considers transactions involving transfer of crypto-assets as functionally analogous to wire transfer.

**FC-11.1.2** Licensees must use technology solutions and other systems to adequately meet anti-money laundering, financial crime and know-your-customer requirements.

**FC-11.1.3** Licensees must develop, implement and maintain effective transaction monitoring systems to determine the origin of a crypto-asset and to monitor its destination, and to apply strong transaction monitoring measures which enable the licensees to have complete granular data centric information about the transactions done by a client.

**FC-11.1.4** Licensees must be vigilant and establish internal processes and indicators to identify crypto-assets that may have been tainted i.e. used for an illegal purpose (for example, certain clients or use of “mixer” and “tumbler” services).

### *Suspicious Wallet Addresses*

**FC-11.1.5** Licensees must establish and implement policies for identification of wallet addresses that are suspected of ML/TF (suspicious wallet addresses). Licensees must not establish or continue business relationship with or transact with suspicious wallet addresses.

**FC-11.1.6** Where a licensee identifies or becomes aware of a suspicious wallet address, it must immediately file a Suspicious Transaction Report (STR) in accordance with Chapter FC-4.

### *Crypto-asset Transfers to be considered as Cross Border Wire Transfer*

**FC-11.1.7** Licensees must consider all transfers of crypto-assets as cross-border wire transfers rather than domestic transfers.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-11: Crypto-assets</b>

## FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers (continued)

### *Outward Transfers*

FC-11.1.8 Licensees must include all required originator information and required beneficiary information details with the accompanying transfer of crypto-assets and/or wire transfer of funds they make on behalf of their customers.

FC-11.1.9 For purposes of this Section, originator information refers to the information listed in Subparagraphs FC-11.1.12 (a) to (c) and beneficiary information refers to the information listed in Subparagraphs FC-11.1.12 (d) and (e).

### *Inward Transfers*

FC-11.1.10 Licensees must:

- (a) Maintain records of all originator information received with an inward transfer; and
- (b) Carefully scrutinize inward transfers which do not contain originator information (i.e. full name, address and account number or a unique customer identification number). Licensees must presume that such transfers are ‘suspicious transactions’ and pass them to the MLRO for review for determination as to possible filing of STR, unless the ordering financial institution is able to promptly (i.e. within two business days) advise the licensee in writing of the originator information upon the licensee’s request. The period of 2 business days provided to ordering financial institution by the licensees to furnish the originator information is only applicable while undertaking fund transfer (traditional wire transfer) and must not be used in case of transfer of crypto-assets.

FC-11.1.11 While undertaking crypto-asset transfers, licensees must ensure that the ordering financial institution transmits the originator and beneficiary information immediately.



<b>MODULE</b>	<b>FC: Financial Crime</b>
<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>FC-11: Crypto-assets</b>

## **FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers (continued)**

### *Information accompanying Crypto-asset and Cross Border Wire Transfers*

**FC-11.1.12** Information accompanying all crypto-asset transfers as well as wire transfers must always contain:

- (a) The name of the originator;
- (b) The originator account number (e.g. IBAN or crypto-asset wallet) where such an account is used to process the transaction;
- (c) The originator's address, or national identity number, or customer identification number, or date and place of birth;
- (d) The name of the beneficiary; and
- (e) The beneficiary account number (e.g. IBAN or crypto-asset wallet) where such an account is used to process the transaction.

FC-11.1.13 Where a licensee undertakes a transfer of crypto-assets it is not necessary for the information referred to in Paragraph FC-11.1.12 to be attached directly to the crypto-asset transfers itself. The information can be submitted either directly or indirectly.

**FC-11.1.14** Licensees while undertaking transfer of crypto-assets must ensure that the required originator and beneficiary information is transmitted immediately and securely.

FC-11.1.15 For the purposes of Paragraph FC-11.1.14, “Securely” means that the provider of the information must protect it from unauthorized disclosure as well as ensure that the integrity and availability of the required information is maintained so as to facilitate recordkeeping and the use of such information by financial institution. The term “immediately” means that the provider of the information must submit the required information simultaneously or concurrently with the transfer of the crypto-asset.

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## FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers (continued)

**FC-11.1.16** The CBB recognises that unlike traditional fiat currency wire transfers, not every crypto-asset transfer involves (or is bookended by) two institutions (crypto-asset entities or financial institutions). In instances in which a crypto-asset transfer involves only one financial institution on either end of the transfer (e.g. when an ordering financial institution sends crypto-assets on behalf of its customers, the originator, to a beneficiary that is not a customer of a beneficiary financial institution but rather an individual user who receives the crypto-asset transfer using his/her own distributed ledger technology (DLT) software, such as an unhosted wallet), the financial institution must still ensure adherence to Paragraph FC-11.1.12 for their customer. The CBB does not expect that financial institutions, when originating a crypto-asset transfer, would submit the required information to individual users who are not financial institutions. However, financial institutions receiving a crypto-asset transfer from an entity that is not a financial institution (e.g. from an individual crypto-asset user using his/her own DLT software, such as an unhosted wallet), must obtain the required originator information from their customer.

### *Domestic Wire Transfers*

**FC-11.1.17** Information accompanying domestic wire transfers must also include originator information as indicated for cross-border wire transfers unless this information can be made available to the beneficiary financial institution and the CBB by other means. In this latter case, the ordering financial institution need only include the account number or a unique transaction reference number, provided that this number or identifier will permit the transaction to be traced back to the originator or the beneficiary.

**FC-11.1.18** For the purposes of Paragraph FC-11.1.17, the information should be made available by the ordering financial institution within three business days of receiving the request either from the beneficiary financial institution or from the CBB.

**FC-11.1.19** It is not necessary for the recipient institution to pass the originator information on to the beneficiary. The obligation is discharged simply by notifying the beneficiary financial institution of the originator information at the time the transfer is made.

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## FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers (continued)

### *Responsibilities of Ordering Financial Institution*

FC-11.1.20 The ordering financial institution must ensure that crypto-asset transfers and wire transfers contain required and accurate originator information and required beneficiary information.

FC-11.1.21 The ordering financial institution must maintain all originator and beneficiary information collected in accordance with Chapter FC-6.

FC-11.1.22 The ordering financial institution must not execute the crypto-asset transfer or wire transfer if it does not comply with the requirements of Paragraphs FC-11.1.20 and FC-11.1.21.

### *Responsibilities of Intermediary Financial Institutions*

FC-11.1.23 For crypto-asset transfers and cross-border wire transfers, financial institutions processing an intermediary element of such chains of transfers must ensure that all originator and beneficiary information that accompanies a crypto-asset transfer or wire transfer is retained with it.

FC-11.1.24 Where technical limitations prevent the required originator or beneficiary information accompanying a cross-border wire transfer from remaining with a related domestic wire transfer, a record must be kept, for at least five years, by the receiving intermediary financial institution of all the information received from the ordering financial institution or another intermediary financial institution.

FC-11.1.25 An intermediary financial institution must take reasonable measures to identify crypto-asset transfers and cross-border wire transfers that lack the required originator information or required beneficiary information.

FC-11.1.26 An intermediary financial institution must have effective risk-based policies and procedures for determining:

- (a) When to execute, reject, or suspend a traditional wire transfer lacking required originator or required beneficiary information; and
- (b) The appropriate follow-up action.

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## FC-11.1 Transfers of Crypto-assets and Wire Transfers (continued)

### *Responsibilities of Beneficiary Financial Institution*

FC-11.1.27 A beneficiary financial institution must take reasonable measures to identify crypto-asset transfers and cross-border wire transfers that lack the required originator or the required beneficiary information. Such measures may include post-event monitoring or real-time monitoring where feasible.

FC-11.1.28 For crypto-asset transfers and wire transfers, a beneficiary financial institution must verify the identity of the beneficiary, if the identity has not been previously verified, and maintain this information in accordance with Chapter FC-6.

FC-11.1.29 A beneficiary financial institution must have effective risk-based policies and procedures for determining:

- (a) When to execute, reject, or suspend a traditional wire transfer lacking required originator or required beneficiary information; and
- (b) The appropriate follow-up action.