



BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. CL-2021-067

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR FINANCIAL SUPERVISION SECTOR

To : **All BSP-Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs)**

Subject : **Effectivity Dates of the 2021 AMLC Registration and Reporting Guidelines (ARRG)**

This is to disseminate to all BSFIs the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) advisory on the effectivity dates of the 2021 ARRG¹ (Annex A). In general, the effectivity date is 30 days after publication or on 08 August 2021. For other provisions, based on the 2021 ARRG (page 163), the effectivity date is six (6) months after publication, which falls on 09 January 2022.

Amendments effective 08 August 2021 include, among others, the definitions of “covered persons” and “covered transaction”; quality, form, and timing of submission of suspicious transaction reports (STRs); inclusion of PC34² in the requirement of submission of know-your-customer (KYC) documents prior to the actual submission of STRs; amendments to the low-risk transactions and mandatory fields for the Beneficiary Party for Outward Remittances; introduction of new provisions on compliance checking and administrative sanctions; inclusion of two (2) new predicate crimes under reason for suspicion; and addition of new transaction codes and list of “red flags” for real estate transactions and virtual asset service providers. Meanwhile, amendments effective 09 January 2022 include, among others, the lifting of loan payment as low-risk transaction and inclusion of STR trigger in the reporting of STRs; new reporting format for loan availment and sale of real and other properties acquired (ROPA) transactions; and updating of country and currency codes.

BSFIs may refer to the AMLC advisory and the 2021 ARRG for the complete list of amendments. The 2017 ARRG will remain posted on the AMLC website until all provisions of the 2021 ARRG become effective.

For information and compliance/implementation.

Digitally signed by
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Date: 2021.08.20
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CHUCHI G. FONACIER
Deputy Governor

20 August 2021

Att: a/s

¹<http://www.amlc.gov.ph/images/PDFs/2021%20AMLC%20REGISTRATION%20AND%20REPORTING%20GUIDELINES.pdf> & <http://www.amlc.gov.ph/16-news-and-announcements/311-effectivity-dates-of-the-2021-amlc-registration-and-reporting-guidelines-arrg?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>

² Violation of Section 19(A)(3) of Republic Act No. 10697, otherwise known as the Strategic Trade Management Act; in relation to the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its financing pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1718 of 2006 and 2231 of 2015.

Effectivity dates of the 2021 AMLC Registration and Reporting Guidelines (ARRG)

The 2021 ARRG was published in BusinessWorld on 09 July 2021. In general, the effectivity date is 30 days after publication or on 08 August 2021. For other provisions, per the 2021 ARRG (page 163), the effectivity date is six (6) months after publication, which falls on 09 January 2022.

The following are amendments effective on 08 August 2021:

General provisions

1. Comprehensive definition of “covered persons” to include certain types of designated non-financial businesses and professions;
2. Definition of “covered transaction” for real estate developers and brokers;
3. Quality, form, and timing of submission of suspicious transaction reports (STRs);
4. Inclusion of PC34 (Violation of Section 19(A)(3) of Republic Act No. 10697, otherwise known as the Strategic Trade Management Act, in relation to the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its financing pursuant to United National Security Council Resolution No. 1718 of 2006 and 2231 of 2015) in the requirement of submission of know-your-customer (KYC) documents prior to the actual submission of STRs;
5. Clarification on non-working and non-reporting days in terms of the counting of the prescribed reporting period, including automatic suspension thereof;
6. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of the AMLC to require submission of all covered transactions, including low-risk, of persons subject of AMLC investigation;
7. Renaming of “no/low risk” covered transactions to “low-risk” covered transactions;
8. Amendment to the low-risk transactions; and
9. Introduction of new provisions on compliance-checking and administrative sanctions.

Reporting procedures/annexes

1. Updating of the online registration guidelines;
2. Updating of the reason for suspicion to include two (2) new predicate crimes;
3. Increase in the number of characters for certain fields;
4. Amendment in the mandatory fields for the Beneficiary Party for Outward Remittance transactions;
5. Guidelines in the suspicious transaction reporting on a per account basis;
6. Guidelines for insurance companies on covered and suspicious transaction reporting;
7. Addition of new transaction codes and updating of the mandatory fields; and
8. List of “red flags” and transaction codes, involving real estate transactions and concerning virtual asset service providers.

The following are amendments effective on 09 January 2022:

General provisions

1. Lifting of loan payment as a low-risk transaction

Reporting procedures/annexes

1. Inclusion of STR trigger in the reporting of STRs;
2. New reporting format for loan avancement and sale of real and other properties acquired (ROPA) transactions; and
3. Updating of country and currency codes.

The 2017 ARRG will remain posted on the AMLC website until all provisions of the 2021 ARRG become effective.

Posted 12 August 2021