



**Circular to Money Service Operators  
New Licensing Requirements for  
Money Service Operators**

To strengthen the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulatory regime of the money service operator (“MSO”) sector, with effect from **18 September 2019**, the Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) will implement the following new MSO licensing requirements:

- (1) Application for an MSO licence is to operate a money service as submitted by licence applicant. Where an MSO licensee has long failed to provide a money service, as indicated in the licence application submitted by the licensee, during the validity period of the licence, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise (“CCE”) may exercise the powers under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (“AMLO”) to revoke or suspend the concerned licence.
- (2) Under the licensing requirements, an MSO must lodge a periodic return to the CCE within 2 weeks beginning from each quarter unless specified by the CCE by notice in writing. Where an MSO licensee fails to provide the periodic return in a timely manner as required, the CCE may exercise the powers under the AMLO to revoke or suspend the concerned licence.
- (3) If an MSO licensee who is required under the licence to operate a money service at particular premises wishes to make a change to operation of a money service without particular premises, the licensee needs to submit an application to notify the CCE of the cessation of the existing business and submit a new application to apply for a licence to operate a money service without particular premises.

MSOs and MSO licence applicants are advised to take note of the above requirements and read the Licensing Guide, relevant Licensing Forms and Guidance Notes which are available on the C&ED’s website at [https://eservices.customs.gov.hk/MSOS/index?request\\_locale=en](https://eservices.customs.gov.hk/MSOS/index?request_locale=en).

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact us at 2707 7837.

Money Service Supervision Bureau  
Customs and Excise Department

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