



MSSB/UNSO_11/2020
30 July 2020

Circular

Circular to Money Service Operators

Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorist Financing

(1) United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance

Further to the circulars issued by the Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) on 22 May ^{Note1}, and 17 July ^{Note2} 2020 regarding the amendments to the sanctions list by the United Nations Security Council (“UNSC”) committee which administers the sanctions regime relating to ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida, updated lists specifying the persons and property designated by the UNSC as terrorist or terrorist associate were published under section 4 of the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575) (“UNATMO”) in the Gazette on 22 May and 17 July 2020 respectively (G.N. (E.) 47 and 82 of 2020) to reflect the amended sanctions list mentioned above.

(2) United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Regulation 2020

The United Nations Sanctions (Central African Republic) Regulation 2020 (“CAR Regulation”), made under the United Nations Sanctions Ordinance (Cap. 537) (“UNSO”), was published in the Gazette (L.N. 79 of 2020) on 15 May 2020 with immediate effect.

The CAR Regulation implements sanctions against the Central African Republic as renewed by the UNSC under Resolution 2507. The sanctions imposed by the CAR Regulation include, inter alia, prohibition against making available economic assets to individuals and entities named in the list published under section 33 of the CAR Regulation, or dealing with economic assets of such persons or entities, except with a licence.

An updated list specifying “individuals and entities” was published under section 33 of the CAR Regulation (Cap. 537CM) on the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (“CEDB”) on 29 July 2020 at (https://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/doc/en/Policy_Responsibilities/CAR_List_of_TargetedFinancialSanctions_en.pdf).

A relevant press release issued by the UNSC, reflecting the update since the previous list was published on the website of the CEDB, is at (<https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14267.doc.htm>).

(3) United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020

The United Nations Sanctions (Libya) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (“the Libya Amendment Regulation”), made under the UNSO, was published in the Gazette (L.N. 80 of 2020) on 15 May 2020 with immediate effect.

The Libya Amendment Regulation implements sanctions against Libya as renewed by the UNSC under Resolution 2509. The sanctions renewed by the Libya Amendment

Note¹ The circular issued on 22 May 2020 can be found on the C&ED’s website (<https://eservices.customs.gov.hk/MSOS/downloadFile?id=243050>)

Note² The circular issued on 17 July 2020 can be found on the C&ED’s website (<https://eservices.customs.gov.hk/MSOS/downloadFile?id=252038>)



Regulation include, inter alia, prohibition against engaging in financial transactions related to any petroleum from Libya aboard ships designated by the relevant UNSC Sanctions Committee.

(4) United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020

The United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (“the Yemen Amendment Regulation”), made under the UNSO, was published in the Gazette (L.N. 81 of 2020) on 15 May 2020 with immediate effect.

The Yemen Amendment Regulation implements sanctions against Yemen as renewed by the UNSC under Resolution 2511, which include, inter alia, prohibition against making available to certain persons or entities any economic assets, or dealing with any economic assets of certain persons or entities. It also provides for the granting of licences to implement the new exemption for making available economic assets to such persons or entities and for dealing with economic assets of such persons or entities.

The aforesaid lists in items (1) and (2), regulations in items (2), (3) and (4) can be found on the Government’s website at (<http://www.gld.gov.hk/cgi-bin/gld/egazette/index.cgi?lang=e>).

Money Service Operators (“MSOs”) are reminded to refer to Chapter 6 of the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (For Money Service Operators) which contains guidance on the appropriate measures that MSOs should take to ensure compliance with the UNATMO and the regulations made under the UNSO.

The C&ED expects all new designations to be screened by MSOs against their client lists as soon as practicable whenever there are updates. MSOs are also reminded to report any transactions or relationships they have or have had with any designated person or entity to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact us on 2707 7800.

Money Service Supervision Bureau
Customs and Excise Department

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