



MSSB/UNSO_07/2023

Circular

2 June 2023

**Circular to Money Service Operators
Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorist Financing**

(1) United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2023

The United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (“the DR Congo Amendment Regulation”), made under the United Nations Sanctions Ordinance (Cap. 537) (“UNSO”), was published in the Gazette (L.N. 65 of 2023) on 31 March 2023 with immediate effect.

The DR Congo Amendment Regulation amends the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Regulation 2019 to give effect to certain decisions on sanctions under the United Nations Security Council (“UNSC”) Resolutions 2664 and 2667 in respect of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which include, inter alia, removal of the notification requirement concerning relevant exemptions of arms embargo and reflecting the latest exemption arrangements in respect of asset freeze.

(2) United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2023

The United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (the Yemen Amendment Regulation), made under the UNSO, was published in the Gazette (L.N. 86 of 2023) on 25 May 2023 with immediate effect.

The Yemen Amendment Regulation amends the United Nations Sanctions (Yemen) Regulation 2019 to give effect to certain decisions on sanctions in the UNSC Resolutions 2664 and 2675 in respect of Yemen, which include, inter alia, the renewal of the financial sanctions and travel ban, and reflecting the latest exemption arrangements in respect of asset freeze.

(3) United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019

Further to our circular issued on 23 February 2022, an updated list specifying “individuals and entities” under section 29 of the United Nations Sanctions (Somalia) Regulation 2019 (Cap. 537CG) was published on the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (“CEDB”) on 31 May 2023. A relevant press release issued by the UNSC, reflecting the update since the previous list was published on the website of the CEDB, is available at

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15299.doc.htm>).

The aforesaid list can be found on the website of the CEDB at

https://www.cedb.gov.hk/assets/document/citb/03_CITB_2.0_Policies/CITB_2.0_Policies_Eng/Policies/20230530-Somalia-List_English.pdf).



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The aforesaid regulations in items (1) to (2) 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 MSOs) which contains guidance on the appropriate measures that MSOs should take to ensure compliance with the regulations made under the UNSO.

The Customs and Excise Department 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 at 3742 7761.

Money Service Supervision Bureau
Customs and Excise Department

End