

VIRGIN ISLANDS

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING REGULATIONS, 2008

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VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2008 NO. 12

**PROCEEDS OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT ACT, 1997
(No. 5 of 1997)**

Anti-money Laundering Regulations, 2008

[Gazetted 22nd February, 2008]

The Cabinet, in exercise of the power conferred by section 41 of the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997 (No. 5 of 1997) and with the advice of the Financial Services Commission, makes these Regulations.

Citation and commencement.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Anti-money Laundering Regulations, 2008.

Interpretation.

2. (1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,

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“Agency” means the Financial Investigation Agency established under section 3 of the Financial Investigation Agency Act, 2003;

“applicant for business” means a person seeking to form a business relationship or carry out a one-off transaction with a relevant person who is carrying on relevant business in or from within the Virgin Islands;

“business relationship” means an arrangement between a relevant person and one or more parties, where

- (a) the relevant person has obtained satisfactory evidence of identity of the party who, in relation to the formation of that business relationship, was the applicant for business;
- (b) the relevant person engages in business with the other party on a frequent, habitual or regular basis; and
- (c) the monetary value of dealings in the course of the arrangement is not known or capable of being known at entry;

“CFATF” means the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force of which the Virgin Islands is a member;

“cash” includes coins and any type of bearer negotiable or other monetary instrument and any postal orders;

“Code” means the Anti-money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Code of Practice, 2008;

“Commission” means the Financial Services Commission established under section 3 (1) of the Financial Services Commission Act, 2001;

“foreign regulatory authority” means an authority in a jurisdiction outside the Virgin Islands which exercises in that jurisdiction supervisory functions that substantially correspond to the supervisory functions of the Commission;

“foreign regulated person” means a person that

- (a) is incorporated, registered, licensed or formed, or if it is not a body corporate, has its principal place of business, in a jurisdiction outside the Virgin Islands;
- (b) carries on business outside the Virgin Islands that, if carried on within the Virgin Islands, would fall within a category of business specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) of the definition of “relevant business”; and
- (c) in respect of the business referred to in paragraph (b),
 - (i) is subject to legal requirements in its jurisdiction for the detection and prevention of money laundering that are consistent with the requirements of the CFATF Recommendations or FATF Recommendations in relation to that business; and
 - (ii) is properly and adequately supervised for compliance with those legal requirements by a foreign regulatory authority;

“Money Laundering Reporting Officer” means the person appointed under regulation 13 (1) by a relevant person;

“one-off transaction” means a transaction that constitutes relevant business and which is carried out other than in the course of an established business relationship;

“regulated person” means a person who is licensed or registered to carry on a relevant business;

“relevant business” means

- No. 9 of 1990 (a) banking business or trust business within the meaning of the Banks and Trust Companies Act, 1990;
- No. 15 of 1994 (b) insurance business within the meaning of the Insurance Act, 1994;
- No. 8 of 1990 (c) the business of company management within the meaning of the Company Management Act, 1990;
- No. 6 of 1996 (d) business as a mutual fund or providing services as manager or administrator of a mutual fund within the meaning of the Mutual Funds Act, 1996;
- (e) without prejudice to paragraphs (a) and (c), the business of acting as a trust or company service provider for the purpose of providing any of the following services to a third party:
 - (i) acting as a formation agent of legal persons;
 - (ii) acting (or arranging for another person to act) as a director or secretary of a company, a partner of a partnership, or a similar position in relation to other legal persons;
 - (iii) providing a registered office, business address or accommodation, correspondence or administrative address for a company, partnership or any other legal person or arrangement;

- (iv) acting (or arranging for another person to act) as a trustee of a trust;
- (v) acting (or arranging for another person to act) as a nominee shareholder for another person;
- (f) the business of providing remittance service of Telegraphic Money Order under the Post Office (Telegraph Money Order) Rules, 1934 or money order under the Post Office Rules, 1976;
 - S.I. No. 14 of 1934
 - S.I. No. 24 of 1976
- (g) the business of providing money transmission services or cheque encashment, whether pursuant to an enactment or otherwise;
- (h) the business of
 - (i) providing advice on capital structure, industrial strategy and related matters, and advice and services relating to mergers and the purchase of undertakings;
 - (ii) money broking;
 - (iii) the safe keeping and administration of securities; or
 - (iv) lending or financial leasing;
- (i) the provision of services to clients by legal practitioners, notaries public or accountants which involve transactions concerning any of the following activities:
 - (i) buying and selling of real estate;
 - (ii) managing of client money, securities or other assets;

- (iii) management of bank, savings or securities accounts;
- (iv) organization of contributions for the creation, operation or management of companies; and
- (v) creation, operation or management of legal persons or arrangements, or buying and selling of business entities;
- (j) the business of acting as a real estate agent when engaged in a transaction for a client concerning the buying and selling of real estate;
- (k) the business of dealing in precious metals or precious stones when such transaction involves accepting a cash payment of fifteen thousand dollars or more or the equivalent in any other currency;
- (l) the business of operating a casino (where permitted by law) when a transaction involves accepting a cash payment of three thousand dollars or more or the equivalent in any other currency;

“relevant person” means a person carrying on relevant business; and

“Steering Committee” means the Steering Committee of the Financial Investigation Agency established under section 3 (3) of the Financial Investigation Agency Act, 2003.

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(2) Subsection (1) (i) does not apply to legal practitioners, notaries public or accountants who are employed by the Government or any statutory body.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) (k) and (l), a transaction of or above the threshold designated in that subsection shall be construed to include situations where the transaction is carried out in a single operation or in several operations that appear to be linked.

- (4) For the purposes of these Regulations,
- (a) a business relationship formed by a relevant person is an established business relationship where that person has obtained satisfactory evidence of the identity of the person who, in relation to the formation of that business relationship, was the applicant for business;
 - (b) the question as to what constitutes satisfactory evidence of identity shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Code;
 - (c) a staff is a key staff if he is part of the management team of the relevant person or if, at any time in the course of his duties, he has, or may have, access to any information which may be relevant in determining whether a person is engaged in money laundering.

3. (1) In conducting relevant business, a relevant person shall not form a business relationship or carry out a one-off transaction with or for another person unless the relevant person

General requirements.

- (a) maintains
 - (i) identification procedures in accordance with regulations 4, 5 and 7;
 - (ii) record keeping procedures in accordance with regulations 8 to 11;
 - (iii) internal reporting procedures in accordance with regulation 15; and
 - (iv) internal controls and communication procedures which are appropriate for the purposes of forestalling and preventing money laundering;
- (b) takes appropriate measures from time to time for the purpose of making employees aware of

- (i) the procedures maintained under paragraph (a) and any related procedures provided in the Code; and
 - (ii) the provisions of the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997, the Code, these Regulations and any directive issued pursuant to any enactment; and
- (c) provides training for employees to assist them
- (i) in the recognition and handling of transactions carried out by, or on behalf of, any person who is, or appears to be, engaged in money laundering; and
 - (iii) in dealing with customers where such transactions have been reported to the Steering Committee or the Agency in accordance with the provisions of the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997.

(2) The procedures, measures and training requirements outlined in sub-regulation (1) shall be construed to include any similar or additional procedures, measures and training requirements provided under the Code.

(3) A relevant person shall submit for the approval of the Agency the identification procedures, record keeping procedures, internal reporting procedures and internal controls and communication procedures required to be maintained under sub-regulation (1) (a) and the Agency may keep, for its own use, copies of such documents.

Identification procedures in relation to new and continuing business relationships.

4. (1) A relevant person shall establish and maintain identification procedures which, as soon as reasonably practicable after contact is first made between that person and an applicant for business concerning any particular business relationship or one-off transaction require

- (a) the production by the applicant for business, satisfactory evidence of his identity; or

- (b) the taking by the relevant person of such measures as are specified in the identification procedures as will produce satisfactory evidence of the identity of the applicant for business.

(2) The identification procedures established pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall also

- (a) require that where satisfactory evidence of identity is not obtained by the relevant person, the business relationship or one-off transaction shall not proceed any further until such evidence is obtained, unless and to the extent that the Agency advises otherwise;
- (b) require that where the business relationship or one-off transaction subsists, the applicant for business appears to be acting for a third party in respect of that business relationship, the satisfactory evidence of the identity of the third party will be obtained, failing which the business relationship will be terminated;
- (c) include the full name (including any other names and aliases) and physical address of the applicant for business and, where he is acting for a third party, the full name (including any other names and aliases) and physical address of the third party;
- (d) provide for the assessment by the relevant person of the risk that any business relationship or one-off transaction may involve money laundering and shall be appropriate to the circumstances, having regard to the degree of risk assessed; and
- (e) take into account, without limiting paragraph (d), the greater risk of money laundering which arises when the applicant for business is not engaged in a face-to-face relationship or transaction as to be identified.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, but without prejudice to regulation 2 (4) (b), satisfactory evidence of identity is evidence which is reasonably capable of establishing, and to the satisfaction of the person who obtains the evidence, does establish, that the applicant for business is the person he claims to be.

Establishing and maintaining verification procedures.

5. (1) A relevant person shall establish and maintain procedures which, in respect of transactions undertaken after a business relationship has been established in compliance with regulation 4, require

- (a) the satisfactory verification of evidence of identity produced pursuant to regulation 4 (1) (a), or
- (b) the taking of such measures as are specified in the procedures as will produce satisfactory verification of evidence of identity produced under regulation 4 (1) (b),

as soon as reasonably practicable after transactions are undertaken.

(2) The procedures established pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall also require that when satisfactory verification of evidence of identity is not obtained or produced, the business relationship and transactions shall not proceed any further.

(3) The provisions of the Code with respect to the verification of evidence of identity shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations.

Exceptions to identification procedures.

6. (1) A person carrying on relevant business is not required to obtain evidence of the identity of an applicant for business where he has reasonable grounds for believing that the applicant for business is

- (a) a regulated person;
- (b) a foreign regulated person; or
- (c) a legal practitioner or an accountant who belongs to a professional body whose rules of conduct or practice embody legal requirements for the detection and prevention of money laundering that are consistent with the requirements of the CFATF Recommendations or FATF Recommendations and the legal practitioner or accountant is supervised by his

professional body for compliance with those requirements.

(2) The exception provided in sub-regulation (1) does not apply where the person handling the transaction on behalf of the person carrying on relevant business to whom the application for business is made knows or suspects that the applicant is engaged in money laundering.

(3) A person carrying on relevant business is, in relation to a one-off transaction, not required to obtain evidence of the identity of an applicant for business where the amount to be paid by or to the applicant for business is less than ten thousand dollars or the equivalent amount in another currency, unless

- (a) the person carrying on the relevant business has reasonable grounds for believing (whether at the beginning or subsequently), that
 - (i) the transaction is linked to one or more other transactions; and
 - (ii) the total amount to be paid by or to the applicant for business in respect of all the linked transactions is ten thousand dollars or more; or
- (b) any person handling the transaction on behalf of the person carrying on relevant business knows or suspects that the transaction involves money laundering.

7. (1) A relevant person that relies on introduction of an applicant for business from a third party (in this regulation referred to as “the introducer”) shall establish and maintain identification procedures which, as soon as reasonably practicable after contact is first made between the relevant person and the introducer, require

Identification procedures in relation to introduced business.

- (a) the production by the introducer of satisfactory evidence of the identity of the applicant for business; or
- (b) the taking of such measures as are specified in the identification procedures as will produce satisfactory evidence of the identity of the applicant for business.

(2) Subject to sub-regulation (5), identification procedures

established and maintained pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall not apply where the relevant person has reasonable grounds for believing that

- (a) the introducer is a person specified in regulation 6 (1), or
- (b) the relevant person and the applicant for business are bodies corporate in the same group,

unless the person handling the transaction on behalf of the person carrying on relevant business knows or suspects that the transaction involves money laundering.

(3) In sub-regulation (2) (b), the term “group”, in relation to a body corporate, means that body corporate, any other body corporate which is its holding company or subsidiary and any other body corporate which is a subsidiary of that holding company, and “subsidiary” and “holding company” shall be construed in accordance with section 2 (2) to (6) of the Banks and Trust Companies Act, 1990.

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(4) Subject to sub-regulation (5), a written assurance from the introducer that evidence of the identity of the applicant for business

- (a) has been obtained and recorded in accordance with identification procedures maintained by the introducer which comply with these Regulations and the Code or which comply with measures equivalent to these Regulations and the Code, and
- (b) will be supplied to the relevant person forthwith upon request,

may be accepted by the person carrying on the relevant business concerned as satisfactory evidence of the identity of the applicant for business.

(5) Nothing contained in this regulation limits the duty of the person carrying on relevant business from satisfying himself that, in relation to an applicant for business, the introducer has complied with sub-regulation (4).

- 8.** Where a relevant person is required under these Regulations to verify the identity of a person, the relevant person shall establish and maintain a record in the Virgin Islands which
- Establishing and maintaining record of verification of identity.
- (a) indicates the nature of the evidence obtained; and
 - (b) comprises a copy of the evidence or, where this is not reasonably practicable, contains such information as would enable a copy of the evidence to be obtained.
- 9.** Where a relevant person is required under these Regulations to verify the identity of a person, the relevant person shall maintain a record of
- Maintaining record of transactions and reports.
- (a) all transactions carried out by or on behalf of that person (such as records sufficient to identify the source and recipient of payments from which investigating authorities will be able to compile an audit trail for suspected money laundering); and
 - (b) all reports made by it to the Agency and all inquiries relating to money laundering received by it from the Agency.
- 10.** (1) A relevant person shall maintain the records required under regulations 7, 8 and 9 for a period of at least five years from the date
- Limitation period for retention of records.
- (a) when all transactions relating to a one-off transaction or a series of linked transactions were completed;
 - (b) when the business relationship was formally ended; or
 - (c) where the business relationship was not formally ended, when the last transaction was carried out.
- (2) Where a report has been made to the Anti-money Laundering Reporting Officer appointed under regulation 13 or the relevant person knows or believes that a matter is under investigation, that person shall, without prejudice to sub-regulation (1) or the requirements of the Code relating to the retention of records, retain all relevant records for as long as may be required by the Agency.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, the question as to what records may be relevant in the investigation process may be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Code.

Format and retrieval of records.

11. (1) A relevant person shall ensure that any records required to be maintained pursuant to these Regulations are capable of retrieval without undue delay and in the manner provided in the Code.

(2) A relevant person may rely on the records of a third party in respect of the details of payments and transactions by customers, provided that it is satisfied that the third party is willing and able to retain and, if asked, to produce in the manner provided in the Code, copies of the records required.

Maintaining register of money laundering reports and inquiries.

12. (1) A relevant person shall maintain a register of

- (a) all reports made by it to the Agency; and
- (b) all inquiries relating to money laundering made of it by the Agency.

(2) The register maintained pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall be kept separate from other records and shall contain as a minimum

- (a) the date and nature of the report or inquiry;
- (b) the name and agency of the inquiring officer;
- (c) the powers being exercised and pursuant to what authority; and
- (d) details of the accounts or transactions involved.

Duty to appoint Money Laundering Reporting Officer.

13. (1) A relevant person shall appoint from within its staff a Money Laundering Reporting Officer who shall be a person with sufficient seniority within the relevant person.

(2) In order to be appointed as a Money Laundering Reporting Officer, a person shall possess the following qualifications:

- (a) he must at the minimum hold a diploma with a post qualification experience of not less than three years;
- (b) he must be fit and proper;

- (c) he must have a broad knowledge of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing matters, including the relevant regional and international treaties (including United Nations Resolutions) relating to the combating of money laundering and terrorist financing;
- (d) he must have a good appreciation and understanding of Virgin Islands laws relating to money laundering and terrorist financing; and
- (e) he must possess the ability to make independent and analytical decisions and not be easily susceptible to undue influence.

(3) A Money Laundering Reporting Officer shall be responsible for ensuring compliance by staff of the relevant person with

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- (a) the provisions of these Regulations, Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997, the Code and any other enactment relating to money laundering and terrorist financing;
- (b) the provisions of any internal reporting and manual of compliance procedures relating to money laundering and terrorist financing; and
- (c) any additional reporting and related obligations provided in the Code.

(4) The Money Laundering Reporting Officer shall, in addition to the functions reposed in him by these Regulations and the Code, act as the liaison between the relevant person and the Agency in matters relating to compliance with the provisions of these Regulations, the Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997, the Code and any other enactment relating to money laundering and terrorist financing.

14. (1) Without prejudice to regulation 13 or any other enactment relating to the conduct of inspections to verify compliance, the Agency or a person designated by the Agency in writing may conduct an inspection of a relevant person to determine compliance by that person with the requirements of these Regulations, Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997, the Code and any other enactment or directive relating to money laundering.

Due diligence audit.

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(2) The Agency may, for purposes of these Regulations and

the Code, issue such directives as it considers necessary and the directives, when issued, shall, unless considered by the Agency to be of a restricted and confidential nature, be published in the *Gazette*.

Establishment of procedures in relation to suspicious transactions.

15. A relevant person shall establish written internal reporting procedures which, in relation to its relevant business, will

- (a) enable its directors, or as the case may be, partners, all other persons involved in its management, and all key staff, to know to whom they should report knowledge or suspicion of money laundering;
- (b) ensure that there is a clear reporting chain under which suspicions of money laundering will be passed to the Money Laundering Reporting Officer;
- (c) ensure that the Money Laundering Reporting Officer has reasonable access to all relevant information which may be of assistance to him and which is available to the relevant person; and
- (d) ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Code.

Staff training.

16. (1) A relevant person shall provide education and training for all of its directors or, as the case may be, partners, all other persons involved in its management, and all key staff, to ensure that they are aware of

- (a) the provisions of these Regulations, Proceeds of Criminal Conduct Act, 1997, the Code and any other enactment relating to money laundering and terrorist financing;
- (b) the relevant regional and international conventions, United Nations Security Council Resolutions and standards of compliance established from time to time by the CFATF, FATF and other organizations of which the Virgin Islands is a member or in which the Virgin Islands holds associate or observer status, relating to money laundering and terrorist financing;

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- (c) their personal and the relevant person's obligations under the enactments and instruments referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b);
 - (d) the manual of compliance procedures or internal control systems and other requirements established pursuant to these Regulations and the Code;
 - (e) their personal liability for failure to report information or suspicions in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations, the Code and any other enactment, including any established internal procedures.
- (2) A relevant person shall, in addition, provide training
- (a) to all of the persons referred to in sub-regulation (1) with respect to
 - (i) ensuring compliance with regulation 3 (1) (c);
 - (ii) its policies and procedures to detect and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing; and
 - (iii) its customer identification, record keeping and other procedures; and
 - (b) in accordance with the requirements of this regulation and the Code to all new key staff as soon as practicable after their appointment.

(3) A relevant person shall provide the training requirements referred to in sub-regulations (1) and (2) on such frequent basis as it may determine, but in any case at least once every year.

17. (1) A person who fails to comply with the requirements of these Regulations or any directive issued pursuant to regulation 14 (2), commits an offence. Offences and penalties.

(2) A person who commits an offence under sub-regulation (1) is liable,

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars; and
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars.

(3) In proceedings against a person for an offence under these Regulations, it shall be a defence for the person to prove that he took all reasonable steps and exercised due diligence to comply with the requirements of these Regulations or any directive issued pursuant to regulation 14 (2) in respect of which he is charged.

(4) Where an offence under these Regulations has been committed by a body corporate, section 22 (2) of the Interpretation Act shall apply, except that the words “the liability of whose members is limited” shall be omitted.

(5) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, sub-regulation (3) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

(6) Where an offence under these Regulations is committed by a partnership, or by an unincorporated association other than a partnership, is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to the failure to exercise due diligence by, a partner in the partnership or, as the case may be, a person concerned in the management or control of the association, he, as well as the partnership or association, commit that offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Made by the Cabinet this 20th day of February, 2008.

(Sgd.) OTTO O’NEAL,
Cabinet Secretary.