

13 September 2019

Our Ref: INS/TEC/6/45

To : Chief Executives of all authorized insurers
carrying on long term business

Dear Sirs,

Amendments to the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing and the Guideline on Exercising Power to Impose Pecuniary Penalty in respect of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing

Frequently Asked Questions in relation to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing

We are writing to inform you of the following developments:

(1) The Guidelines Amendments

The revised Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (“GL3”) and Guideline on Exercising Power to Impose Pecuniary Penalty in respect of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (“GL3A”) (“the revised Guidelines”) have been published in the Gazette (G.N. 5700 of 2019) today.

On 23 September 2019, the Insurance Authority will take over from the self-regulatory organizations to become the sole regulator of insurance intermediaries in Hong Kong. As a result, some existing terminologies under the Insurance Ordinance (Cap. 41) will have to be amended. The revised Guidelines reflect the corresponding amendments and will come into effect on 23 September 2019.

A copy of the revised Guidelines (showing marked-up changes against the previous version) is attached at Appendix A (GL3 English version), Appendix B (GL3 Chinese version), Appendix C (GL3A English version) and Appendix D (GL3A Chinese version) for your information. The revised Guidelines are also available on the Government’s website <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette> and our website <http://www.ia.org.hk>.

You should review your existing policies and procedures in light of the amendment reflected in the revised Guidelines and take appropriate measures in ensuring continued compliance with all applicable requirements under the revised Guidelines.

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(2) Frequently Asked Questions

A new set of frequently asked questions (“FAQs”) in relation to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (“AML/CFT”) is published by the Insurance Authority today. The FAQs published on 15 April 2019 are superseded with immediate effect.

The new set of FAQs aims to assist insurance institutions (“IIs”) as stipulated in the GL3 in understanding the relevant AML/CFT requirements. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the latest GL3 and will be updated from time to time as necessary. IIs should have regard to the FAQs in meeting applicable AML/CFT statutory and regulatory requirements. The set of FAQs is available on our website https://www.ia.org.hk/en/infocenter/faqs/faqs_9.html.

Should you have any enquiries on the above, please contact Mr Joseph Lee at 3899 9755 or Mr Raven Chan at 3899 9754.

Yours faithfully,

Dickson Chui
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Market Conduct Division
Insurance Authority

c.c. Chairman, The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers

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