

25 March 2020

Circular to Licensed Corporations and Associated Entities

Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Financing of Terrorism

Early Alert on United Nations Sanctions

The sanctions committee of the United Nations Security Council (“UNSC”) which administers the sanctions regime for ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida removed one individual from its sanctions list ^{Note 1, 2} on 24 March 2020 (New York time). Please refer to the relevant press release issued by the UNSC in Attachment 1.

Licensed corporations (“LCs”) and associated entities (“AEs”) should update their screening databases with the above changes made by the UNSC sanctions committee for sanctions screening of customers and payments. LCs and AEs are reminded to refer to our circular on United Nations Sanctions issued on 7 February 2018 ^{Note 3} which sets out our expectations on actions that LCs and AEs should take regarding sanctions imposed by the UNSC.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact Ms Kiki Wong at 2231 1569 who will assist to refer your queries to the relevant officer.

Intermediaries Supervision Department
Intermediaries Division
Securities and Futures Commission

Enclosure

End

SFO/IS/010/2020

^{Note 1} An updated list specifying “individuals, groups, undertakings and entities” under section 25 of the United Nations Sanctions (ISIL and Al-Qaida) Regulation (Cap. 537CB), which has reflected the amendment by the sanctions committee of the UNSC, was published on the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on 25 March 2020. The list obtained from the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau is attached in Attachment 2.

^{Note 2} Licensed corporations and associated entities will be alerted when the updated sanctions list, reflecting the amendment by the sanctions committee of the UNSC, is published under the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575) in the Gazette. The website of the Securities and Futures Commission (“SFC”) will also be updated to provide a weblink to the gazette notice thereof for easy reference.

^{Note 3} The circular on United Nations Sanctions can be accessed on the SFC’s website (<http://www.sfc.hk/edistributionWeb/gateway/EN/circular/aml/aml-regulations/doc?refNo=18EC9>).