

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

Good Practices on Transaction Monitoring &

Recent Developments

22 January 2009



Background

Produced in consultation with the IWG

 Highlights the essential features of an effective transaction monitoring system & assists Als in complying with requirements in the AML Supplement

 Als are expected to give full consideration to adopt the recommended practices in the paper



Requirements under Supplement

Para 3.2(e)

- Perform on-going scrutiny of transactions and account throughout the business relationship
- To ensure transactions are consistent with the Al's knowledge of
 - the customer;
 - its business and
 - risk profile



Requirements under Supplement

Section 13

- Systems to identify suspicious transactions
- MIS reports to provide timely information
- Understanding of normal and reasonable activities of customer types
- Follow-up on unusual activity identified and document findings
- Reasonable measures to satisfy itself as to source and legitimacy of funds



Detailed Guidance

Purpose

Alert Als to activities that appear unusual or suspicious for further investigation

Coverage

 Scope and complexity of the monitoring process should be determined on a risksensitive basis

KYC

Understanding the customer & updating their risk profile



Detailed Guidance

Key Components

- 1. Monitoring by front-line staff
- 2. Regular reviews of past transactions
- 3. Identification of suspicious transactions



Detailed Guidance

- 4. Management of suspicious transactions
- 5. Automation of transaction monitoring process
- 6. Regular review of system parameters
- 7. Management commitment



 HKAB's AML Committee sought clarification on number of issues in relation to the application of the AML Guideline and Supplement



Enquiries from Law Enforcement

considered trigger events

the extent of the review to be determined on a case-by-case basis



Private Banking

- Annex 2 of the Supplement mandatory for private banking activities
- Accounts opened in Offshore Branches
 - customer identity information must be available on request
 - records of transaction conducted on behalf of a customer of an offshore branch must be available on request



Address Proof

- IN[17] of the Supplement allows Als to adopt RBA to verification of address for parties connected to corporate customers
- Als may waive verification if company & individual concerned both assessed to be low risk
- To be reviewed during consolidation exercise



Application of IN [17] to trusts

extended to signatories of trust accounts

Application IN [19] to trusts

- IN[19] allows RBA to verification of identity account signatories, subject to requirement to identify a minimum of 2 signatories
- extended to signatories of trust accounts



Verification of the Identity of the Beneficial Owner of a Legal Person / Arrangement

Flexibility not to obtain and verify copies of a BO's identity document and/or address proof provided:

- 1. obtained other satisfactory evidence of the identity and/or address of the BO;
- 2. efforts to obtain ID and address proof unsuccessful;
- 3. no suspicion of ML or TF;
- 4. used sparingly; and
- 5. senior management approval



Compliance with US Sanctions

- Case-by-case basis taking into account the legal and reputational risks
- Must screen to ensure no violation of domestic sanctions pursuant to UNATMO (Cap.575) and UN Sanctions Ord. (Cap.537)
- Must ensure do not engage in proliferation activities
- RBA and reasonable steps to review nature of goods based on the shipping documents



Way Forward for 2009

- Consolidation of AML Guideline and Supplement
- Next AML seminar: Tuesday 12 May 2009
- Complete thematic AML examination of Als trade finance activities by June & issue best practices paper
- Assist HKSARG in formulation of policy response to FATF ME recommendations



Questions