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REGULATORY INTELLIGENCE FOR COMPLIANCE, LEGAL, TAX, AND RISK LEADERS ACROSS THE UAE AND WIDER MEA

AML and conduct frameworks surface across the regulatory record

This is a relatively thin week for genuinely new regulatory developments. The most operationally material items are previously issued instruments now surfaced in monitoring: the Central Bank of the UAE's Telemarketing Regulation C 3/2026, already in force since 31 March 2026, and Regulation C 5/2026 on remuneration, in force since 14 April 2026, both imposing binding requirements on licensed banks and insurance companies. A cluster of Ministry of Economy and Tourism AML/CFT instruments, spanning the foundational Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 through to Cabinet Resolution No. 71 of 2024, rounds out the week's substantive coverage, reinforcing the breadth of obligations on Financial Institutions, Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, and Virtual Asset Service Providers. Licensed banks, insurance companies, and DNFBPs carry the heaviest compliance exposure across the week's items.

By the SignalMEA desk

SignalMEA surfaces regulatory developments as they reach our monitored sources each week. In some cases, a document's original issuance date may predate the week shown, and we report items when they become available through the regulators we track.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Licensed banks and insurance companies are now subject to binding remuneration governance requirements under Regulation C 5/2026 and telemarketing obligations under Regulation C 3/2026, both already in force.

DNFBPS AND ADVISERS

Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions face an updated administrative penalty schedule under Cabinet Resolution No. 71 of 2024, alongside longstanding CDD, STR, and beneficial ownership obligations across multiple in-force instruments.

BANKING AND INSURANCE CONDUCT

Two CBUAE regulations, on telemarketing and remuneration, are now in force, tightening conduct and governance standards for licensed banks and insurance companies.

CBUAE RULEBOOK - UAE - FEDERAL

1 June 2026

HIGH

Telemarketing Regulation C 3/2026 for Licensed Financial Institutions

Consumer Protection | Telemarketing | Licensed Financial Institutions

WHAT HAPPENED

The Central Bank of the UAE issued Telemarketing Regulation C 3/2026, establishing a binding framework governing how all licensed financial institutions must conduct telemarketing activities. The Regulation covers group entities, including subsidiaries, affiliates, and third-party branches of UAE-licensed financial institutions, and extends obligations to foreign-party service providers engaged to conduct telemarketing on their behalf. The Regulation came into force on 31 March 2026.

WHY IT MATTERS

All licensed financial institutions must ensure their telemarketing practices comply with Regulation C 3/2026, including adherence to the Do Not Call Registry supervised by the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority. Non-compliance exposes institutions to administrative penalties under Cabinet Resolution No. 57 of 2024, with group-wide reach extending obligations beyond the UAE-licensed entity itself.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

All licensed financial institutions supervised by the CBUAE, including licensed banks, finance companies, insurance companies, exchange houses, payment service providers; third-party service providers engaged by licensed financial institutions to conduct telemarketing on their behalf; group entities including subsidiaries, affiliates, and foreign branches of UAE-licensed financial institutions.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Licensed financial institutions must ensure telemarketing activities comply with Regulation C 3/2026 and Cabinet Resolution No. 56 of 2024 on a solo and group-wide basis, covering subsidiaries, affiliates, and foreign branches.

Licensed financial institutions must ensure third-party service providers engaged to conduct telemarketing functions on their behalf fully comply with all requirements set out in the Regulation.

IN FORCE
In force since 31 March 2026 (Regulation C 3/2026 in force)

[Read full document](#)

CBUAE RULEBOOK - UAE - FEDERAL

1 June 2026

HIGH

Remuneration Regulation C 5/2026 for Licensed Banks and Insurance Companies

Remuneration | Governance | Banking | Insurance

WHAT HAPPENED

The Central Bank of the UAE issued Regulation C 5/2026, establishing binding minimum requirements for remuneration frameworks applicable to all licensed banks and insurance companies, effective 14 April 2026. The Regulation requires board-approved remuneration frameworks aligned with long-term strategic objectives and risk appetite, applies to all staff including those in outsourced roles, and imposes enhanced requirements on systemically important institutions as determined by the Central Bank.

WHY IT MATTERS

Licensed banks and insurance companies must continuously demonstrate to the Central Bank full compliance with the minimum remuneration requirements, covering systems, policies, procedures, and practices. Institutions forming part of a group may apply a group-level remuneration policy only where it is board-approved and fully meets the minimum requirements established in Regulation C 5/2026.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Licensed banks; insurance companies; reinsurance companies; Islamic banks; takaful insurance companies; systemically important financial institutions; financial institutions operating as part of a group.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Licensed banks and insurance companies must establish and maintain a board-approved remuneration framework ensuring remuneration is commensurate with performance and risk outcomes, aligned with the institution's long-term strategic objectives and risk appetite.

Licensed banks and insurance companies must apply the remuneration framework to all staff, including those in outsourced roles, and systemically important institutions must be prepared to meet enhanced requirements as determined by the Central Bank.

IN FORCE
In force since 14 April 2026 (Regulation C 5/2026 in force)

[Read full document](#)

CBUAE RULEBOOK - UAE - FEDERAL

1 June 2026

HIGH

AML and CFT

A sequence of foundational and amending AML/CFT instruments surfaces this week, collectively mapping the full compliance perimeter for Financial Institutions, DNFBPs, and Virtual Asset Service Providers.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

AML | CFT | Financial Institutions | DNFBPs | FIU

WHAT HAPPENED

Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 establishes the UAE's foundational anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and counter-financing of illegal organisations framework. It created an independent Financial Intelligence Unit under the Central Bank, established a National Committee chaired by the Central Bank Governor, and imposed wide-ranging obligations on Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, including risk assessment, customer due diligence, beneficial ownership identification, suspicious transaction reporting, record retention, internal controls, and implementation of UN sanctions.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Decree-Law prescribes criminal penalties ranging from imprisonment and fines of AED 100,000 to AED 50,000,000 for violations, with asset confiscation available and administrative penalties imposed by supervisory authorities. Its scope encompasses Financial Institutions, DNFBPs, Non-Profit Organisations, and Virtual Asset Service Providers, making it the foundational instrument against which all subsequent AML/CFT executive instruments must be read.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Financial Institutions; Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs); Non-Profit Organisations; Real Estate Agents; Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones; Lawyers; Notaries; Auditors; Trust and Corporate Service Providers (TCSPs); Accountants; all legal and natural persons.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Financial Institutions and DNFBPs must report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit without delay, with detailed information, and must not open or maintain anonymous, fictitious, or pseudonym accounts.

Financial Institutions and DNFBPs must conduct customer due diligence, identify and verify beneficial owners, maintain records of all transactions and documents, and implement internal AML/CFT policies and controls approved by senior management.

IN FORCE
In force since 23 October 2018 (one month from publication)

[Read full document](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

Cabinet Resolution No. 71 of 2024: Updated Administrative Penalties for DNFBP AML/CFT Violations

AML | CFT | DNFBPs | Administrative Penalties | Enforcement

WHAT HAPPENED

Cabinet Resolution No. 71 of 2024 replaces Cabinet Resolution No. 16 of 2021 and establishes a unified list of 41 violations and corresponding administrative fines ranging from AED 50,000 to AED 1,000,000 for Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions under the control of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy who violate Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 on AML/CFT and its Executive Regulation. The Ministry may double fines for repeated violations and impose additional administrative sanctions under Article 14 of the Decree-Law.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Resolution materially expands the penalty schedule from 26 to 41 specific violations relative to its predecessor, covering the full range of AML/CFT compliance obligations including internal controls, risk assessment, customer due diligence, politically exposed persons, suspicious transaction reporting, record-keeping, UN Security Council resolutions, and targeted financial sanctions. Violators have 30 working days to grieve penalties, with decisions final after the grievance process.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) under Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy control, including lawyers, notaries, accountants, real estate agents, dealers in precious metals and stones, and trust and company service providers.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

DNFBPs must maintain internal policies, procedures, and controls consistent with their crime risk profile, updated continuously, and applied to branches and majority-owned subsidiaries.

DNFBPs must register at the electronic system approved at the Financial Intelligence Unit and promptly submit suspicious transaction reports upon suspicion, and must register at the Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation website to receive sanctions list notifications.

IN FORCE
In force since 8 July 2024 (day following Official Gazette publication)

[Read full document](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

Circular No. 1 of 2025: Updated High-Risk Jurisdiction Lists and Countermeasures for DNFBPs

AML | CFT | High-Risk Jurisdictions | DNFBPs | FATF | Enhanced Due Diligence

WHAT HAPPENED

The Ministry of Economy issued Circular No. 1 of 2025, updating the FATF-based lists of high-risk jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action and jurisdictions under increased monitoring, effective 13 March 2025. All Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, including real estate brokers, dealers in precious metals and precious stones, auditing or accounting firms, and corporate services providers, must apply enhanced due diligence to all transactions involving jurisdictions on the Blacklist and submit Suspicious Transaction Reports via GoAML.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Circular prohibits reliance on third parties located in Blacklist jurisdictions for customer due diligence and requires compliance with targeted financial sanctions under Cabinet Decision No. 74 of 2020. Regulatory authorities are required to take legal action against non-compliant DNFBPs and their management, giving the Circular direct enforcement teeth beyond the guidance it supplements.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Real estate brokers and agents; dealers of precious metals and precious stones; auditing or accounting firms; corporate services providers; all DNFBPs.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

DNFBPs must apply enhanced due diligence measures to all business relationships and transactions involving jurisdictions on the Blacklist (high-risk countries subject to a Call for Action) and must not rely on third parties located in Blacklist jurisdictions to perform customer due diligence procedures.

DNFBPs must submit Suspicious Transaction Reports to the Financial Intelligence Unit using GoAML templates for High-Risk Jurisdiction reports and must comply with targeted financial sanctions in accordance with UNSC resolutions and Cabinet Decision No. 74 of 2020.

IN FORCE
In force since 13 March 2025

[Read full document](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

Cabinet Decision No. 109 of 2023: Beneficial Owner Identification and Registration Procedures

Beneficial Ownership | Corporate Transparency | AML | Ministry of Economy

WHAT HAPPENED

Cabinet Decision No. 109 of 2023 replaces Cabinet Decision No. 58 of 2020 and establishes detailed procedures for identifying, recording, and disclosing beneficial owners of legal persons in the UAE, effective 7 November 2023. It defines beneficial owners as natural persons owning or controlling 25% or more of a legal person, directly or indirectly, and requires all legal persons (excluding wholly government-owned entities and financial free zones) to create a Beneficial Owner's Record and Register of Partners or Shareholders.

WHY IT MATTERS

Legal persons must update their Beneficial Owner's Record within 15 days of any change and provide data to Registrars within 60 days of enforcement or licensing. Registrars are required to establish Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Units and apply risk-based approaches to registered entities, with semi-annual compliance reports submitted to the Minister.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

All legal persons licensed or registered in the UAE mainland and free commercial zones (excluding wholly government-owned entities, financial free zones, and governmental partners); Registrars; Ministry of Economy; DNFBPs interacting with legal persons.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Legal persons must create and maintain a Beneficial Owner's Record and a Register of Partners or Shareholders, update the Beneficial Owner's Record within 15 days of any change, and provide Beneficial Owner data to the Registrar within 60 days of enforcement or licensing.

Legal persons are prohibited from issuing bearer shares or stock warrants, and must notify the Registrar of shares or stocks issued in names of nominees within 15 days.

IN FORCE
In force since 7 November 2023

[Read full document](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

Ministerial Decree No. 68 of 2024: Due Diligence for Responsible Sourcing of Gold

AML | DPMS | Gold | Due Diligence | Supply Chain

WHAT HAPPENED

Ministerial Decree No. 68 of 2024, effective 29 March 2024, mandates all gold refineries, gold recyclers, precious metals dealers, and supply chain stakeholders in the UAE to adhere to due diligence procedures for responsible gold sourcing. Gold refineries and recyclers face additional obligations to appoint independent third-party auditors and submit due diligence reports on their gold supply chains. Violations are subject to administrative penalties under Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 on AML/CFT.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Decree extends AML-linked supply chain obligations directly into the gold sector, requiring all relevant entities to establish management systems, identify and assess supply chain risks, and implement risk management strategies. The mandatory independent audit requirement for refineries and recyclers creates a verifiable compliance trail subject to supervisory scrutiny.

AFFECTED ENTITIES

Gold refineries; gold recyclers; precious metals dealers; supply chain stakeholders in the gold sector; commercial free zones under Ministry of Economy supervision.

KEY OBLIGATIONS

Gold refineries and recyclers must appoint an independent third-party auditor for due diligence of the gold supply chain and submit a due diligence report.

All entities covered must establish company management systems, identify and assess supply chain risks, and design and implement a risk management strategy to respond to identified risks.

IN FORCE
In force since 29 March 2024 (from date of issuance)

[Read full document](#)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - UAE - FEDERAL

HIGH

ALSO THIS WEEK

MOHRE
UAE - FEDERAL
4 JUNE 2026

MEDIUM
MOHRE Updated Wage Protection System Decision: Formalised Escalation and Gradual Compliance Approach
The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation announced an updated Wage Protection System decision formalising and standardising existing wage monitoring and escalation procedures for private sector employers. The updated decision applies a risk-based approach differentiated by economic activity and workforce size, with earlier electronic intervention and structured rectification steps before further escalation measures are applied.

WATCHLIST

Named unauthorised, clone, or impersonating entities flagged by regulators this week.

ADGM FSRA - ADGM - ABU DHABI

Six unauthorised domains are impersonating Sarwa Digital Wealth (Capital) Limited, an FSRA-authorized firm, including via fraudulent recruitment activity.

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ALSO RECORDED

Lower-priority items logged for completeness.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Cabinet Resolution No. (24) of 2022 Amending Cabinet Resolution No. (10) of 2019 - AML/CFT Executive Regulations (VASP and PEP amendments) - 31 March 2022

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Federal Decree-Law No. 26 of 2021 Amending Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 on AML/CFT (VASP licensing and penalty enhancements) - 26 September 2021

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Cabinet Resolution No. 74 of 2020: Terrorism Lists Regulation and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions - 27 October 2020

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Cabinet Decision No. 16 of 2021: Unified Violations and Administrative Fines for DNFBP AML/CFT Violations (Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy) - 1 February 2021

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Cabinet Decision No. 10 of 2019: Implementing Regulation of Federal Decree-Law No. 20 of 2018 on AML/CFT - 10 February 2019

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND TOURISM - Cabinet Decision No. 132 of 2023: Administrative Penalties for Beneficial Ownership Violations - 15 December 2023

ADGM REGISTRATION AUTHORITY - Notice of Deregistration - BANK LOMBARD ODIER & CO LTD (ADGM branch, effective 1 June 2026) - 1 June 2026

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE - Summary Report - Monetary and Banking Developments - April 2026 - 5 June 2026

DFSA - Armin Peter Appointed Managing Director, Markets at the DFSA (effective 3 August 2026) - 3 June 2026

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE - CBUAE and Central Bank of Bahrain Governors Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Financial and Banking Cooperation - 3 June 2026

MINISTRY OF FINANCE - UAE Participates in EBRD Board of Governors Meeting, Riga, 5-7 June 2026 - 6 June 2026

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

The CBUAE Remuneration Regulation C 5/2026 is now in force; supervisory assessments of licensed banks' and insurance companies' remuneration frameworks will be the next compliance test under this instrument.

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