

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

NO. 5543

15 November 2024



Financial
Intelligence Centre

DIRECTIVE 9

concerning the implementation of the
“Travel Rule” relating to crypto asset
transfers in accordance with the
Financial Action Task Force
Recommendations

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Directive No 9 of 2024**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This Directive is issued by the Financial Intelligence Centre (Centre) in terms of section 43A(2) of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001).
- 1.2 The purpose of this Directive is to ensure that accountable institutions that provide or engage in activities of crypto asset transfers, implement the requirements of Recommendation 16 of the Financial Action Task Force in the context of crypto asset transfers.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In this Directive the "FIC Act" means the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001) and includes any regulation or Directive made under the Act, and, unless the context otherwise indicates, any word or expression in this Directive to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act has that meaning, and
- 2.1.1 'beneficiary' means a person or entity that is identified by the originator as the receiver of a crypto asset associated with a transfer of crypto assets;
- 2.1.2 'cross-border crypto asset transfer' means a transfer where either the ordering crypto asset service provider or the receiving crypto asset service provider is located outside the Republic of South Africa;
- 2.1.3 'domestic crypto asset transfer' means a transfer where the ordering crypto asset service provider and receiving crypto asset service provider are both located in the Republic;
- 2.1.4 'intermediary crypto asset service provider' means a crypto asset service provider that receives and transmits crypto assets on behalf of an ordering crypto asset service provider or beneficiary crypto asset service provider or another intermediary crypto asset service provider and where the intermediary crypto asset service provider does not have a business relationship with either the originator or beneficiary;

- 2.1.5 'ordering crypto asset service provider' means a crypto asset service provider that initiates a transfer and transfers the associated crypto asset upon receiving the request for the transfer from or on behalf of the originator;
- 2.1.6 'originator' means a person or entity that initiates an instruction to the ordering crypto asset service provider to execute the transfer of crypto assets;
- 2.1.7 'recipient crypto asset service provider' means a crypto asset service provider that receives a crypto asset from an ordering crypto asset service provider, directly or through an intermediary crypto asset service provider, and makes the crypto asset associated with the transfer available to the beneficiary;
- 2.1.8 'unhosted wallet' means a type of crypto wallet where the user has exclusive control of the private keys; and
- 2.1.9 'qualifying transfer' means a transaction in a business relationship involving a crypto asset which is any value above zero.

3. SCOPE OF THIS DIRECTIVE

This Directive applies to accountable institutions listed in items 12 and 22 of Schedule 1 to the FIC Act that are ordering, intermediary or recipient crypto asset service providers, which facilitate or enable the origination or receipt of domestic and cross-border transfers of crypto assets or act as an intermediary in receiving or transmitting the crypto assets for or on behalf of a client.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF ORDERING CRYPTO ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 4.1 An accountable institution that is an ordering crypto asset service provider must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 4.2 to 4.9 below.
- 4.2 An ordering crypto asset service provider must transmit to the recipient crypto asset service provider the following information concerning the originator of a qualifying transfer:
- 4.2.1 if the originator is a natural person, the originator's:
- 4.2.1.1 full name; and
 - 4.2.1.2 identity number, if the originator is a South African citizen or resident; or

- 4.2.1.3 passport number or foreign national identity number, and date of birth, if the originator is not a South African citizen or resident; and
 - 4.2.1.4 residential address, if such an address is readily available; or
 - 4.2.1.5 country of birth, if the residential address is not readily available; or
- 4.2.2 if the originator is a legal person, the originator's:
- 4.2.2.1 registered name;
 - 4.2.2.2 registration number under which it is incorporated; and
 - 4.2.2.3 registered address;
- 4.2.3 the originator's distributed ledger address associated with the transfer, if the transfer is registered on a network using distributed ledger or similar technology, and
- 4.2.4 the originator's crypto asset account number with the ordering crypto asset service provider, if such an account is used to process the transaction, or a unique transaction reference number, if such an account number is not available.
- 4.3 An originator of a crypto asset transfer is the client of the ordering crypto asset service provider, as contemplated in the FIC Act, for the purposes of the execution of the transfer. The information relating to the originator that is transmitted to the recipient crypto asset service provider in accordance with paragraph 4.2 above, must be subjected to customer due diligence in accordance with Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the FIC Act and the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the ordering crypto asset service provider is required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the FIC Act.
- 4.4 An ordering crypto asset service provider must transmit to the recipient crypto asset service provider the following information concerning the beneficiary:
- 4.4.1 the full name of the beneficiary;
 - 4.4.2 the beneficiary's distributed ledger address associated with the transfer, in cases, if the transfer is registered on a network using distributed ledger or similar technology, and
 - 4.4.3 the beneficiary's crypto asset account number with the recipient crypto asset service provider, if such an account is used to process the transaction and this information is readily available to the ordering crypto asset service provider.

- 4.5 In respect of a transfer that is a single transaction of less than R5 000, the ordering crypto asset service provider must transmit to the recipient crypto asset service provider the following information, at a minimum:
- 4.5.1 the full name of the originator referred to in paragraphs 4.2.1.1 or 4.2.2.1 above, as the case may be;
 - 4.5.2 the originator's distributed ledger address associated with the transfer, if the transfer is registered on a network using distributed ledger or similar technology; and
 - 4.5.3 the originator's crypto asset account number with the ordering crypto asset service provider, if such an account is used to process the transaction, or a unique transaction reference number, if such an account is not available;
 - 4.5.4 the full name of the beneficiary;
 - 4.5.5 the beneficiary's distributed ledger address associated with the transfer, in cases, if the transfer is registered on a network using distributed ledger or similar technology, and
 - 4.5.6 the beneficiary's crypto asset account number with the recipient crypto asset service provider, if such an account is used to process the transaction and this information is readily available to the ordering crypto asset service provider.
- 4.6 An ordering crypto asset service provider need not verify the information referred to in paragraph 4.5 in respect of a transfer that is a single transaction valued at less than R5 000 for accuracy, unless there is a suspicion of money laundering or terrorist financing, in which case, the ordering crypto asset service provider must verify the information pertaining to the originator.
- 4.7 When an ordering crypto asset service provider will be transmitting the information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above to another crypto asset service provider, the ordering crypto asset service provider must, before it transfers the information in question-
- 4.7.1 identify the counterpart crypto asset service provider to which it will transmit the information in question;
 - 4.7.2 conduct due diligence on that counterpart crypto asset service provider-
 - 4.7.2.1 to determine whether the counterpart can reasonably be expected to protect the confidentiality of information transmitted to it; and
 - 4.7.2.2 to avoid dealing with an illicit actor or an entity that is identified pursuant to a Resolution of the United Nations Security Council and

that is announced in a notice referred to in section 26A (3) of the FIC Act,

on the understanding that an ordering crypto asset service provider does not have to undertake the due diligence referred to in subparagraphs 4.7.2.1 and 4.7.2.2 above for each transfer of a crypto asset when dealing with a counterpart crypto asset service provider for which it has previously conducted this due diligence,

on the understanding further that an ordering crypto asset service provider must conduct the due diligence referred to in subparagraphs 4.7.2.1 and 4.7.2.2 above whenever there is a suspicion of money laundering, terrorist financing or proliferation financing against the counterpart crypto asset service provider, and

4.7.3 update the due diligence referred to in subparagraph 4.7.2 above which it has previously conducted for a counterpart crypto asset service provider periodically or when it identifies that money laundering, terrorist financing or proliferation financing risk emerges from the relationship with a counterpart crypto asset service provider.

- 4.8 An ordering crypto asset service provider may not execute a crypto asset transfer if it cannot comply with the requirements referred to in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7 above.
- 4.9 An ordering crypto asset service provider must provide for the manner in which and the processes by which it will implement measures to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 4.1 to 4.8 above, in the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the ordering crypto asset service provider is required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the FIC Act.

5. OBLIGATIONS OF INTERMEDIARY CRYPTO ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 5.1 An accountable institution that is an intermediary crypto asset service provider must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 5.2 to 5.5 below.
- 5.2 An intermediary crypto asset service provider must ensure that all originator and beneficiary information that pertains to a cross-border or domestic crypto asset transfer, is transmitted to the receiving crypto asset service provider, or another intermediary crypto asset service provider in a transaction chain, as the case may be.

- 5.3 An intermediary crypto asset service provider must take reasonable measures to identify cross-border crypto asset transfers that lack the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above.
- 5.4 An intermediary crypto asset service provider must develop, document, maintain and implement effective risk-based policies and procedures for determining:
- 5.4.1 when to execute, suspend execution, or return a cross-border crypto asset transfer that lack any of the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above; and
- 5.4.2 the appropriate follow-up action that the intermediary crypto asset service provider will take in each instance where it executes, suspends execution or returns a cross-border crypto asset transfer referred to in paragraph 5.4.1 above.
- 5.5 The measures referred to in paragraph 5.3 above and the policies and procedures referred to in paragraph 5.4 above, must be included in the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the intermediary crypto asset service provider is required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the FIC Act.

6. OBLIGATIONS OF RECIPIENT CRYPTO ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS

- 6.1 An accountable institution that is a recipient crypto asset service provider must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 6.2 to 6.6 below.
- 6.2 A beneficiary of a crypto asset transfer is the client of the recipient crypto asset service provider, as contemplated in the FIC Act, for the purposes of the execution of the transfer. A recipient crypto asset service provider must, subject to paragraph 6.2, comply with the requirements relating to the verification of the beneficiary's identity in terms of the FIC Act and the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the recipient crypto asset service provider is required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the Act.
- 6.3 In respect of an inward transfer that is a single transaction valued at less than R5 000 from an originator in a high-risk or other monitored jurisdiction, a recipient crypto asset service provider must verify the accuracy of the beneficiary information.
- 6.4 A recipient crypto asset service provider must take reasonable measures, which may include post-event monitoring or real-time monitoring where feasible, to identify

cross-border crypto asset transfers that lack the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above.

- 6.5 A recipient crypto asset service provider must develop, document, maintain and implement effective risk-based policies and procedures for determining:
- 6.5.1 when to execute, suspend execution or return a cross-border crypto asset transfer that lacks any of the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above; and
- 6.5.2 the appropriate follow-up action that the recipient crypto asset service provider will take in each instance where it executes, suspends execution or returns a cross-border crypto asset transfer referred to in paragraph 6.5.1 above.
- 6.6 The measures referred to in paragraph 6.4 above and the policies and procedures referred to in paragraph 6.5 above, must be included in the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the recipient crypto asset service provider is required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the FIC Act.

7. IMMEDIATE AND SECURE TRANSMISSION OF ORIGINATOR AND BENEFICIARY INFORMATION

- 7.1 Accountable institutions that are ordering or intermediary crypto asset service providers must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 7.2 to 7.4 below.
- 7.2 Ordering and intermediary crypto asset service providers must transmit the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above prior to, or simultaneously with the transfer itself to the recipient crypto asset service provider or intermediary crypto asset service provider, as the case may be.
- 7.3 Ordering and intermediary crypto asset service providers may transmit the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above in batches, but must comply with paragraph 7.1 nonetheless. *Post facto* transmission of the required information is not permitted.
- 7.4 Ordering and intermediary crypto asset service providers must transmit and store the required information referred to in paragraphs 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 above in a secure manner and protect the integrity and availability of the required information to facilitate record keeping and to protect it from unauthorised disclosure.

8. UNHOSTED WALLET TRANSFERS

- 8.1 Accountable institutions that are ordering or recipient crypto asset service providers must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 8.2 to 8.4 below.
- 8.2 Ordering and recipient crypto asset service providers must develop, document, maintain and implement effective risk-based policies and procedures for the treatment of crypto asset transfers that involve unhosted wallets.
- 8.3 The policies and procedures referred to in paragraph 8.2 above must include the manner in which and the processes by which further information on the unhosted wallet is obtained in the case where the crypto asset service provider determines that there is a higher money laundering, terrorist financing or proliferation financing risk.
- 8.4 The policies and procedures referred to in paragraph 8.2 above, must be included in the Risk Management and Compliance Programme that the ordering and recipient crypto asset service providers are required to develop, document, maintain and implement in accordance with section 42 of the FIC Act.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE AND NON-COMPLIANCE

- 9.1 This Directive comes into operation on 30 April 2025.
- 9.2 A crypto asset service provider that fails to comply with a provision of this Directive is non-compliant and is subject to an administrative sanction in accordance with section 45C of the FIC Act.

MR P SMIT
ACTING DIRECTOR
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE