

Veritas Finance Private Limited

REGULATORY UPDATE February 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Objective:

Keeping up to date with Legislations, Rules and Practices applicable to our NBFC sector to stay compliant and be aware of repercussions, to plan consequential actions, to add value to business and to achieve a competitive edge.

Period: February 2024

Coverage:

The Newsletter would broadly cover the following applicable areas:

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Veritas Finance Pvt Ltd

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Image courtesy : Reserve Bank of India (website: https://rbi.org.in/)

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Circular Number	Date of Issue	Subject / Applicability	Gist
RBI/2023-24/119 DOR.AML.REC.73/14. 06.001/2023-24	February 08, 2024	Implementation of Section 51A of UAPA, 1967: Updates to UNSC's 1267/ 1989 ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List: Amendments in 85 Entries https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12605&Mode=0	Pursuant to Section 51 of Master Direction on Know Your Customer dated February 25, 2016 as amended on January 04, 2024 (MD on KYC), "Regulated Entities (REs) shall ensure that in terms of Section 51A of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (UAPA) Act, 1967 and amendments thereto, they do not have any account in the name of individuals/entities appearing in the lists of individuals and entities, suspected of having terrorist links, which are approved by and periodically circulated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)." In this connection, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India has informed about the UNSC press release SC/15581 dated February 07, 2024 wherein the entries on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021) were amended following the 2022 Annual Review conducted in accordance with paragraphs 90 and 91 of resolution 2610 (2021). Updated lists of individuals and entities linked to ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and Taliban are available at: www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267/aq sanctions list https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctio
RBI/2023-24/121 DoR.HGG.GOV.REC.75 /29.67.001/2023-24	February 09, 2024	Review of Fixed Remuneration granted to Non- Executive Directors (NEDs) https://www.rbi.org. in/Scripts/Notificatio nUser.aspx?Id=1260 7&Mode=0	The instructions are applicable to all the Private Sector Banks including Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and Payment Banks (PBs) as also the wholly owned subsidiaries of Foreign Banks and would come into force with immediate effect. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of circular dated April 26, 2021 (Corporate Governance in Banks - Appointment of Directors and Constitution of Committees of the Board), the ceiling of ₹20 lakh per annum has been specified in respect of remuneration of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs), other than the Chair of the Board.

Circular Number	Date of Issue	Subject /	Gist
RBI/2023-24/125 DoR.FIN.REC.77/03.1 0.123/2023-24	February 22, 2024	Inclusion of Clearing Corporation of India Limited as a Financial Information Provider under Account Aggregator Framework https://www.rbi.org. in/Scripts/Notificatio nUser.aspx?Id=1261 1&Mode=0	Considering the crucial role of NEDs in efficient functioning of bank Boards and its various Committees and in order to further enable the banks to sufficiently attract qualified competent individuals on their Boards, it has been decided to revise the aforementioned ceiling to ₹30 lakh per annum. The banks are required to have suitable criteria for granting fixed remuneration to its NEDs, with the approval of its Board before any review of the extant remuneration. The Board of the bank may fix a lower amount within the ceiling limit of ₹30 lakh per annum depending upon the size of the bank, experience of the NED and other relevant factors. Banks are required to make disclosure on remuneration paid to the directors on an annual basis at a minimum, in their Annual Financial Statements. The RBI Retail Direct Scheme ('Scheme') was launched on November 12, 2021, to facilitate retail investors to invest in Government Securities. The Scheme enables individuals to open Retail Direct Gilt Accounts with the Bank and access the Government Securities market - both primary and secondary. To enable aggregation of financial information on Government Securities held by retail investors in their Retail Direct Gilt accounts under the Scheme, Clearing Corporation of India Limited has been included as a Financial Information Provider.
			The Master Direction – Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016 is being modified accordingly.
RBI/DoS.DSG/2023- 24/110 DoS.DSG.No.10/33.01 .001/2023-24	February 27, 2024	Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Filing of Supervisory Returns) Directions – 2024 https://www.rbi.org.	All Supervised Entities (SEs) are required to submit certain supervisory returns to the Reserve Bank as per various directions / circulars/ notifications issued by the Bank from time to time. In order to create a single reference for all
		in/Scripts/Notificatio nUser.aspx?Id=1261 3&Mode=0	Supervisory Returns and to harmonize the timelines for filing of returns, all the relevant instructions have been rationalized and consolidated into a single Master Direction

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			called the Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Filing of Supervisory Returns) Directions - 2024.
			These Directions shall come into immediate effect.
			These Directions shall apply to the following entities:
			• All Commercial Banks excluding Regional Rural Banks. Commercial Banks include Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Private Sector Banks (PVBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Payment Banks (PBs), Local Area Banks (LABs) and Foreign Banks (FBs).
			• All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks.
			• Select All India Financial Institutions (Exim Bank, NABARD, NHB, SIDBI and NABFID).
			• All Non-Banking Financial Companies [excluding Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)] and all Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
			The summary of changes introduced in this Direction over the extant instructions is given in Annex I.
			The list of underlying notifications / circulars which form the basis of this Master Direction and are hereby being repealed (whole or in part) is furnished in Annex II.
			The set of applicable returns to be filed by SEs and the general description of the returns are compiled and presented in Annex III, with the alternate timelines for returns submission enlisted in Annex IV.
			Details of online portals for filing of applicable returns by SEs are given in Annex V.
RBI/DPSS/2023- 24/111 CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S11 14/02-27-020/2023- 2024	February 29, 2024	Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Bharat Bill Payment System) Directions, 2024 https://www.rbi.org.	The current regulations covering Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) provide for a tiered structure with (a) NPCI Bharat Bill Pay Ltd (NBBL) as a Central Unit (BBPCU) (b) Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs) and (c) Agent network/s of the BBPOUs.
		in/Scripts/Notificatio nUser.aspx?Id=1261 6&Mode=0	In view of significant developments in the payments landscape, a need was felt to review and update these regulations.

Circular Number	Date of Issue	Subject / Applicability	Gist
			Accordingly, it has been decided to put in place a revised regulatory framework - Bharat Bill Payment Systems Directions, 2024.
			These Directions seek to streamline the process of bill payments, enable greater participation, and enhance customer protection among other changes.
			These Directions shall be applicable from April 01, 2024, and shall supersede the existing regulations.



Ministry of Corporate Affairs Government Of India

Image courtesy: Ministry of Corporate Affairs (website http://www.mca.gov.in/MinistryV2/homepage.html)

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
S.O. 446(E)	February 02, 2024	Establishment of Central Processing Centre for disposal of e-forms https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/not	The Central Government has established a Central Processing Centre at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Plot No. 6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code- 122050 having territorial jurisdiction all over India.
		ifications-tender/whats- new.html	The Central Processing Centre shall process and dispose off e-forms filed along with the fee as provided in the Companies (Registration of Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014.
			The jurisdictional Registrar, other than Registrar of the Central Processing Centre, within whose jurisdiction the registered office of the company is situated shall continue to have jurisdiction over the companies whose e-forms are processed by the Registrar of the Central Processing Centre in respect of all other provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder.
General	February	Relaxation of additional	In view of transition of MCA-21 from version-2 to
Circular 01/2024	07, 2024	fees and extension of last date of filing of Form No.	version-3 and to promote compliance on part of reporting Limited Liability Partnerships, it is
,		LLP BEN-2 and LLP Form	informed that LLPs may file the following forms
		No. 4D under the Limited	without payment of any additional fees, up to May
		Liability Partnership Act, 2008	15, 2024:
		https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=ui4J8CwvqBhepbNiu3putw%253D%253D&type=open	 e-Form LLP BEN-2 – Return to the Registrar in respect of declaration under section 90 of the Companies Act, 2013 LLP Form No. 4D – Declaration of beneficial interest in contribution received by the LLP.
	_		The two forms shall be made available in version-3 for filing purposes effective April 15, 2024.
Update	February 12, 2024	National Single Window System (NSWS) https://www.mca.gov.in/bi	Ministry of Corporate Affairs incorporation related services can also be accessed through the National Single Window System (NSWS) by going through the following link: https://www.nsws.gov.in .
		n/dms/getdocument?mds= NkalCgC0PXM37dpK8VUeV A%253D%253D&type=ope n	the following link. <u>https://www.nsws.gov.m</u> .
G.S.R. 107(E)	February	The Companies	A new Rule 10A has been inserted in the Companies
	14, 2024	(Registration Offices and Fees) Amendment Rules, 2024	(Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014, covering the pursuant to the establishment of the Central Processing Center.
		https://www.mca.gov.in/bi n/dms/getdocument?mds= TC5IiKr%252B0SpGVt5U% 252BSzj%252Bw%253D% 253D&type=open	The Registrar of the Central Processing Center established under sub-section (1) of section 396 shall examine or cause to be examined every application or e-Form or document required or authorised to be filed or delivered as provided under sub-rule (3), for approval, registration or taking on record by the Registrar.

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject		Gist
			application days from which an a Regional D is required The Regist exercise ju	rar of the Central Processing Center shall risdiction all over India in respect of the on of following application, e-Forms or
			Form	Purpose
			MGT-14	Filing of Resolutions and agreements to the Registrar under section 117 of the Act
			SH-7	Notice to Registrar of any alteration of share capital under section 64 of the Act
			INC-24	Application for approval of Central Government for change of name under section 13 of the Act
			INC-6	One Person Company- Application for Conversion under section 18 of the Act
			INC-27	Conversion of public company into private company or private company into public company under sections 14 and 18 of the Act
			INC-20	Intimation to Registrar of revocation/surrender of license issued under section 8 of the Act
			DPT-3	Return of deposits under sections 73 and 76 of the Act
			MSC-1	Application to ROC for obtaining the status of dormant company under subsection (1) of section 455 of the Act
			MSC-4	Application for seeking status of active company under sub-section (5) of section 455 of the Act
			SH-8	Letter of Offer under section 68 of the Act
			SH-9	Declaration of Solvency under subsection (6) section 68 of the Act
			SH-11	Return in respect of buy-back of Securities under sub-section 10 of section 68 of the Act.

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
General Circular No. 02/2024	February 19, 2024	Deployment and usage of Change Request Form (CRF) on MCA-21	Stakeholders are informed that Change Request Form (CRF) has been made available on V3 portal for the convenience of users of MCA-21 services.
		https://www.mca.gov.in/bi n/dms/getdocument?mds= Gdp7pwkWmPucgX1GlBvd Sw%253D%253D&type=o pen	This web- based Form is to be used only under exceptional circumstances, for making a request to Registrar of Companies (RoCs), for the purposes which cannot be catered through any existing form or services or functionality available either at Front Office level (users of MCA-21 services) or Back Office level (RoCs).
			This Form should not be used as a substitute for any approval-related and registration-related queries for which existing tickets and help desk facilities must be used.
			This Form is intended to be used for purposes like Master Data correction and to comply with certain directions of Courts/Tribunals, which ordinarily cannot be complied with through existing functionality of forms or services on MCA-21 system.
			The Form would be processed by RoCs within 03 days of its filing, after which it should be forwarded to Joint Director (e-governance cell), who would process and decide the matter within a maximum time of 07 days.



Image courtesy : Securities and Exchange Board of India (website :https://www.sebi.gov.in/)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
SEBI/HO/CF D/PoD- 1/P/CIR/202 4/009	February 06, 2024	Guidelines for returning of draft offer document and its resubmission. https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2024/guidelines-for-returning-of-draft-offer-document-and-its-resubmission 81146.html	As, the draft offer documents / draft letter of offer filed with the Board for public issue / rights issue of securities (hereinafter "draft offer document") at times, are found lacking in compliance with respect to instructions provided under Schedule VI of ICDR Regulations, such documents require revisions/changes and thus lead to a longer processing time. In order to ensure completeness of the offer document for investors and provide greater clarity & consistency in the disclosures and for timely processing, 'Guidelines for returning of draft offer document and its resubmission' has been issued. Accordingly, the draft offer document shall be scrutinized based on the broad guidelines and such documents which are not compliant with the instructions provided under Schedule VI of ICDR Regulations and guidelines provided hereunder, shall be returned to the issuer. Broad guidelines for returning of draft offer document and its resubmission are placed at Annexure A of the Circular. In order to enhance ease of doing business for issuers, where draft offer document is returned in terms of these guidelines, there shall be no requirement for payment of any fees on account of resubmission of draft offer document. This Circular shall come into force with immediate effect.



INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016(IBC)

IBBI Updates

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
No.	February 01,	Measures for	In order to enhance the efficiency of the
IBBI/IPE/64/2024	2024	rationalisation of the	insolvency resolution processes, in
, , ,		regulatory framework	September 2022, the insolvency
		of Insolvency	professional entities (IPEs), which can be a
		Professional Entities	company, limited liability partnership,
		Troiessional Littles	registered partnership firm, were allowed
		latter or / /ilolai manaisa / /arral	to carry on the activities of an insolvency
		https://ibbi.gov.in//upl	professional (IP).
		oads/legalframwork/7b	This was envisaged to leverage the
		341d61f32e0710d0d02	paraphernalia of their resources and
		2484f156ca2.pdf	experience in the insolvency ecosystem by
			virtue of their constitutional structure. The
			existing regulatory architecture was kept
			unchanged to provide adequate time for
			implementation of the said reform. Prior to
			this amendment, IPEs were allowed to
			provide only support services to IPs.
			Based on the feedback received from
			stakeholders and experiences encountered
			during implementation, it has been
			considered imperative to provide clarity on
			few areas to facilitate IPEs to undertake
			their expanded role. Accordingly, the issues and clarification thereupon have been
			elaborated vide the circular.
No. IBBI/IP/65/2024	February 01,	Measures for facilitating	An Insolvency Professional (IP) assumes
	2024	efficient conduct of the	different roles and performs various
		processes by the	functions under the Insolvency and
		Insolvency	Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). The Code
		Professionals	empowers an IP to appoint accountants, legal or other professionals to effectively
		https://ibbi.gov.in//upl	discharge its functions.
		oads/legalframwork/49	anomarge no ramemono.
		a23d68b3069be4f084e	The IP can also avail support services from
		622d89a3915.pdf	an insolvency professional entity (IPE). The
			fee to such professionals, fee to IPE and
			other expenses incurred by the IP form part
			of the respective process costs.
			Section 208 of the Code read with the
			Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
			(Insolvency Professionals) Regulations,
			2016 (IP Regulations) mandates an IP to abide by the Code of Conduct which governs
			principles like integrity, independence,
			impartiality, remuneration and costs, etc.
			Based on the feedback received from
			stakeholders and experiences encountered
			during implementation, it has been
			considered imperative to provide clarity on
			few areas to facilitate IPEs to undertake
			their expanded role. Accordingly, the issues and clarification thereupon have been
			elaborated vide the circular.
			elaborated vide the circular.

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
No.	February 13,	Compliances for	Section 227 read with the Insolvency and
IBBI/LIQ/67/2024	2024	initiation of Voluntary	Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation
		Liquidation of a	Proceedings of Financial Service Providers
		Financial Service	and Application to Adjudicating Authority)
		Provider	Rules, 2019 allows FSPs who have been
			notified by the Central Government, after
		https://ibbi.gov.in//upl	consulting financial regulators, to undergo a
		oads/legalframwork/10	voluntary liquidation process after
		<u>b40f99875af3eceda569</u>	obtaining prior permission of the
		<u>e977c2d1a6.pdf</u>	appropriate regulator.
			It has been noted that some FSPs have commenced the voluntary liquidation process without notification and / or prior permission of the appropriate financial regulator. Accordingly, it has been directed that the liquidator shall ensure that, if the corporate person falls under the category of financial
			service provider, it shall declare that:
			(i) the category of Financial Service Providers has been notified by the Central
			Government under section 227 of the Code,
			and
			(ii) the corporate person has obtained prior
			permission from the appropriate regulator.

Other Updates

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
BSE Limited:	February 09,	Corporate	BSE vide Circular No. 20231130-27 dated
20240209-41	2024	Grouping of Listed	November 30, 2023, inter alia informed about
		Companies	maintaining a repository containing names of
		•	companies forming a part of each Indian corporate
		https://www.bsei	group.
		ndia.com/markets /MarketInfo/Disp NewNoticesCircula rs.aspx?page=202 40209-41	Through the said circular, BSE has also informed that in case of any change in its corporate group pursuant to any event such as Corporate Restructuring, Takeover, Merger, Demerger, Acquisition, delisting, etc., the companies have to intimate the Exchange within Two Working Days of the Effective Date of the change through email. In this regard, BSE has now introduced online facility for filling of information related to change
			in the corporate group through listing centre. The said facility is available in listing centre login on below path:
			BSE Listing Centre> Listing Compliance > Corporate Group Repository
			In case of any change in its corporate group pursuant to any event such as Corporate Restructuring, Takeover, Merger, Demerger, Acquisition, delisting etc., the companies must intimate the Exchange within Two Working Days of the Effective Date of the change through listing centre as mentioned above along with supporting document.
			For identifying the corporate group, criteria / parameters to be considered by the listed companies / proposed to be listed companies have also been prescribed.



GST UPDATES

GST UPDATE

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
Advisory	February 21,	Enhanced E-	On occasion of one year of the successful going
	2024	Invoicing Initiatives	live with the additional five new IRP portals, the
		& Launch of	e-invoice master information portal, and the e-
		Enhanced	invoice QR Code Verifier app, GSTN announces
		https://einvoice.gst	the launch of the revamped e-invoice master
		.gov.in portal	information portal https://einvoice.gst.gov.in .
		https://www.gst.go v.in/newsandupdat es/read/624	This enhancement is part of an ongoing effort to further improve taxpayer services.
		<u>co/reau/our</u>	New Features of the revamped E-Invoice Master Information Portal are as follows:
			PAN-Based Search
			Automatic E-invoice exemption List
			Global Search Bar
			Local Search Capabilities
			Revamped Advisory and FAQ Section
			Daily IRN Count Statistics
			Dedicated Section on Mobile App
			Improved Accessibility Compliance and UI/UX
Advisory	February 28,	Instances of Delay in	Updated Website Policy In accordance with Rule 9 of the Central Goods
Auvisory	2024	registration	and Services Tax (CGST) Rules, 2017, pertaining
	2024	reported by some	to the verification and approval of registration
		Taxpayers despite	applications, it has been informed that when a
		successful Aadhar	person has undergone Aadhaar authentication
		Authentication in	as per sub-rule (4A) of rule 8 but has been
		accordance with	identified in terms of Rule 9(aa) by the common
		Rule 8 and 9 CGST,	portal for detailed verification based on risk
		Rules, 2017	profile, the application for registration would be
			processed within thirty days of application
			submission.
			Necessary changes would also be made to
			reflect the same in the online tracking module vis-à-vis processing of registration application.
Notification No.	February 22,	Public Tech	Section 158A of the CGST Act allows registered
06/2024 – Central Tax	2024	Platform for Frictionless Credit	taxpayers to share specific information with other systems, subject to their consent.
		https://taxinformat ion.cbic.gov.in/view	The CBIC, vide notification dated February 22, 2024, identifies the Public Tech Platform as the system with which information may be shared
		pdf/1010019/ENG/ Notifications	by the common portal based on consent under sub-section (2) of Section 158A of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
			doods and services Tax Act, 2017.

Notification Number	Date of Issue	Subject	Gist
			"Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit" is an enterprise-grade open architecture information technology platform, conceptualized by the Reserve Bank of India and developed by its wholly owned subsidiary, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, for the operations of a large ecosystem of credit, to ensure access of information from various data sources digitally and where the financial service providers and multiple data service providers converge on the platform using standard and protocol driven architecture, open and shared Application Programming Interface (API) framework.