Sachs AML 2024: New Zealand

Key Regulatory Obligations

As someone in the New Zealand office, you should know that:

- Financial Markets Authority("FMA") is the primary regulator for all GS regulated entities in New Zealand
- Reserve Bank of New Zealand ("RBNZ") and the Department of Internal Affairs ("DIA") are two other anti-money laundering ("AML") regulators
- The NZ Financial Intelligence Unit ("FIU") within the New Zealand Police Service acts as the financial intelligence unit to collects, analyses and disseminates financial intelligence relating to suspicious transactions/activities, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009 ("AML/CFT Act") places obligations on New Zealand's financial institutions and casinos to detect and deter money laundering and terrorism financing.
- Crimes Act 1961 falls under other AML related legislations

Protocols

GS New Zealand has implemented a country-specific Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Programme ("AML/CFT Programme"). Here are the protocols that must be followed:

- Documentation of the policies, procedures and controls within AML/CFT program to mitigate and manage risks of products and services being misused to facilitate money laundering or terrorism financing
- Completion of Client due diligence (CDD) procedures before providing any financial services
- Report any suspicious activity by clients, counterparties or employees, including not only clients and counterparties of GS entities, to Compliance immediately.
- "Tipping off" is completely prohibited, one must not disclose to any person, any information that discloses, or is reasonably likely to disclose, the existence of a suspicious activity report.

Risks

While providing financial services, reporting entities in order to mitigate risks, must:

- Enroll and/or register business with FMA or any other AML regulator,
- Verify customer identity,
- Keep records.
- Establish and maintain an AML/CFT Program,
- Conduct ongoing customer due diligence ("CDD"), and
- Ensure proper reporting (e.g., suspicious activity, prescribed transactions).

Consequences

The consequences of non-compliance under AML/CFT Act include:

- Offence involving pecuniary penalties of up to \$2 million (per offence) for a body corporate and up to \$200,000 for an individual
- 'Tipping off' offence involves criminal penalty with a maximum of 2 years imprisonment, in addition to pecuniary penalties for offences under the AML/CTF Act of up to \$5 million for a body corporate and up to \$300,000 for an individual
- Offence of 'dealing with proceeds of crime' or 'financing of terrorism' under the Crimes Act 1961 and being subject to criminal penalty with a maximum of 7 years imprisonment

The Bottom Line

You must immediately escalate any suspicious activity by clients, counterparties or employees to your Financial Crime Compliance contact or business-aligned Compliance contact.

Contacts

For any questions or concerns please reach out to gs-fcc-apac-escalations or reach out to the New Zealand Money Laundering Regional Officer (MLRO), Steve Sharpe.

Additional Information

In addition to the material in this training, the Anti-Bribery Group or your regional compliance officers may inform you of particular local laws, rules and regulations that may impose specific anti-bribery / anti-corruption legal or compliance requirements in New Zealand. If applicable, please become familiar with those requirements.