

**Decision of the Council of Ministers No. (12) of 2020 on the
Implementing Regulations of the Unified Economic Register issued by
Law No. (1) of 2020**

The Council of Ministers,

Having perused the Constitution,

The Law No. (20) of 2019 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing; and

The Law No. (1) of 2020 on the Unified Economic Register, and

The Emiri Decision No. (29) of 1996 on the Council of Ministers' Decisions submitted to the Emir for Ratification and Issuance; and

The Emiri Decision No. (12) of 2019 on the Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and

The Council of Ministers' Decision No. (41) of 2019 Promulgating the Implementing Regulations of Law No. (20) of 2019 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.; and

The proposal of the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Has decided the following:

Article (1)

In the application of the provisions of this Implementing Regulations:

1. The Law shall mean Law No. (1) of 2020 on the Unified Economic Register.

2. Economic Establishments shall include Qatari economic establishments, their branches and the branches of non-Qatari economic establishments, which operate in the State, as follows:

- a. Individual establishments.
- b. Commercial Companies.
- c. Natural or legal persons operating as commercial agencies.
- d. Commercial representative offices.

- e. Branches of commercial companies, businesses and agencies, provided that they are under the same Unified Economic Number of the company, business or agency.
- f. Investment funds.

3. Legal Arrangement shall include:

- a. Charitable endowment: the benefits of which are originally allocated for good deeds.
- b. Family endowment: the endowment shall be for the actual endower, his descendants, or both of them, or any other person(s), their descendants or of all of them, provided that the endowment shall be in all cases for specific good deeds.
- c. Joint endowment: the benefits of which are for charitable and family purposes.
- d. Bequest to a charitable, family or joint endowment.
- e. Bequest to acts of good deeds and charity.

4. Non- Profit Organizations shall include:

- a. Private Associations and Foundations.
 - b. Charitable Private Associations and Foundations
 - c. Private foundations for public benefit.
- Any other non-profit entity.

5. Sole Practitioners: shall include sole practices performed within the framework of:

- a. Independent offices.
- b. Professional civil or commercial companies.
- c. Global offices.

6. The Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, NPOs, Sole Practitioners and Express Trusts shall not be subject to the obligations related to beneficial owners under the Law and this Implementing Regulations, unless they are legal persons or legal arrangements.

7. The obligations of the previous paragraph shall not apply on the Economic Establishment if it is a:

- a. Company listed in a stock exchange and is subject to disclosure requirements, that allow the verification of the beneficial owner's identity in full transparency, or a subsidiary in which it holds a controlling interest.
- b. State-owned company, or company wholly owned by other public authorities or institutions or in which they hold a controlling interest.

Article (2)

The Competent Department shall establish a safe information system that links it to the competent authorities and allow the insertion of updated electronic counterpart registers as stipulated in Article (2) of the Unified Economic Register.

The information system shall allow instant electronic linking and exchange of information, data and documents between the Unified Economic Register and all the registers held by the competent authorities, and any updates that are made in the framework of database linking.

The operation and management of the information system of the Unified Economic Register shall be determined by the Competent Department and approved by the Minister.

Article (3)

The Competent Department shall provide the competent authority with a Unified Economic Number through the information system referred to in the previous Article, to be used in the data entry and update of all data, basic and requested information related to the applicant it may license or register.

The Unified Economic Number is formed of a series of letters and numbers and given once upon registration and licensing to any entity to be identified by the government authorities and the public. The Unified Economic Number cannot be changed or referred to a third party even when withdrawing or revoking the license or when crossing out the entry from the register or striking-off the name from the list.

The competent authority shall include the Unified Economic Number of any licensed or registered applicant, in its relevant registers and licenses. The competent authority shall also instantly refer to the Competent Department, counterpart registers of basic information and beneficial ownership it maintains.

The Competent Department shall maintain all information, data and information pertaining to the beneficial owners in the Beneficial Owners Unified Register, and shall verify that they are accurate and up-to-date by relying on the database linking.

Article (4)

The Competent authority shall record all basic information of its licensed or registered entities in the registers it maintains, in order to identify their data, and any relevant amendments or changes that may arise, within the time limits and the procedures set forth by the applicable law, based on the Unified Economic Number.

The competent authority shall enter, update and maintain all the required information pertaining to the beneficial owners, in the Beneficial Owners Register, based on the Unified Economic Number.

The Beneficial Owners Register shall have reference to the date of declaration of the identity of the beneficial owner, the relevant serial number, the data of the employee in charge, and a statement of the supporting documents.

Article (5)

The license, registration, amendment or renewal request shall be submitted on the form approved by the competent authority for this purpose, along with all the supporting documents as stipulated by the relevant law.

If the applicant for license, registration, amendment or renewal is a legal person or legal arrangement, the identity of the beneficial owner shall be attached to the application as per the provisions of this Implementing Regulations on the form approved by the Competent Department for this purpose.

The applications under this Article shall not be accepted if the declaration of the beneficial owner is not attached or is incomplete.

If the employee who is in charge of the registration, license, amendment or renewal at the competent authority, finds out that the declaration about the beneficial owner is not made, or the declaration submitted is incomplete, the applicant shall be called upon by any written evidentiary means to submit or complete the declaration about the beneficial owner, no later than three (3) days from the date of the application; otherwise the application shall be rejected.

Article (٦)

The legal persons and legal arrangements shall identify their beneficial owners, in conformity with the adopted documents, information or data that must be kept updated and maintained at all time in a special register held for this purpose.

When submitting the application for license or registration, the legal persons or legal arrangements shall submit a copy of the register stipulated in the previous paragraph to the competent authority, no later than ten (10) days from the date of the application.

Such register shall be kept, with all the supporting documents in a safe place to safeguard their confidentiality and security.

Article (7)

The beneficial owner(s) of the Economic Establishments shall be identified as follows:

- a- A natural person (s) who directly or indirectly, owns a controlling ownership interest equivalent to or greater than 20% of the company's capital or voting rights.
- b- Where no beneficial owner is identified, or where there is doubt as to whether the natural person(s) with the controlling ownership interest is the beneficial owner under (a) above, or where no natural person exerts control through ownership interests or voting rights, the Economic Establishment shall identify the natural person (s) exercising de facto or legal control over the Establishment through any means, whether directly or indirectly, over the executives, the General Assembly, or the operations of the Economic Establishment, by identifying the content of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly due to the voting rights they dispose of or for being a shareholder or partner, with the power to appoint or remove the majority of the members of the management, operate or control the Economic Establishment, or any other control instruments.
- c- Where no beneficial owner is identified under (a) or (b) above, the beneficial owner shall be the natural person who holds the capacity of legal representation of the Economic Establishment in conformity with the regulating enforceable legislation.

Article (8)

The beneficial owner(s) of the NPOs shall be identified as follows:

- a- A natural person (s) exercising effective and ultimate de facto or legal control, through any means, direct or indirect, in a NPO.
- b- Where no beneficial owner is identified under (a) above, the Beneficial Owner shall be the natural person who holds the position of a legal representative of the NPO, in conformity with the regulating enforceable legislation.

Article (9)

The beneficial owner(s) of a legal arrangement shall be identified as follows:

- (a) For express trusts: the identity of the founder of the legal arrangement, the trustee, the protector (if any), and the beneficiaries or class of beneficiaries, and any other natural person exercising by any means, directly or indirectly, ultimate effective control over the trust.
- (b) For similar types of arrangements: the identity of natural persons in equivalent or similar positions or the legal person(s) exercising de facto or legal control, through any means, whether directly or indirectly over the legal arrangement.

Article (10)

The Competent authority may, where appropriate, and in coordination with the Competent Department, issue other mechanisms and criteria for identifying the beneficial owner.

Article (11)

The required information to be included in the beneficial owner declaration and held in a special register, shall at least include the following:

1. Full name of the beneficial owner as mentioned in the identity card, passport or other identity document.
2. Place and date of birth.
3. Nationality/nationalities, if the beneficial owner has more than one nationality.
4. Address as mentioned in the identity card or passport.
5. Qatar Identity Card number for Qatari nationals and residents of the State of Qatar.
6. Passport number for expats whether residing or not in the State of Qatar.
7. Issuance and expiry date of the identity cards and passports.
8. Date on which the person became a beneficial owner.
9. Ratio of the controlling ownership interest in the capital of the company or in its voting rights and any amendment that may take place thereto.
10. If the beneficial owner exercises control by any means other than by a direct or indirect ownership of the company's share capital or voting rights, the basis and the means used by the beneficial owner to exercise effective and ultimate control must be indicated.
11. Indication of the basis and means used by the beneficial owner to exercise direct or indirect effective or legal control over the legal arrangement or NPO.
12. Date of the last update made to the register of all the relevant information pertaining to the beneficial owners.

Article (12)

Any information required in relation to the beneficial owner, made on a declaration form and kept in a special register, shall be held accurate and current.

In case of any change made to the required information, the legal persons or legal arrangements shall obtain all relevant documents evidencing any changes made to the required information, and update such information in the register they hold.

The legal persons or legal arrangements shall inform the competent authority of any changes made to the required information, and shall provide an updated

register no later than thirty (30) days from the date of receiving the relevant documents evidencing such change.

In case the evidentiary documents in relation to the changes stated in the previous paragraph cannot be obtained for any reason, the legal persons or legal arrangements shall inform the competent authority of the changes as well as of the reasons for such changes no later than ninety (90) days from the date of their knowledge of the changes made to the required information.

Article (13)

The competent authority shall monitor the compliance of the concerned parties with their obligations under the provisions of the Law, this Implementing Regulations and any other rules and instructions it may issue in accordance with the supervisory instruments and procedures it may deem necessary.

The competent authority may perform onsite visits to examine any necessary documents, data or information, and take relevant copies when appropriate. It shall ask at any time legal persons and legal arrangements to submit the following:

1. A copy of the Beneficial Owners Register to verify the authenticity of the declared data.
2. All documents evidencing the required information pertaining to the beneficial owners,
3. Changes made to the required information and any evidence of the update made to the relevant register.
4. Any information or documents other than the required information that the competent authority may deem necessary to identify the beneficial owner or to clarify the basis for the supervisory and control instruments.

Article (14)

Any stakeholder may submit a written request to the Competent Department to extract a copy from the entry of the Unified Economic Register, or a certificate of specific data, or a negative attestation in the absence of the entry, with all the supporting documents, and a proof of paying the prescribed fee.

The Director of the Competent Department shall decide on the request, within three (3) business days from the date of its submission. The Competent Department shall inform the applicant of such decision on the day of its issuance, by any written evidentiary means. The expiry of this period without any decision on the request, shall be considered an implicit rejection thereof.

Any person whose request was rejected may petition the Minister against the rejection decision within thirty (30) days from the date of receiving a notice of the decision or of the implicit rejection of application.

The Minister shall decide on the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date of its submission. The expiry of this period without any decision on the petition shall be considered an implicit rejection thereof, and consequently the decision shall be final.

Article (15)

The competent authority shall by any means, notify the concerned person, against whom any the procedures stipulated in Article (11) of the Law were taken, within seven (7) days.

The person against whom the procedure was taken may petition the Head of the competent authority, within fifteen (15) days from the date of notification.

The petition shall include the following:

- 1- The petitioner's full name, title, capacity and address.
- 2- The decision subject to the petition, date of issuance, date of notification of the petitioner or his knowledge thereof.
- 3- Grounds for petition.
- 4- The petitioner specific requests.
- 5- The relevant means for the petition to receive notifications.
In addition to the supporting documents, and the briefs.

The Head of the competent authority shall decide on the petition no later than thirty(30) days from the date of submission. The expiry of this period without a decision on the petition shall be considered an implicit rejection thereof.

Article (16)

The databases of the competent authorities that are responsible for registration and licensing and that are subject to specific regulations pursuant to the provisions stipulated in Article (13) of the Law, shall be linked to the information system of the Unified Economic Register as indicated in Article (2) of this Implementing Regulations, in order to obtain the basic and beneficial ownership information from the entities they license or register, and any update made thereto. The competent authorities referred to above shall include:

- Qatar Financial Centre.
- Qatar Free Zones Authority.
- Qatar Science and Technology Park.
- Media City.

Article (17)

All Competent Authorities, each within its own competence, shall implement this Decision, which shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Khalid bin Khalifa Abdul Aziz Al Thani

Prime Minister

**We, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,
hereby ratify and promulgate this Decision.**

Issued at the Emiri Diwan on 4/9/ 1441 AH, corresponding to 27/4/ 2020 AD.