

Instructions No 1 of 2016

On the Declaration of Currencies, Instruments, Electronic Money, or Precious Metals and Stones at Border Crossing Points of the State of Palestine

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The National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing

Pursuant to Decree Law no. 20 of 2015 on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing, namely Articles 20/14, 35 and 36 thereof,

Based on the powers conferred upon it and to serve the public interest,

Hereby issues the following instructions:

Article 1

property that Must be Declared

Without prejudice to the right of transporting property into the State of Palestine, travelers shall, when entering or leaving the State, declare the following:

1. Currencies or electronic money of a value exceeding USD 3,000

2. Precious metals or stones in case the value of both or each exceeds USD 15,000
3. Bearer negotiable instruments (BNIs) of a value exceeding USD 3,000
4. All currencies, electronic money, precious metals or stones, or BNIs carried by the traveler if their total value exceeds USD 15,000.

Article 2

Registration at the Customs Office

Passengers leaving the State of Palestine shall register all precious metals and stones in their possession, regardless of their value, at the Customs Offices of the border crossing points of the State.

Article 3

Customs Authority Staff Requirements

Customs authority staff at the State of Palestine border crossing points shall implement the following procedures:

1. Ask a sample of passengers if they are carrying any currencies, instruments, electronic money or precious metals or stones of a value exceeding the amount specified under article 1 of the present instructions, and fill-in form No 4-A attached to the present instructions.
2. Apply the provisions of Parag. 1 of the present article to individuals aged 18 and above. Cash carried by individuals under 18 years of age shall be added to the threshold allowed for their guardian.
3. Maintain the forms specified in the present instructions and provide such to arriving travelers wishing to declare cash amounts in their possession or those receiving mail or cargo containing cash.
4. Maintain filled forms at the Customs Authority at border crossing points of the State of Palestine and make available to the Palestine Financial Follow-Up Unit (FFU) any information it requests in this regard.

Article 4

Declaration of property Transported through Mail or Cargo

1. Cash or electronic money and transfers, bank checks, letters of credit and traveler's checks transported through mail, cargo, or parcels transported by courier companies for the benefit of natural persons, shall be declared in accordance with article 1 and 5/1 of the present instructions.

2. In the case of cash or electronic money and transfers, bank checks, letters of credit and traveler's checks transported through mail, cargo, or parcels transported by courier companies for the benefit of banks operating in Palestine, money exchange offices or other entities, form 4-B attached to the present instructions shall be filled before receipt of such property, regardless of the imported amount.

Article 5 Declaration Forms

1. Form no. 4-A attached to the present instructions shall be used for declarations at the Customs Authority at border crossing points of the State of Palestine.
2. In case of non-declaration and upon discovery of cash amounts exceeding the threshold specified in Article 1 of the present instructions, the Customs Officer shall inquire about the reason for not requesting the form to be filled. If the officer is not convinced by the provided reasons, he/she shall seize such amount and file a report to the FFU.

Article 6 Reporting any Suspicions of Money Laundering or Terrorism Financing

The Officer in charge at the Customs Office of the border crossing point shall ensure the implementation of procedures set out in Article 3 of the present instructions and report to the FFU any case suspected to involve money laundering or terrorism financing.

Article 7 Repeal

Any provisions conflicting with the present instructions shall be repealed.

Article 8 Implementation and Entry into Force

All competent agencies, each within their own purview, shall implement the provisions of the present instructions. The present instructions shall enter into force from the date they are published in the Official Gazette.

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