**CERTIFICATE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE**

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| **Sr. No.** | **RBI Notifications** |
|  | Foreign Investment in India - Rationalisation of reporting in Single Master Form (SMF) on FIRMS Portal |
|  | ‘Fully Accessible Route’ for Investment by Non-residents in Government Securities – Inclusion of Sovereign Green Bonds |
|  | Master Circular - Guarantees and Co-acceptances |
|  | Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) |
|  | LIBOR Transition |
|  | Expanding the Scope of Trade Receivables Discounting System |
|  | Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) |
|  | Status of MIFOR as a Significant Benchmark |

**Foreign Investment in India - Rationalisation of reporting in Single Master Form (SMF) on FIRMS Portal**

RBI/2022-23/160

A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 22

January 04, 2023

To

All Category-I Authorised Dealer Banks

Madam / Sir

**Foreign Investment in India - Rationalisation of reporting in Single Master Form (SMF) on FIRMS Portal**

Attention of Authorised Dealer Category-I banks (AD banks) is invited to A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 30 dated June 07, 2018.

2. It is advised that the following changes are being implemented with respect to the reporting of foreign investment in SMF on FIRMS portal:

i) The forms submitted on the portal will be auto-acknowledged. The AD banks shall verify the same within five working days based on the uploaded documents, as specified.

ii) In cases of delayed reporting, the AD banks shall either advise the Late Submission Fee (LSF) to the applicants, which will be computed by the system or advise for compounding of contravention, as the case may be.

The salient features of the changes made in the system are given in Annex for ready reference. For detailed guidelines, the FIRMS manual available at <https://firms.rbi.org.in> may be referred to, and the version of manual available at the portal will have the finality in case of any mismatch.

3. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/approvals, if any, required under any other law.

Yours faithfully

(N. Senthil Kumar)

General Manager-in-Charge

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12433&Mode=0>

**‘Fully Accessible Route’ for Investment by Non-residents in Government Securities – Inclusion of Sovereign Green Bonds**

RBI/2022-23/169  
FMRD.FMID.No.07/14.01.006/2022-23

January 23, 2023

To

All participants in Government Securities market

Madam/Sir,

**‘Fully Accessible Route’ for Investment by Non-residents in Government Securities – Inclusion of Sovereign Green Bonds**

A reference is invited to the [Press Release on Issuance Calendar for Marketable Sovereign Green Bonds: FY 2022-23 dated January 06, 2023](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55004), issued by the Reserve Bank, notifying the issuance calendar for Sovereign Green Bonds for the fiscal year 2022-23. Attention is also invited to the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) introduced by the Reserve Bank, vide [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 25 dated March 30, 2020](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11849&Mode=0), wherein certain specified categories of Central Government securities were opened fully for non-resident investors without any restrictions, apart from being available to domestic investors as well.

2. The Government Securities that were eligible for investment under the FAR (‘specified securities’) were notified by the Bank, vide [circular no. FMRD.FMSD.No.25/14.01.006/2019-20 dated March 30, 2020](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11850&Mode=0) and [circular no. FMRD.FMID.No.04/14.01.006/2022-23 dated July 07, 2022](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12354&Mode=0).

3. It has now been decided to also designate all Sovereign Green Bonds issued by the Government in the fiscal year 2022-23 as ‘specified securities’ under the FAR.

4. The Directions contained in this circular have been issued under Section 45W of Chapter IIID of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and are without prejudice to permissions/ approvals, if any, required under any other law.

5. These Directions shall be applicable with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,

(Dimple Bhandia)  
Chief General Manager

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12444&Mode=0>

**Master Circular - Guarantees and Co-acceptances**

RBI/2023-24/04  
DOR.STR.REC.5/13.07.010/2023-24

April 1, 2023

All Scheduled Commercial Banks  
(excluding Payments Banks and RRBs)

Dear Sir / Madam

**Master Circular - Guarantees and Co-acceptances**

Please refer to the [Master Circular DOR.STR.REC.8/13.07.010/2022-23 dated April 1, 2022](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=12276) consolidating the instructions / guidelines issued to banks till March 31, 2022, relating to Guarantees and Co-acceptances. This [Master Circular](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12471&Mode=0#MC) consolidates the instructions on the above matter issued up to March 31, 2023.

Yours faithfully

Manoranjan Mishra  
Chief General Manager

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12471&Mode=0>

**Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

RBI/2023-24/21  
A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No.03

April 26, 2023

To

All Category-I Authorised Dealer Banks

Madam / Sir

**Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)  
under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

Attention of Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Category-I) banks is invited to [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 11 dated February 16, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12029&Mode=0), on “Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)” and [Master Direction No. 7/2015-16 on Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=10192) as amended from time to time.

2. On a review and with an objective to align the LRS for IFSCs set up under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 vis-à-vis other foreign jurisdictions, it has been decided to amend the directions under para 2 (ii) of the aforementioned [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular dated February 16, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12029&Mode=0), as – “Resident Individuals may also open a Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs, for making the above permissible investments under LRS.” Thus, the condition of repatriating any funds lying idle in the account for a period up to 15 days from the date of its receipt is withdrawn with immediate effect, which shall now be governed by the provisions of the scheme as contained in the aforesaid Master Direction on LRS.

3. The Master Direction No. 7 is being updated to reflect these changes.

4. AD Category - I banks should bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents and customers.

5. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/approvals, if any, required under any other law.

Yours faithfully,

(Ajay Kumar Misra)  
Chief General Manager-in-Charge

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12494&Mode=0>

**LIBOR Transition**

RBI/2023-24/30  
CO.FMRD.DIRD.01/14.02.001/2023-24

May 12, 2023

To

The Chief Executive Officer/ Chairman/Managing Director,  
All Commercial and Co-operative Banks / All India Financial Institutions /  
Non-Banking Financial Companies including Housing Finance Companies and  
Standalone Primary Dealers

Madam / Dear Sir

**LIBOR Transition**

Attention of banks/financial institutions (FIs) is drawn to the Reserve Bank advisory on [“Roadmap for LIBOR Transition” dated July 08, 2021](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12128&Mode=0) wherein banks/FIs, inter-alia, were (i) encouraged to cease, and also encourage their customers to cease, entering into new financial contracts that reference London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) as a benchmark and instead use any widely accepted Alternative Reference Rate (ARR), as soon as practicable and in any case by December 31, 2021 and (ii) urged to incorporate robust fallback clauses in all financial contracts that reference LIBOR and the maturity of which was after the announced cessation date of the LIBOR settings.

2. With the concerted efforts of banks/FIs as well as industry associations like the Indian Banks’ Association, a smooth transition with respect to LIBOR settings that have ceased to be published/become non-representative after December 31, 2021 has been achieved. The transition away from LIBOR was also facilitated by the continuing publication of US$ LIBOR settings in five tenors which provided a longer transition period particularly for the insertion of the fallback clauses in legacy financial contracts that reference LIBOR. New transactions are now predominantly undertaken using ARRs such as the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and the Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR). At the same time, there have been instances of a few US$ LIBOR linked financial contracts undertaken/facilitated by banks/FIs after January 1, 2022. Also, while banks have reported that substantial progress has been made towards insertion of fallback clauses, the process is yet to be completed for all contracts where such fallbacks are required to be inserted.

3. After June 30, 2023, the publication of the remaining five US$ LIBOR settings will cease permanently. While certain synthetic LIBOR settings will continue to be published after June 30, 2023, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), UK, which regulates the LIBOR, has made it clear that these settings are not meant to be used in new financial contracts. The MIFOR, a domestic interest rate benchmark reliant on US$ LIBOR, will also cease to be published by Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) after June 30, 2023.

Yours sincerely,

(Dimple Bhandia)  
Chief General Manager

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12503&Mode=0>

**Expanding the Scope of Trade Receivables Discounting System**

RBI/2023-24/37  
CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S-258/02-01-010/2023-24

June 7, 2023

The Trade Receivables Discounting System Platform Operators and Participants /  
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

Madam / Dear Sir,

**Expanding the Scope of Trade Receivables Discounting System**

To ease constraints faced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in converting their trade receivables to liquid funds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued the ‘[Guidelines for the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=3504)’ (updated as on July 2, 2018). The guidelines allow financing / discounting of MSME receivables on “without recourse” basis by permitted financiers. Currently, three entities operate TReDS platforms in the country; one more entity has also been given in-principle authorisation to operate such platform.

2. Based on the experience gained, and as announced in the [Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies dated February 8, 2023](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55179), it has been decided to make the following enhancements to the TReDS guidelines :

a) Facilitate insurance for transactions : Financiers place their bids on the TReDS platforms keeping in view the credit rating of buyers. They are generally not inclined to bid for payables of low rated buyers. To overcome this, insurance facility is being permitted for TReDS transactions, which would aid financiers to hedge default risks, subject to the following:

1. Apart from MSME sellers, buyers and financiers, insurance companies are permitted to participate as “fourth participant” in TReDS.
2. In their business / operational rules, the TReDS platform operators may specify the stage at which insurance facility can be availed.
3. Premium for insurance shall not be levied on the MSME seller.
4. Collection of premium and related activities could be enabled through National Automated Clearing House (NACH) system used for settlement of TReDS transactions.
5. Based on consent received from financiers and insurance companies, TReDS platforms could facilitate automated processing of insurance claims and specify timelines for their settlement through the NACH system.
6. As of now, the credit insurance shall not be treated as a Credit Risk Mitigant (CRM) to avail any prudential benefits.

b) Expand the pool of financiers : TReDS transactions fall under the ambit of “factoring business”, and banks, NBFC-Factors and other financial institutions (as permitted by RBI) can presently participate as financiers in TReDS. The Factoring Regulation Act, 2011 (FRA) allows certain other entities / institutions to undertake factoring transactions. Accordingly, all entities / institutions allowed to undertake factoring business under FRA and the rules / regulations made thereunder, are now permitted to participate as financiers in TReDS. This would augment availability of financiers on TReDS platforms.

Yours faithfully,

(P. Vasudevan)  
Chief General Manager-in-Charge

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12510&Mode=0>

**Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

RBI/2023-24/45  
A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 06

June 22, 2023

To

All Authorised Persons

Madam / Sir

**Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)  
under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

Attention of Authorised Persons is invited to [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 11 dated February 16, 2021](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12029&Mode=0) and [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 03 dated April 26, 2023](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12494&Mode=0) on “Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)”.

2. Presently, remittances to IFSCs under LRS can be made only for making investments in securities in terms of [A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 11 dated February 16, 2021](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12029&Mode=0). In view of the [gazette notification no. SO 2374(E) dated May 23, 2022](https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/Gazette2374E23052022.pdf) issued by the Central Government, it is directed that Authorised Persons may facilitate remittances by resident individuals under purpose ‘studies abroad’ as mentioned in Schedule III of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000 for payment of fees to foreign universities or foreign institutions in IFSCs for pursuing courses mentioned in the gazette notification ibid.

3. Authorised Persons shall bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their constituents and customers.

4. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/approvals, if any, required under any other law.

Yours faithfully,

(Ajay Kumar Misra)  
Chief General Manager-in-Charge

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12518&Mode=0>

**Status of MIFOR as a Significant Benchmark**

RBI/2023-24/46  
FMRD.FMSD.03/03.07.25/2023-24

June 23, 2023

To

All the Financial Benchmark Administrators

Madam/Sir

**Status of MIFOR as a Significant Benchmark**

Please refer to the [RBI circular dated January 01, 2020](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11777&Mode=0) and [December 01, 2022](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12414&Mode=0), notifying, inter-alia, the financial benchmarks administered by Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd. (FBIL) viz., Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MIFOR) and Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR) as ‘significant benchmark’.

2. In light of the cessation of the publication/non-representativeness of US Dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (USD LIBOR) settings after June 30, 2023, FBIL has been accorded approval to cease the publication of the MIFOR after June 30, 2023, in terms of provisions of the [Financial Benchmark Administrators (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2019](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11601&Mode=0). Accordingly, the MIFOR administered by FBIL shall cease to be a ‘significant benchmark’ after June 30, 2023.

3. The updated list of ‘significant benchmarks’ administered by FBIL is given below:

(i) Overnight Mumbai Interbank Outright Rate (MIBOR)

(ii) USD/INR Reference Rate

(iii) Treasury Bill Rates

(iv) Valuation of Government Securities

(v) Valuation of State Development Loans (SDL)

(vi) Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR)

4. The updated list of ‘significant benchmarks’ shall come into effect from July 01, 2023.

Yours faithfully,  
  
(Dimple Bhandia)  
Chief General Manager

More details can be referred to in the below link.

Reference Link: <https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12519&Mode=0>