**Certificate Examination in Microfinance**

**RBI Notifications during the period**

**1st July 2020 to 31st Dec 2020**

**Co-Lending by Banks and NBFCs to Priority Sector**

RBI/2020-21/63 FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.No.8/04.09.01/2020-21

November 05, 2020

The Chairman / Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding SFBs, RRBs, UCBs and LABs)

All Registered Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)

Please refer to the circular FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.08/04.09.01/2018-19 dated September 21, 2018 on co-origination of loans by banks and NBFCs for lending to priority sector. The arrangement entailed joint contribution of credit at the facility level by both the lenders as also sharing of risks and rewards.

2. Based on the feedback received from the stakeholders and to better leverage the respective comparative advantages of the banks and NBFCs in a collaborative effort, it has been decided to provide greater operational flexibility to the lending institutions, while requiring them to conform to the regulatory guidelines on outsourcing, KYC, etc. The primary focus of the revised scheme, rechristened as “Co-Lending Model” (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the NBFCs. Detailed features of the CLM are furnished in the Annex.

3. In terms of the CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement. The co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books. However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the individual loans on their books.

4. The banks and NBFCs shall formulate Board approved policies for entering into the CLM and place the approved policies on their websites. Based on their Board approved policies, a Master Agreement may be entered into between the two partner institutions which shall inter-alia include, terms and conditions of the arrangement, the criteria for selection of partner institutions, the specific product lines and areas of operation, along with provisions related to segregation of responsibilities as well as customer interface and protection issues, as detailed in the Annex.

5. The Master Agreement may provide for the banks to either mandatorily take their share of the individual loans originated by the NBFCs in their books as per the terms of the agreement, or to retain the discretion to reject certain loans after their due diligence prior to taking in their books, subject to the conditions specified in the Annex.

6. The banks can claim priority sector status in respect of their share of credit while engaging in the CLM adhering to the specified conditions.

7. The CLM shall not be applicable to foreign banks (including WOS) with less than 20 branches.

8. This circular supersedes the circular FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.08/04.09.01/2018-19 dated September 21, 2018. However, outstanding loans in terms of the circular ibid would continue to be classified under priority sector till their repayment or maturity, whichever is earlier.

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11991&Mode=0>

**Master Circular on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme**

RBI/2020-21/02 FIDD.FID.BC.No.02/12.01.033/2020-21

July 01, 2020

The Chairman/Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

All Scheduled Commercial Banks

The Reserve Bank of India has, from time to time, issued a number of guidelines/instructions to banks on SHG-Bank Linkage Programme. In order to enable banks to have instructions at one place, the Master Circular incorporating the existing guidelines/instructions on the subject has been updated and enclosed. This Master Circular consolidates the circulars issued by Reserve Bank on the subject up to June 30, 2020, as indicated in the Annex.

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=11927>

**Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress**

RBI/2020-21/16 DOR.No.BP.BC/3/21.04.048/2020-21

August 6, 2020

All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks) /All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks/All All-India Financial Institutions /All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)

The Reserve Bank of India (Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets) Directions 2019, dated June 7, 2019 (“Prudential Framework”) provides a principle-based resolution framework for addressing borrower defaults under a normal scenario. Any resolution plan implemented under guidelines of “Prudential Framework”1 which involves granting of any concession on account of financial difficulty of the borrower entails an asset classification downgrade, except when it is accompanied by a change in ownership, which allows the asset classification to be retained as or upgraded to Standard, subject to the prescribed conditions.

2. The economic fallout on account of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to significant financial stress for borrowers across the board. The resultant stress can potentially impact the long-term viability of many firms, otherwise having a good track record under the existing promoters, due to their debt burden becoming disproportionate relative to their cash flow generation abilities. Such wide spread impact could impair the entire recovery process, posing significant financial stability risks.

3. Considering the above, with the intent to facilitate revival of real sector activities and mitigate the impact on the ultimate borrowers, it has been decided to provide a window under the Prudential Framework to enable the lenders to implement a resolution plan in respect of eligible corporate exposures without change in ownership, and personal loans, while classifying such exposures as Standard, subject to specified conditions. The details of the facility are given in the Annex.

4. The lending institutions shall ensure that the resolution under this facility is extended only to borrowers having stress on account of Covid19. Further, the lending institutions will be required to assess the viability of the resolution plan, subject to the prudential boundaries laid out in this Annex. Towards this end, each lending institution shall put in place a Board approved policy detailing the manner in which such evaluation may be done and the objective criteria that may be applied while considering the resolution plan in each case.

5. Accounts which do not fulfill the required eligibility conditions to be considered for resolution under this framework may continue to be considered for resolution under the Prudential Framework, or the relevant instructions as applicable to specific category of lending institutions where the Prudential Framework is not applicable.

6. While the Prudential Framework is otherwise not applicable to certain categories of lending institutions to which this circular is addressed, exposures of these lending institutions shall also be included for any resolution under this facility. Consequently, without prejudice to the specific conditions applicable to this facility, all the norms applicable to implementation of a resolution plan, including the mandatory requirement of Inter-Creditor Agreements (ICA) and specific implementation conditions, as laid out in the Prudential Framework shall be applicable to all lending institutions for any resolution plan implemented under this facility. Terms used in this document, to the extent not defined herein, shall have the same meaning assigned to them in the Prudential Framework.

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11941&Mode=0>

**Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress – Financial Parameters**

RBI/2020-21/34 DOR.No.BP.BC/13/21.04.048/2020-21

September 7, 2020

All Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks)/ All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Co-operative Banks/All All-India Financial Institutions/All Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies)

Please refer to Paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Annex to the circular DOR.No.BP.BC/3/ 21.04.048/2020-21 dated August 6, 2020 (“Resolution Framework”) which envisages constitution of an Expert Committee by the Reserve Bank to make recommendations on the required financial parameters with sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters to be factored in the resolution plans in respect of borrowers eligible under Part B of the Annex to the Resolution Framework.

2. The Reserve Bank had accordingly set up an Expert Committee with Shri K. V. Kamath as the Chairperson, as announced in the press release dated August 7, 2020. The Expert Committee has since submitted its recommendations to the Reserve Bank on September 4, 2020, which have been broadly accepted by the Reserve Bank.

3. Accordingly, all lending institutions shall mandatorily consider the following key ratios while finalizing the resolution plans in respect of eligible borrowers under Part B of the Annex to the Resolution Framework.

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11961&Mode=0>

**Master Directions – Priority Sector Lending (PSL) – Targets and Classification**

RBI/FIDD/2020-21/72 Master Directions FIDD.CO.Plan.BC.5/04.09.01/2020-21

September 04, 2020

The Chairman / Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer

[All Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks other than Salary Earners’ Banks]

The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India were last reviewed for Commercial Banks in April 2015 and for UCBs in May 2018 respectively. With an objective to harmonise various instructions issued to Commercial Banks, SFBs, RRBs, UCBs and LABs; align these guidelines with emerging national priorities and bring sharper focus on inclusive development, it was decided to comprehensively review the PSL guidelines. The revised guidelines also aim to encourage and support environment friendly lending policies to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This review also took into account the recommendations made by the ‘Expert Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Chairman: Shri U.K. Sinha) and the ‘Internal Working Group to Review Agriculture Credit’ (Chairman: Shri M. K. Jain) apart from discussions with all stakeholders. Further, these Master Directions encompass the revised guidelines on PSL for all Commercial banks, RRBs, SFBs, UCBs and LABs and, accordingly, supersede the earlier Master Directions on PSL issued separately for Scheduled Commercial Banks, RRBs, SFBs and guidelines issued for UCBs, respectively.

The list of circulars consolidated in these Master Directions is indicated in the Appendix.

The Master Directions have been placed on the RBI website [www.rbi.org.in](http://www.rbi.org.in).

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11959&Mode=0>

**Automation of Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning processes in banks**

RBI/2020-21/37 Ref. No. DoS.CO.PPG./SEC.03/11.01.005/2020-21

September 14, 2020

The Chairman / Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding RRBs) and All Small Finance Banks

We invite a reference to our circular DBS.CO.PPD.No.1950/11.01.005/2011-12 dated August 04, 2011, in terms of which banks were advised, inter alia, to have appropriate IT system in place for identification of Non-Performing Assets (NPA) and generation of related data/returns, both for regulatory reporting and bank’s own MIS requirements. It is, however, observed that the processes for NPA identification, income recognition, provisioning and generation of related returns in many banks are not yet fully automated. Banks are still found to be resorting to manual identification of NPA and also over-riding the system generated asset classification by manual intervention in a routine manner.

2. In order to ensure the completeness and integrity of the automated Asset Classification (classification of advances/investments as NPA/NPI and their upgradation), Provisioning calculation and Income Recognition processes, banks are advised to put in place / upgrade their systems to conform to the following guidelines latest by June 30, 2021.

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11964&Mode=0>

**Master Circular – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

RBI/2020-2021/39 FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.06/09.01.01/2020-21

September 18, 2020

The Chairman/Managing Director & CEO

Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks (including Small Finance Banks).

Please refer to the Master Circular FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.15/09.01.01/2019-20 dated November 26, 2019 on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

The Master Circular has been suitably updated by incorporating the modifications in DAY-NRLM scheme issued up to September 18, 2020, which are listed in the appendix and also been placed on website (<https://www.rbi.org.in>).

Link for Detailed Circular:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11967&Mode=0>

**Amendment to Master Direction (MD) on KYC – Centralized KYC Registry – Roll out of Legal Entity Template & other changes**

RBI/2020-21/80 DOR.AML.BC.No.31/14.01.001/2020-21

December 18, 2020

The Chairpersons/ CEOs of all the Regulated Entities

Regulated Entities (REs) have been uploading the KYC data pertaining to all individual accounts opened on or after January 1, 2017 on to CKYCR in terms of the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005. Changes to the template, as and when required are released by CERSAI after consulting the Reserve Bank.

2. As the CKYCR is now fully operational for individual customers, it has been decided to extend the CKYCR to Legal Entities (LEs). Accordingly, REs shall upload the KYC data pertaining to accounts of LEs opened on or after April 1, 2021, on to CKYCR in terms of Rule 9 (1A) of the PML Rules. The LE Template and the Annex thereof are attached as Annex “A” and Annex “B” respectively to this circular. The LE Template would be released by CERSAI well in advance so that REs start using it from the notified date. REs shall also ensure that in case of accounts of LEs opened prior to April 1, 2021, the KYC records are uploaded on to CKYCR during the process of periodic updation as specified in Section 38 of the Master Direction, or earlier when the updated KYC information is obtained/received from the customer in certain cases. REs shall ensure that during periodic updation, the customers’ KYC details are migrated to current Customer Due Diligence (CDD) standards.

3. In order to ensure that all existing KYC records of individual customers are incrementally uploaded on to CKYCR, REs shall upload the KYC data pertaining to accounts of individuals opened prior to January 01, 2017, at the time of periodic updation as specified in Section 38 of the Master Direction, or earlier when the updated KYC information is obtained/received from the customer in certain cases. REs shall ensure that during periodic updation, the customers’ KYC details are migrated to current CDD standard.

4. Where a customer, for the purpose of establishing an account based relationship, submits a KYC Identifier to a RE, with an explicit consent to download records from CKYCR, then such RE shall retrieve the KYC records online from CKYCR using the KYC Identifier and the customer shall not be required to submit the same KYC records or information or any other additional identification documents or details, unless –

1. there is a change in the information of the customer as existing in the records of CKYCR;
2. the current address of the customer is required to be verified;
3. the RE considers it necessary in order to verify the identity or address of the customer, or to perform enhanced due diligence or to build an appropriate risk profile of the client.

5. Once KYC Identifier is generated by CKYCR, the REs shall ensure that the same is communicated to the individual/legal entity as the case may be.

6. The Master Direction on KYC dated February 25, 2016, is hereby updated to reflect the changes effected by the above amendment and shall come into force with immediate effect.

**FAQs on Resolution Framework for Covid-19 related stress (Revised on December 12, 2020)**

Link for FAQ:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FAQView.aspx?Id=137>