

Tentative Translation

September 2015

# National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

National Public Safety Commission

## Abbreviations for Laws

Abbreviations for laws are as follows.

[Abbreviation]	[Law]
Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act	Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949)
Payment Services Act	Payment Services Act (Act No. 59 of 2009)
Firearms and Swords Control Act	Act for Controlling the Possession of Firearms or Swords and Other Such Weapons (Act No. 6 of 1958)
Interest Deposit and Interest Rate Act	Act Regulating the Receipt of Contributions, Receipt of Deposits and Interest Rates (Act No. 195 of 1954)
Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes	Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds (Act No. 136 of 1999)
Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds	Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (Act No. 22 of 2007)
Order	Order for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (Cabinet Order No. 20 of 2008)
Ordinance	Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (Ordinance of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism No. 1 of 2008)
Amusement Business Act	Act on Control and Improvement of Amusement Business, etc. (Act No. 122 of 1948)
Anti-Boryokudan Act	Act on Prevention of Unjust Acts by Organized Crime Group Members (Act No. 77 of 1991)
Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law	Act concerning Special Provisions for the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act for the Prevention of Activities Encouraging Illicit Conduct and Other Activities Involving Controlled Substances through International Cooperation (Act No. 94 of 1991)
Worker Dispatching Act	Act for Securing the Proper Operation of Worker Dispatching Undertakings and Improved Working Conditions for Dispatched Workers (Act No. 88 of 1985)

<b>Section 1. Purpose of Risk Assessment</b>	1
1. Background	1
2. Purpose	1
<b>Section 2. Method of Risk Assessment</b>	2
1. Method	2
2. Analysis of Cleared Money Laundering Cases	2
(1) Offenders	2
(2) Modus Operandi	3
<b>Section 3. Risk of Products and Services</b>	6
1. Major Products and Services in which Risk is Recognized	6
(1) Products and Service Dealt with by Deposit-taking Institutions	6
(2) Insurance Dealt with by Insurance Companies etc.	13
(3) Investment Dealt with by Financial Instruments Business Operators, Commodity Derivatives Business Operators, etc.	15
(4) Trust Dealt with by Trust Companies etc.	18
(5) Money Lending Dealt with by Money Lenders etc.	20
(6) Funds Transfer Service Dealt with by Funds Transfer Service Providers	21
(7) Foreign Currency Exchange Dealt with by Currency Exchanging Operators	24
(8) Financial Leasing Dealt with by Financial Leasing Operators	27
(9) Credit Cards Dealt with by Credit Card Operators	29
(10) Real Estate Dealt with by Real Estate Brokers	31
(11) Precious Metals and Stones Dealt with by Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones	33
(12) Postal Receiving Service Dealt with by Postal Receiving Service Providers	35
(13) Telephone Receiving Service Dealt with by Telephone Receiving Service Providers	37
(14) Telephone Forwarding Service Dealt with by Telephone Forwarding Service Providers	38
(15) Legal/Accounting Service Dealt with by Legal/Accounting Professions	39
2. Products and Services Utilizing New Technology, Which Requires Further Examination of Actual State of Use etc.	42
(1) Electronic Money	42
(2) Bitcoin etc.	43
<b>Section 4. High Risk Transactions</b>	44
1. Transaction Type	44
(1) Non-face-to-face Transactions	44
(2) Cash Transactions	46
(3) International Transactions	48
2. Countries/Regions	50
3. Customer Type	51
(1) Anti-social Forces (Boryokudan etc.)	51
(2) Non-resident Customers	53
(3) Foreign Politically Exposed Persons	54
(4) Legal Persons without Transparency of Beneficial Ownership	55
(5) Customers Who Use an Identification Document without a Photograph	57
<b>Section 5. Low Risk Transactions</b>	58
1. Factors to Mitigate Risks	58
2. Low Risk Transactions	58
(1) Specified Transactions in Money Trust (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 1 of Ordinance)	59
(2) Conclusion etc. of Insurance Contracts (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 2 of Ordinance)	59
(3) Payment of Maturity Insurance Money etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 3 of Ordinance)	59

(4) Transactions Carried out on a Securities Market etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 4 of Ordinance)	59
(5) Transactions of Government Bonds etc. That are Settled by an Account Transfer at the Bank of Japan (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 5 of Ordinance)	59
(6) Specified Transactions Concerning Loan of Money etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 6 of Ordinance)	60
(7) Specified Transactions in Cash Transactions etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7 of Ordinance)	60
(8) Opening a Special Account under the Act on Transfer of Bonds, Shares, etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 8 of Ordinance)	61
(9) Transactions through SWIFT (Article 4, paragraph 1 item 9 of Ordinance)	61
(10) Specified Transactions in Financial Leasing Contracts (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 10 of Ordinance)	61
(11) Buying and Selling Precious Metals and Stones etc. in Which the Payment is Made through Methods Other than Cash (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 11 of Ordinance)	61
(12) Specified Contracts with Telephone Receiving Service Providers (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 12 of Ordinance)	61
(13) Transactions with the State etc. (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 13 of Ordinance)	61
(14) Specified Transactions in Agent Work etc. for Specified Mandated Acts by a Judicial Scrivener etc. (Article 4, paragraph 2 of Ordinance)	61

## Section 1. Purpose of Risk Assessment

### 1. Background

In the modern society where Information Technology and globalization of economic/financial services are advancing, situations of money laundering<sup>\*1</sup> and/or terrorist financing (hereinafter referred to as “ML/TF”) is always changing. Global countermeasures under the cooperation of countries are required in order to strongly cope with the problem.

FATF (Financial Action Task Force)<sup>\*2</sup> requests countries to identify national ML/TF risks and assess them in compliance with the new "40 Recommendations", which were revised in February 2012.<sup>\*3</sup>

In addition, in G8 Lough Erne Summit held in June 2013, considering the present state that companies etc. with nontransparent ownership/control structure are misused for money laundering and tax avoidance, G8 Action Plan Principles were agreed, which include, among others, that each country should “understand the risks to which their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regime is exposed and implement effective and proportionate measures to target those risks”.

In the same month, based on the new "40 Recommendations" and G8 Action Plan Principles, Japan set up a working group consisting of the National Police Agency and other relevant ministries and agencies including Financial Services Agency in order to assess ML/TF risks in transactions. In December 2014, the National Police Agency published “National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing”.

### 2. Purpose

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds was amended in 2014. Based on the newly provided Article 3, paragraph 3 and the above-mentioned national risk assessment 2014, this new national risk assessment indicates risks etc. in each category of transactions carried out by business operators.<sup>\*4</sup>

Specified business operators are required to take effective measures to prevent their operations from being misused for ML/TF, by taking this national risk assessment into account and carrying out adequate customer due diligence measures, including paying more attention to high risk transactions.

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\*1 In general, money laundering means an act to conceal the source or real owners of criminal proceeds so that the offenders could prevent investigating authorities from finding the proceeds or arresting them. In Japan, the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and the Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law prescribe money laundering offenses.

\*2 Abbreviation of “The Financial Action Task Force”. It is an intergovernmental body to promote international cooperation regarding AML/CFT measures.

\*3 FATF set out measures which countries should take in law enforcement, criminal justice and financial regulation area in order to fight against ML/TF, as FATF Recommendations.

\*4 Because terrorist financing itself is a crime and the funds themselves fall under criminal proceeds in Japan’s legislation, it is thought that those who plan terrorist financing try to conceal their transfer of funds, like other criminal proceeds, by misusing various transactions, products and services. Thus, risks referred in this national risk assessment include terrorist financing risks.

**Section 2. Method of Risk Assessment**

**1. Method**

For risk assessment, taking the new "40 Recommendations" etc. into account, we identified risk factors from the viewpoint of "products/services", "transaction type", "countries/regions" and "customer type". \*1 Then we analyzed the following items concerning each risk factor:

- Inherent risk of being misused for ML/TF; and
- Measures taken to mitigate risk (for example, legal requirements to business operators, guidance and supervision to business operators by competent administrative authorities, self-regulating efforts by industry associations, self-regulatory bodies and business operators).

The following items concerning each risk factor were also analyzed, and consequently multiple and comprehensive evaluation of each risk factor was made:

- Situation of STRs; and
- Cleared money laundering cases (see below 2).

For risk assessment, we used statistics, case reports etc. possessed by related ministries and agencies. Inquiries were also conducted to industry associations, self-regulatory bodies and business operators through the competent administrative authorities. The inquiry includes their AML/CFT efforts and awareness of vulnerability of transactions, products and services they handle. Regarding STRs and cleared money laundering cases, we mainly analyzed reports and cases in the past 3 years (2012-2014).

**2. Analysis of Cleared Money Laundering Cases**

**(1) Offenders**

Although offenders of money laundering vary, Boryokudan (Japanese organized crime groups), foreigners in Japan, and specialized fraud groups could be listed as major ones.

**A. Boryokudan**

In Japan, money laundering by Boryokudan is especially a serious threat. Among cleared money laundering cases in 2014, 60 cases (20.2 %) were related to Boryokudan members, associates and other related parties (hereinafter referred to as "Boryokudan gangsters") (see table 1).

Boryokudan gangsters repeat crimes professionally to gain economic profit and carry out money laundering tactically. Money laundering by Boryokudan gangsters seems to be carried out internationally. The U.S. published "Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime" and enacted a Presidential decree in July 2011. In them, the U.S. designated Boryokudan gangsters of Japan as one of "serious transnational organized crime groups" and decided to freeze Boryokudan-related assets existing in the U.S. or possessed or managed by U.S. citizens. The U.S. also banned the citizens from dealing with Boryokudan gangsters.

**Table 1 [Number of Cleared Money Laundering Cases (Committed by Boryokudan Gangsters) under the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law (2012-2014)]**

Category \ Year	2012	2013	2014
<b>Cleared cases of money laundering offenses</b>	249	282	300
<b>Cases by Boryokudan gangsters</b>	59	85	60
<b>Ratio (%)</b>	23.7%	30.1%	20.0%

\*1 In addition, size of specified business operators is also a factor to enhance ML/TF risks. The more transactions are conducted, the more difficult to identify and trace the criminal proceeds in transactions. In other words, the bigger the business grows, the higher ML/TF risks exist, in general. To mitigate such risks, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires business operators to properly conduct CDD measures including verification at the time of the transactions and to implement an ongoing employee program as well as to develop other necessary AML/CFT internal control system. This is the approach to mitigate ML/TF risks by developing AML/CFT internal control system consistent with the size of business.

## B. Foreigners in Japan

Seeing cleared money laundering cases in 2014, 36 cases (12.0 %) were committed by foreigners in Japan (see table 2).

Regarding money laundering by foreigners, proceeds are, in many cases, transferred to other countries where law systems or transaction systems are different, including a case of remitting criminal proceeds gained in Japan to foreign countries, cash smuggling of such proceeds to their home country.

**Table 2 [Number of Cleared Money Laundering Cases (Committed by Foreigners in Japan) under the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law (2012-2014)]**

Category	Year	2012	2013	2014
	Cleared cases of money laundering offenses		249	282
Cases by foreigners		17	21	36
Ratio (%)		6.8%	7.4%	12.0%

## C. Specialized Fraud Group etc.

Recently, specialized fraud cases are often reported in Japan. Offenders swindle victims out of money without actually meeting them, by making phone calls etc.\*1 Having the ringleader as the core, specialized fraud groups set each role. For example, one member cheats victims, another draws money, and the other procures a crime tool. In this way, they commit organized fraud. In addition, they commit money laundering, for example, by using bank accounts in the name of fictitious or another party as a tool to receive money from a victim (see table 3).

Furthermore, there are some people who thoughtlessly sell their own bank account to get their amusement expenses or the cost of living. Some even make bank accounts in the name of fictitious or another party by using a falsified ID card and sell them. Such people make money laundering easier.

**Table 3 [Number of Specialized Fraud cases recognized and Total Financial Damage (2010-2014)]**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of recognized cases	6,888	7,216	8,693	11,998	13,392
Total financial damage (yen) (Effective total amount of financial damage)	11,247,278,665	20,404,305,829	36,436,112,888	48,949,490,349	56,550,685,877

Note 1: Data from the National Police Agency

2: Effective total amount of financial damage means original damage from fraud plus money which was withdrawn (stolen) from ATMs by the use of defrauded cash cards.

## (2) Modus Operandi

### A Predicate Offenses

Money laundering offenses provided in the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and the Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law are concealment and receipt of proceeds from specific predicate offences and certain actions to control business operation of companies etc. by using such proceeds. Predicate offenses are offences which generate illegal proceeds. They include offenses listed in the attachment to the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and drug-related offenses listed in the Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law.

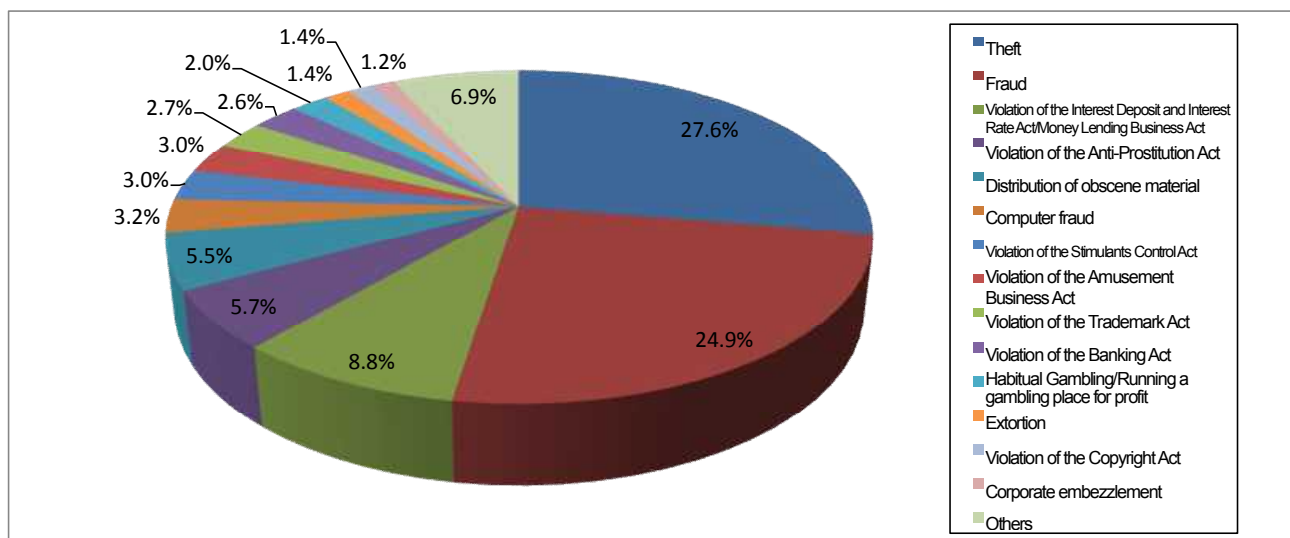
For example, the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes lists more than 200 offenses, including general criminal offenses such as murder, robbery, theft, fraud and breach of trust and special law offenses such as the Interest Deposit and Interest Rate Act, the Anti-

\*1 Specialized fraud means frauds which cajole money out of unspecified strangers by some ways including making them transfer money into bank accounts through some communication means such as telephone. Specialized fraud is the collective name of "Hey, it's me" type remittance fraud, false invoice fraud, financing deposit fraud, refund fraud, fraud disguising as financial instruments transaction, fraud disguising as winning gambling strategies provider, and fraud disguising as dating agencies, etc..

Prostitution Act (Act No. 118 of 1956), the Copyright Act (Act No. 48 of 1970), the Trademark Act (Act No. 127 of 1959), the Firearms and Swords Control Act.

Seeing cleared cases categorized into predicate offenses of money laundering 2012-2014, \*1 theft is the leading crime with 232 cases, or 27.6%, followed by fraud (209 cases, 24.9%), violation of the Interest Deposit and Interest Rate Act/Money Lending Business Act (74 cases, 8.8%), violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act (48 cases, 5.7%) and distribution of obscene material (46 cases, 5.5%) (see table 4).

**Table 4 [Numbers and Ratios of Clearance of Money Laundering Cases under the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and the Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law, Categorized into the Type of Predicate Offense (2012-2014)]**



Predicate offenses	Theft	Fraud	Violation of the Interest Deposit and Interest Rate / Money lending Business Act	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	Distribution of obscene material	Computer Fraud	Violation of the Stimulants Control Act	Violation of the Amusement Business Act	Violation of the Trademark Act	Violation of the Banking Act	Habitual Gambling /Running a Gambling Place for Profit	Extortion	Violation of the Copyright Act	Corporate Embezzlement	Others	Total
Total	232	209	74	48	46	27	25	25	23	22	17	12	12	10	58	840
Ratio	27.6%	24.9%	8.8%	5.7%	5.5%	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%	2.6%	2.0%	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	6.9%	100.0%

**B. Transactions etc. Misused for Money Laundering**

We analyzed cleared cases of money laundering (3 years from 2012 to 2014). Within the scope found in the process of criminal investigation, the following were counted as misused for money laundering:

- Transactions etc. misused for concealing and receiving criminal proceeds; and
- Transactions etc. to which criminal proceeds were transformed.

There are 412 domestic exchange transactions and 289 cash transactions. They account for the most in transactions etc. misused for money laundering (see table 5).

\*1 There are 831 cleared cases of money laundering under the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Anti-Drug Special Provisions Law from 2012 to 2014. On the other hand, the total number of cleared money laundering cases categorized into the type of predicate offense is 840 (See Table 4). This is because some money laundering cases can be categorized into plural predicate offenses.



Based on the analysis of cleared cases of money laundering and STRs, we found that there are many cases where those who plan to conduct money laundering make victims pay into bank accounts opened in the name of fictions or another party through domestic exchange transactions which enable prompt and secure fund transfer. Such criminal proceeds are often withdrawn from ATM in cash in the end, and thereafter it is very difficult to track the funds.

Therefore, domestic exchange and cash transactions are often misused for money laundering and are a serious threat of money laundering in Japan.

**Table 5 [Transactions etc. Misused for Money Laundering (2012 – 2014)]**

Misused transactions	Domestic exchange transactions	Cash transactions	Deposit transactions	Foreign transactions (such as foreign exchange)	Investment	Note/check	Real estate	Corporate status	Postal receiving service	Precious metals and stones	Legal/accounting professions	Insurance	Fund transfer services	Foreign currency exchange	Safe-deposit box	Electronic money	Transfer of goods	Physical concealment	Total
Number	412	289	54	32	13	6	4	5	6	4	2	3	2	1	1	1	48	41	924

### Section 3. Risk of Products and Services

#### 1. Major Products and Services in Which Risk is Recognized <sup>\*1</sup>

##### (1) Products and Services handled by Deposit-taking Institutions <sup>\*2</sup>

###### A. Outline of Deposit-taking Institutions

As of the end of March 2015, there are 1,357 deposit-taking institutions, including banks. <sup>\*3</sup> Among these institutions, bank balance <sup>\*4</sup> is 670,876.9 billion yen as of the end of September 2014.

Acceptance of deposits etc., loan of funds, discounting of bills, and exchange transactions (domestic and foreign exchange) are inherent business of deposit-taking institutions. <sup>\*5</sup> While they also handle ancillary business such as consultation of asset management, sales of insurance products, credit card service, proposal for business succession, support for overseas expansion and business matching, etc.

In addition to banking operation mentioned above (including ancillary business), some banks which engage in trust business and undertake trust of cash, securities, monetary claims, movables and real estate as a trust business and also handle business stipulated in the Act on Engagement in Trust Business by a Financial Institution, such as real estate-related businesses (agent, examination, etc.), securities agent business (management of stockholder list etc.), and inheritance-related business (execution of will, disposition of inheritance, etc.).

Deposit-taking institutions in Japan vary in the scale and scope of operation. Financial Services Agency, which is the competent authorities of deposit-taking institutions, classified them into major banks (mega banks) and Small- and Medium-Sized or Regional Financial Institutions (regional banks, regional banks II, and cooperative financial institutions) for supervision. Each of the three mega bank groups has branches throughout Japan. They are selected as Global Systemically Important Financial Institutions (G-SIFIs) and expand internationally. Each regional bank and regional bank II has a certain geographic area where it mainly operates, but some regional banks have strategy to expand their business into several areas. Cooperative financial institutions operate in particular districts only.

###### B. STRs

There were 1,027,126 STRs by deposit-taking institutions from 2012 to 2014, accounting for 94.1% of total reports.

Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, <sup>\*6</sup> major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Unusual transactions or transactions related customers who show unusual behavior or movements based on the knowledge and experience of staff (172,149 reports, 16.8%)
- Transactions related to accounts to which many people frequently transfer money, especially a huge amount of money that is remitted or withdrawn from the account right after money is transferred in. (145,333 reports, 14.1%)
- Transactions related to Boryokudan and its related parties (124,959 reports, 12.2%)
- Transactions related to accounts to which many people frequently transfer money, especially a huge amount of money that is deposited just before the remittance (54,347 reports, 5.3%)

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<sup>\*1</sup> This assessment report lists products and services according to the type of operator. However, each operator covers different scopes of product/service. Operators are required to consider the related contents in this report based on their product/service.

<sup>\*2</sup> Deposit-taking Institutions mean those listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 1-16 and 35 of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds (banks, Shinkin banks, etc.).

<sup>\*3</sup> Total of banks (141 banks, excluding foreign bank branches), cooperative financial institutions (267 Shinkin banks), credit associations (154 associations), labor banks (13 banks), and agricultural cooperatives and fishery cooperatives (782 cooperatives).

<sup>\*4</sup> See “Financial Statement Analysis of All Banks” by Japanese Banker’s Association (116 banks are covered).

<sup>\*5</sup> Business stipulated in the Banking Act, Article 10, paragraph 1, each item.

<sup>\*6</sup> Competent administrative authorities show “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions” to specified business operators. The list illustrates patterns which operators should especially pay attention to because they could fall under suspicious business transactions. When specified business operators make STRs, they are required to mention which pattern is mostly related to their STRs.

- Transactions that deposits and withdrawals (including trade of securities, remittance, and exchange. The same applies to the following.) are made in a huge amount of cash or a check, especially large amounts of transactions which are inappropriate to the customer's income or assets or transactions of deposits and withdrawals in cash although it is suitable to use remittance or cashier's check (53,741 reports, 5.2%)
- Transactions related to accounts that huge amount of money is frequently deposited and withdrawn (51,972 reports, 5.1%)
- Transactions in which a huge amount of money is transferred to foreign countries without economic rationality (50,267 reports, 4.9%)
- Transactions that a huge amount of money is sent from foreign countries without economic rationality (40,081 reports, 3.9%)
- Transactions related to accounts which don't usually show fund movement, but a huge amount of money is suddenly deposited or withdrawn (31,282 reports, 3.0%)
- Deposits and withdrawals using accounts suspected to be opened by a fictitious or other person's name (27,626 reports, 2.7%)
- Transactions related to customers who provide information suspected to be false or obscure information when remitting to foreign countries. Especially, transactions related to customers who provide information that does not have rational reasons about the recipient, purpose, and the source of fund, etc. (18,168 reports, 1.8%)

### **C. Deposit/Savings Account**

#### **(A) Present Situation**

Based on the reliabilities to deposit-taking institutions and fulfillment of a deposit protection system for a depositor, deposit/savings account is a popular and wide spread measure to manage funds safely and securely. These days, it is possible to open an account or transact through Internet, without going to a bank, and convenience is further increasing.

However, because of such characteristics, deposit/savings account can be misused as effective measures to receive and conceal criminal proceeds by those who attempt transfer of criminal proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of the transaction, and make and preserve verification records and transaction records when they conclude deposit/savings contracts (contracts about receipt of deposit/savings) with customers. The Act also requires deposit-taking institutions to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

The Act on Damage Recovery Benefit Distributed from Fund in Bank Accounts Used for Crimes (Act No. 133 of 2007) requires deposit-taking institutions to take proper measures, such as suspension of transaction related to the account, when there is a suspicion about a deposit account to be misused for crimes, e.g. remittance fraud, based on information provided by investigative agencies or others regarding the deposit account.

#### **(B) Situation of Clearance of Related Offences**

Accounts opened by using fictitious names or in the names of third parties are obtained through illegal trading and misused to receive criminal proceeds in specified frauds, such as remittance fraud, or loan shark cases. Proceeds are transferred through such accounts.

Police reinforce investigation on violation of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds related to illegal transfer of deposit/savings passbook and cash card.

Police also actively investigate cases of account fraud, in which offenders cheat deposit-taking institutions of deposit/savings passbook concealing the purpose of transferring it to others, and cases of receiving a passbook knowing that these are obtained illegally applying the provision of receiving stolen property (see table 6).

**Table 6 [Number of cleared cases of account fraud etc. (2005-2014)]**

Year / Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Account fraud	1,222	1,558	1,602	2,849	3,778	2,288	2,097	2,049	2,016	1,928
Receiving of stolen property	148	108	48	81	83	40	41	21	15	7
Total	1,370	1,666	1,650	2,930	3,861	2,328	2,138	2,070	2,031	1,935

Note: Based on reports from prefectural police to the National Police Agency.

### (C) Case

There are cases where deposit/savings accounts were misused for money laundering, including ones where offenders received or concealed criminal proceeds derived from fraud, theft, loan shark crime, drug crime, violation of amusement business act etc. by the use of accounts opened under fictitious names, accounts opened illegally in the name of shell companies, or other people's accounts transferred illegally.

In particular, in some cases of loan shark crime and cases of obscene DVD dealing, some accounts were illegally bought from clients to receive criminal proceeds or some suspicious accounts (For example, frequent transactions with many people were seen in an account but it was unnatural for an individual's account. In another case, an account suddenly resumed receiving remittances frequently after a long inactivity) were misused for a long time but measures to suspend the use of the account, including freezing, were not taken.

## D. Deposit Transactions

### (A) Present Situation

With the spread of ATMs through the cooperation between deposit-taking institutions and around-the-clock convenience stores, transactions related to deposits or withdrawals of deposit/savings (hereinafter referred to as "deposit transaction") provide high convenience to account holders. People can prepare or preserve funds quickly and easily, regardless of time and place.

However, those who attempt transfers of criminal proceeds could pay attention to safe and secure fund management of account and high convenience of deposit transactions and transfer criminal proceeds through withdrawals of proceeds which were sent to the account or deposit of proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they conduct transactions of receipt or payment of cash which exceeds 2 million yen with customers (100,000 yen in the case of exchange transaction or including issuance of cashier's check). The Act also requires deposit-taking institutions to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

### (B) Case

There are cases where deposit transactions were misused for money laundering, including ones where an offender received criminal proceeds of a violation of Bankruptcy Act in the account, withdrew money several times, and sent it to an account in his relative's name to conceal proceeds, cases where criminal proceeds of fraud in foreign countries were transferred to a domestic account, disguised as legal business proceeds and withdrawn, and cases where criminal proceeds derived from theft, fraud and drug crime, etc. were transferred to an account in the name of third party and concealed.

## E. Domestic Exchange Transactions

### **(A) Present Situation**

Domestic exchange transactions are used for receiving remittance of salary, pension, dividend, etc. or paying utility fees, credit card charge, etc. by account transfer system. Domestic exchange transaction enables customers to make a safe and quick settlement without cash movement between remote areas. Because of such convenience, many people use it as a familiar settlement service with the spread of ATM and Internet banking.

On the other hand, domestic exchange transactions can be used as an efficient measure to transfer criminal proceeds because such characteristics or abuse of an account in the name of another party can ensure anonymity.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they conduct transactions of receipt or payment of cash that exceeds 100,000 yen in cash and include exchange transactions. The Act also requires deposit-taking institutions to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

### **(B) Case**

There are cases where domestic exchange transactions were misused for money laundering, including ones where a senior member of Boryokudan made his subordinate operate prostitution and send the proceeds to his account, cases where a company manager made an operator of underground bank send the proceeds from the banking to his company's account. There are cases where offenders instructed clients to send money to other peoples' accounts for payment of stimulant, repayment to loan sharks, and charge for unlicensed adult entertainment shops, too.

## **F. Safe-deposit Box**

### **(A) Present Situation**

A safe-deposit box is a lease of depository. Anyone can operate safe-deposit box businesses, but the most popular operator is deposit-taking institutions, such as banks. They lease their depositories in their premises for profit.

Safe-deposit boxes of deposit-taking institutions are mainly used to store important documents, such as securities, bankbook, bonds, deed or property, such as precious metals and stones. However, as deposit-taking institutions do not check the stored items, goods in safe-deposit boxes have high secrecy.

However, because of such a characteristic, a safe-deposit box can be an effective measure to physically conceal criminal proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make contracts of lease of safe-deposit boxes with customers. The Act also requires deposit-taking institutions to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

### **(B) Case**

There are cases where safe-deposit boxes were misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where cash, which was criminal proceeds, was preserved in a safe-deposit box of bank to prevent the revelation of crime and cases where offender used fictitious names and made lease contracts of safe-deposit boxes with many banks to conceal crime proceeds.

Also in Japan, there are cases where an offender cheated a victim of his/her promissory note, converted it to cash, and preserved a portion of cash in a safe-deposit box of a bank which the offender's relative made a contract for. Such cases show how those who attempt transfer of criminal proceeds misuse safe-deposit boxes to physically preserve proceeds, while concealing the true user by making lease contracts of safe-deposit boxes under the name of another party.

## **G. Bills and Checks**

### **(A) Present Situation**

Bills and checks are useful payment instruments which substitute for cash because they are used in clearance system with high credibility or settlement by deposit-taking institutions. They are widely used in Japan's economy. Bills and checks are physically lighter than cash of equivalent value and easy to transport. Also it is easy to cash them through deposit-taking institutions. In addition, they are easy to transfer through endorsement and have high liquidity.

However, bills and checks can be misused as efficient measures to receive and conceal criminal proceeds because of such characteristics.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make contracts of bill discount and when they carry out transactions that receive and pay bearer checks <sup>\*1</sup> or checks drawn to self<sup>\*2</sup> that exceed 2 million yen and not crossed (In the case where cash receipt and payment is involved and related to exchange transaction or checks drawn to self, 100,000 yen) . The Act also requires deposit-taking institutions to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Furthermore, checking account is necessary to draw bills or checks in general. The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to make CDD including verification at the time of transactions on opening accounts.

### **(B) Case**

There are cases where bills or checks were misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where they were misused to smuggle huge amount of funds as they are easy to transport and cases where they were misused as instruments to divide and transfer a huge amount of funds by drug smugglers.

Also in Japan, there are cases where bills or checks were misused for money laundering, including a case where loan sharks made many borrowers draw and send checks etc. by post for principal and interest payments, and then checks were collected by deposit-taking institutions and transferred to accounts in the name of another party. These cases show how those who attempt the transfer of criminal proceeds misuse bills or checks for quick transfer of criminal proceeds or disguising criminal proceeds as legal funds.

## **H. Risk of Products and Services Dealt with by Deposit-taking Institutions**

Deposit-taking institutions provide various products and services, including accounts which secure safe fund management, deposit transactions which can make quick preparation or preservation of funds regardless of time and place, exchange transactions which can transfer funds between remote areas or many people in a quick and secure way, safe-deposit boxes which can provide safe preservation for property while maintaining secrecy, and bills and checks which are negotiable and easy to transfer.

However, these products and services can be convenient measures to transfer criminal proceeds because of characteristics they possess. Deposit-taking institutions have a wide range of customers, from individuals to big companies. They also handle a huge number of transactions. It is not easy to find out customers and transactions related to ML/TF and eliminate them.

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\*1 Checks drawn as bearer checks stipulated in Article 5, paragraph 1, item 3 of the Check Act or checks deemed to be bearer checks pursuant to the provision of paragraph 2 or 3 of the said Article and not crossed under Article 37, paragraph 1 of the Act.

\*2 Checks drawn to self, pursuant to the provision of Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Check Act and not crossed under Article 37, paragraph 1 of the Act.

Actually, there are cases where accounts, deposit transactions, exchange transactions, safe-deposit boxes, bills and checks were misused for receipt or concealment of criminal proceeds. Considering this situation, it is recognized that products and services of deposit-taking institutions have risks to be misused for transfer of criminal proceeds. \*1 \*2

In addition, based on STRs, and cases where products and services were misused for money laundering etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks (transactions discussed in “Transaction Type”, “Countries/Regions” and “Customer Type” sections are excluded. The same applies to the following.).

- Transactions that deposits and withdrawals are made in a huge amount of cash or checks (In the case of transactions which is made in large amounts and inappropriate to the customer’s income or assets and transactions of deposits and withdrawals in cash although it is suitable to use remittance or cashier’s check generally, it is recognized that risk will increase.)
- Frequent transactions in a short period and deposits and withdrawals are made in a huge amount of cash or checks
- Deposits, withdrawals, and safe-deposit box transactions in which it is suspected that names of account holders or safe-deposit box users are fictitious names, false names, or shell companies’ names
- Transactions related to accounts which receive remittance from persons suspected of using anonymity or fictitious names
- Deposits and withdrawals through accounts of customers who hold many accounts (including customers who hold many accounts under different names, including names with business name)
- Transactions related to accounts that frequent or large amount deposits and withdrawals are made right after the account was opened, but it was cancelled or transactions stopped later
- Transactions related to accounts which don’t usually show movement of funds, but suddenly deposits and withdrawals of large amount are made
- Transactions where cash is withdrawn from an account and the cash is transferred right after the withdrawal (including cases where the transaction is treated as cash transaction for slip process). (When the name of a remittance client is different from the holder’s name of account which withdrawals are made, it is recognized that risk will particularly increase.)
- Transactions related to accounts that frequent remittances are made to many people. (When a huge amount of money is deposited just before remittances, it is recognized that risk will particularly increase.)
- Transactions related to accounts that receive funds from many people frequently. (When large amounts of funds are transferred or withdrawn from the account right after the receipt of funds, it is recognized that risk will particularly increase.)

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\*1 Article 2, paragraph 2, item 34 of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds provides that electronic monetary claim recording institution is specified business operator. Electronically recorded monetary claims are made or transferred when registry made of magnetic disk etc. and prepared by electronic monetary claim recording institutions is electronically recorded. Electronically recorded monetary claims have the function which is similar to bills regarding smooth assignment of obligation, so it is recognized that they have the risk to be misused for transfer of criminal proceeds.

\*2 Article 2, paragraph 2, item 24 of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds provides that a mutual loan company is specified business operator. In a mutual loan, a mutual loan company sets certain unit number and benefit amounts, clients regularly pay premiums, and they get property other than cash through lottery, bid, etc. every unit. Mutual loan has the characteristic which is similar to deposit regarding the system of premiums and benefits, so it is recognized that it has the risk to be misused for the transfer of criminal proceeds.

To mitigate the risks of products and services dealt with by deposit-taking institutions, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires deposit-taking institutions to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions when they provide specified products and services. Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency <sup>\*1</sup> require deposit-taking institutions to develop internal management systems to carry out the obligations. <sup>\*2</sup>

Regarding industry groups, they support AML/CFT measures of each business operator by providing case examples, reference examples or trainings. Japanese Bankers Association always follows the progress on AML/CFT measures by FATF and continuously exchanges and shares information with bankers associations overseas, as well as addresses FATF Mutual Evaluation. In this way, the Association promotes organizational measures to prevent domestic and overseas ML/TF cases. Business operators make efforts to establish and enforce their internal management systems, too. For example, they set up division in charge, develop internal regulations and manuals, provide periodic training for AML/CFT measures, conduct internal audit, screen out transactions that are likely to have higher risk, and adopt enhanced monitoring for transactions with higher risk, etc.

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\*1 Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency illustrate the notion, viewpoints and important matters, and solid methods of supervision regarding affairs of supervision of financial institutions, which are supervised by the Agency.

\*2 The Agency requires development of internal management systems. Such systems include system to conduct proper verification at the time of transaction, system to conduct STRs, system to conduct integrated and comprehensive management for verification at the time of transaction and STRs, and system to conduct proper AML/CFT measures at overseas business locations.



## **(2) Insurance Dealt with by Insurance Companies etc. \*1**

### **A. Present Situation**

Basically, insurance contracts promise to pay insurance benefit in connection with the life or death of individuals or promise to compensate for damages caused by a certain incidental accident. Payment is limited to cases where those conditions, which have uncertainty, are met. This characteristic significantly mitigates the risks insurance has.

However, each insurance product varies on the characteristics. Insurance companies etc. provide some products which have cash accumulation features. Unlike insurance products that provide benefit based on incidental accidents, some products with cash accumulation features provide benefit based on conditions which are more certain to be met, such as maturity. These products may, in many cases, provide a considerable amount of cash surrender value when contracts are cancelled before maturity.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires insurance companies etc. to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make contract of insurance with cash accumulation features, when a contractor of such insurance is changed, when they make payment of maturity insurance money, cash surrender value, etc. of such insurance, and when they make transactions for receiving and paying cash more than 2 million yen. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Other than that, license from the Prime Minister is necessary to operate insurance business under the Insurance Business Act (Act No. 105 of 1995). The Act provides that competent authorities can require submission of reports, issue business improvement orders or conduct on-site inspection to insurance companies if necessary. In Comprehensive Guidelines for Supervision of Insurance Companies, focal points include the development of internal management system to fulfill the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

In the industry, in order to prevent insurance from being misused for wrongful fundraising, Life Insurance Association of Japan and General Insurance Association of Japan introduced a system which enables member companies to register contents of their contracts and to refer to them when necessary. This system facilitates information sharing among member companies. When they receive application for contract or for payment of insurance benefit, they can refer to the system to examine whether any suspicious situations exist (for example, an insured person has several insurance contracts which are the same type). The Associations also create various materials, such as handbooks and Q&A, to support AML/CFT measures taken by member companies.

Business operators themselves also take measures to establish and strengthen their AML/CTF internal management system. For example, they set up a division in charge, develop internal regulations and manuals, provide periodic training, conduct internal audit, screen out transactions that are considered at high risk, and adopt enhanced monitoring for transactions at high risk.

### **B. STRs**

There are 8,692 STRs by insurance companies etc. from 2012 to 2014 (6,737 in life insurance and 1,955 in general insurance). Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major one (and the number of reports) in the life insurance sector is as follows.

- Transactions related to Boryokudan or its related parties (5824 reports, 86.4%)

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\*1 Insurance companies etc. mean operators listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 17 (insurance company), item 18 (foreign insurance company etc.), item 19 (small-claims/short-term insurance business operator), and item 20 (federation of fishery cooperatives for mutual aid) of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

In the general insurance sector, major cases (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Unnatural transactions or transactions related to customers who show unnatural behavior or movements based on the knowledge and experience of staff (992 reports, 50.7%)
- Transactions related to Boryokudan and related parties (696 reports, 35.6%)

Furthermore, in the life insurance sector, there are a certain number of STRs focusing on payment of premium in a lot of cash (58 reports, 0.9%), including a STR where a customer made payment in a lump sum in cash, 17 million yen, for premium and the insurance company thought the payment was not reasonable for the customer's occupation etc.

### **C. Case**

There are cases where insurance was misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where a drug trafficking organization spent their drug proceeds on the purchase of life insurance, then soon cancelled the insurance and received refund.

Also in Japan, there are cases where criminal proceeds derived from predicate offenses were transformed, including a case where criminal proceeds derived from prostitution were spent on the purchase of installment life insurance for offenders and their family members.

### **D. Risk**

Since insurance products with cash accumulation features enable criminal proceeds to be converted to immediate or deferred asset, they can be a useful measure for ML/TF.

Actually, there are cases where illegal proceeds related to violation of the Anti-Prostitution Acts were used to buy insurance products with cash accumulation features. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that such insurance products have risks to be misused for ML/TF.

Furthermore, based on STRs, cases where criminal proceeds were transformed, etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions related to contractors who pay premiums in a lot of cash

To mitigate the risks insurance has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires business operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision based on license system, and the industry and business operators make voluntary efforts.

### **(3) Investment Dealt with by Financial Instruments Business Operators, Commodity Derivatives Business Operators, etc.\*1**

#### **A. Present Situation**

Other than deposit at deposit-taking institutions, investment on stocks, bonds, and other investment products are also a useful way to manage funds. Investment instruments include commodity futures transactions of minerals and farm products, as well as financial products, such as stocks, bonds, and investment trusts.

Surveying investment transactions in Japan, total transaction volume of listed stocks at Tokyo Stock Exchange (First Section and Second Section) is about 584.2649 trillion yen in 2014 (see table 7).

Regarding commodity futures transactions, trading volume at commodity exchanges in Japan (Tokyo Commodity Exchange and Osaka Dojima Commodity Exchange) is about 27.21 million contracts in 2013. Total amount is about 86.2510 trillion yen in 2013, and margin balance at the end of December is 150.7 billion yen(see table 8).

Investment has different characteristics from deposit/savings. Customers take risks of losing principal when value of investment targets fluctuates. However, at the same time, they can obtain more profit than deposit/savings if the investment succeeds.

From the viewpoint of risks to be misused for ML/TF, investment can be used to convert a lot of funds to various products. Other than that, some investment instruments have complicated schemes which can make source of funds unclear and make tracking criminal proceeds difficult.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires financial instruments business operators and commodity derivatives business operators, etc. who handle investment instruments to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when opening accounts, when conducting transactions of financial instruments, transactions at commodity markets, etc. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

To operate financial instruments businesses, the operator is required to be registered with the Prime Minister under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 25 of 1948). Commodity derivatives business operators need permission of competent ministers (the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) under the Commodity Derivatives Act (Act No. 239 of 1950). Furthermore, these two acts provide that competent authorities can conduct on-site inspection, require submission of reports or issue business improvement orders to business operators if necessary.

Comprehensive Guidelines for Supervision to Financial Instruments Business Operators and commodity derivatives business operators include focal points on the development of an internal management system to fulfill the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and making STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

In the industry, Japan Securities Dealers Association\*2 and Commodity Futures Association of Japan \*3 create Q&As or other materials regarding the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, etc. to support AML/CFT measures taken by member companies. Japan Securities Dealers Association also creates “Point of view about ‘STRs’ for members” to help members have deeper understanding about STRs and to ensure STRs are properly made.

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\*1 Financial instruments business operators, commodity derivatives business operators, etc. mean operators listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 21 (financial instruments business operator), item 22 (securities finance company), item 23 (specially permitted business notifying person), and item 31 (commodity derivatives business operator) of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

\*2 Japan Securities Dealers Association is a self-regulation organization which is approved under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act. The Association makes efforts for sound development of the industry and protection of investors, including by setting up self-regulatory rules. All securities companies join the Association (255 companies as of the end of March 2014) and they have the obligation to comply with rules of the Association.

\*3 Commodity Futures Association of Japan is a self-regulation organization which is approved under the Commodity Derivatives Act. The Association conducts various self-regulation works regarding to commodity futures business for fair and smooth commodity derivative transactions and protection of clients. All commodity derivatives business operators join the Association (49 companies as of the end of March, 2015) and they have the obligation to comply with rules of the Association.

Business operators themselves also take measures to establish and strengthen their AML/CTF internal management system. For example, they set up a division in charge, develop internal regulations and manuals, provide periodic training, conduct internal audit, screen out transactions that are likely to have risks of ML/TF, and adopt enhanced CDD according to the degree of risks.

**Table 7 [Transaction Volume of Stocks (2012-2014)]**

	(100 million yen)		
	2012	2013	2014
First Section, TSE	3,067,023	6,401,938	5,765,250
Second Section, TSE	9,102	35,762	77,399
Total	3,076,125	6,437,700	5,842,649

Note: Data from Tokyo Stock Exchange

**Table 8 [Transaction Amount of Commodity Futures Transactions (Domestic Commodity Exchanges) (2012-2014)]**

		2012	2013	2014
Volume (number of contracts)	Farm products	1,812,841	907,341	901,415
	Minerals	25,479,111	26,307,061	21,264,522
Transaction amount (100 million yen)		785,554	862,510	656,401
Margin balance (end of December) (100 million yen)		1,598	1,507	1,455

Note 1: Data from Japan Commodity Clearing House Co., Ltd.

2: "Farm products" in volume column is the total transaction volume of agricultural product market, fisheries market, agricultural products index market, and sugar market. "Minerals" is the total transaction volume of rubber market, precious metals, oil market, Chukyo oil market, and Nikkei-TOCOM Commodity Index market.

## B. STRs

There are 21,103 STRs by financial instruments business operators and 72 STRs by commodity derivatives business operators from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in "List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions", major one (and the number of reports) by financial instruments business operators is as follows.

- Unnatural transactions or transactions related to customers who show unnatural behavior or movements based on the knowledge and experience of staff (6,718 reports, 31.8%)

Major one (and the number of reports) by commodity derivatives business operators is as follows.

- Transactions suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person's name (43 reports, 59.7%)

## C. Case

There are cases where investment was misused for money laundering, including a case where criminal proceeds derived from fraud were invested on stocks and a case where criminal proceeds derived from embezzlement were invested on commodity futures.

## D. Risk

There are many investment products. Through these products, it is possible to convert criminal proceeds to various rights and commodities. In addition, some investment products have complex scheme which can make tracking source of invested funds difficult. Therefore, investment can be a useful measure for ML/TF.

Actually, there are cases where criminal proceeds from fraud or embezzlement were invested on stocks or commodity futures. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that investment has risks to be misused for ML/TF.<sup>\*1 \*2</sup>

In addition, based on STRs, cases where criminal proceeds were transformed, etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person's name

To mitigate the risks investment has, the Act on Prevention of the Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires business operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision based on registration systems or licensing systems, and SRBs of the industry and business operators make voluntary efforts.

Regarding investment through financial instruments business operators (securities trading and other transactions), customers are allowed to transfer funds to their own account only, in principle. This characteristic is useful to mitigate the risks investment has.

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<sup>\*1</sup> Article 2, paragraph 2, item 26 of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds provides that a real estate specified joint enterprise operator is a specified business operator. Real estate specified joint enterprise, which concludes a real estate specified joint enterprise contract (a contract stipulating that contributions are made by each party, that a joint venture is established with the contributions, that the execution of business will be entrusted to one or more parties in order to conduct real estate transactions, and that the proceeds generated from the said real estate transactions will be distributed, etc.) and distributes proceeds to investors, can also be a measure to make tracking criminal proceeds difficult, therefore, has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

<sup>\*2</sup> Article 2, paragraph 2, item 32 and 33 of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds provide that a book-entry institution and an account management institution are specified business operators. Book-entry transfer institutions conduct the business of book-entry transfer (which has the effect of transfer, pledge, etc.) of company bonds etc. Account management institutions, which securities companies, banks, etc. are allowed to be, open the account for the purpose of effecting the book-entry transfer of company bonds etc. on behalf of another person. Products and services handled by these institutions have risks to be misused for ML/TF.

#### **(4) Trust Dealt with by Trust Companies etc. <sup>\*1</sup>**

##### **A. Present Situation**

Trust is a system where a settlor transfers cash, land, or other property to a trustee by act of trust and the trustee manages and disposes the property for a beneficiary pursuant to the trust purpose set by the settler.

In trust, assets can be managed and disposed in various forms. Trustees make the best use of their expertise to manage and preserve assets. Trust is an effective way to raise funds for companies. With these characteristics, trust is widely used in schemes for managing financial assets, movable property, real estate, etc. as a basic infrastructure of financial system in Japan.

Considering these characteristics of trust, in order to protect settlors and beneficiaries by securing fair transactions including acceptance of trust, the Trust Business Act (Act No. 154 of 2004) adopts a license system (registration system is adopted for custodian type trust companies and self-settled trust companies), and operators are subject to the supervision of authorities. In addition, when banks and other financial institutions operate trust business, approval by authorities is required under the Act on Engagement in Trust Business by a Financial Institution (Act No. 43 of 1943). As of the end of March 2015, 58 companies have such authorization and engage in trust business.

No money laundering case involving misuse of trust has been reported in Japan in recent years. However, trust is not only to leave property with trustees but also has the function of changing the nominee of property right and transferring a right of management and disposal of the property. Furthermore, by converting property to a trust beneficiary right, the attribution, quantity and nature of the property can be altered pursuant to the purpose of the trust. From these aspects, trust can be misused for ML/TF, such as concealment of the source of illegal proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires a specified business operator who is/will be a trustee to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions against not only settlors but also beneficiaries, when conducting conclusion of a contract for trust or a conclusion of judicial relationship with a beneficiary of trust through acts, including act of trust, act of designation of a beneficiary, act of transferring a right to be a beneficiary, excluding some trusts.

In addition, Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency require trust companies and financial institutions that operate trust business to develop management systems for appropriate implementation of CDD including verification at the time of transactions.

Other than that, the Trust Business Act and the Act on Engagement in Trust Business by a Financial Institution stipulate that the Financial Services Agency may require trust companies and financial institutions that operate trust business to report to the Agency in the case where management systems for CDD including verification at the time of transactions have some problems. Furthermore, if it is deemed that there are serious problems, the Agency may issue an order for business improvement.

Specified business operators themselves also make efforts to establish and strengthen their AML/CTF internal management systems. For example, they set up a division in charge, develop internal regulations and manuals, provide periodic training, conduct internal audit, screen out transactions that are considered at high risk, and adopt enhanced monitoring for transactions at high risk.

In addition, trustees are required to submit records including beneficiaries' names to tax authorities under the tax law, excluding some trusts. This system is not directly for AML/CTF purpose, but helps authorities to identify beneficiaries of trusts.

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<sup>\*1</sup> Trust Companies etc. mean operators listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 24 (trust company) and item 25 (self-settled trust company) of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

## **B. STRs**

There are 138 STRs related to trusts from 2012 to 2014. <sup>\*1</sup> Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major one (and the number of reports) is as follows.

- Transactions related to Boryokudan or its related parties (127 reports, 92.0%)

## **C. Risk**

Trust has the function of transferring property right from a settlor to a trustee, changing the nominee of the property when it is subject to a registration system, and altering attribution, quantity and nature of the property. Furthermore, trust can come into force on conclusion of a trust contract between parties involved or self-settled trust. Because of such characteristics, for those who attempt ML/TF, it is possible to separate criminal proceeds from themselves and conceal the relationship with the proceeds if they misuse trust. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that trust has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks trust has, laws and regulations are applied to trust businesses, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision, and business operators make self-regulating efforts.

In addition, funds related to trust, such as proceeds from trust assets, payment for a trust beneficiary right are transferred through bank accounts. It can be said that measures to dublicately mitigate risks that trust has are taken against such transactions by AML/CTF regime in the deposit-taking institution sector, including laws and regulations, supervision by authorities, voluntary efforts by industry and business operators.

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<sup>\*1</sup> To calculate the number, information of STRs was analyzed and relations with trusts was confirmed.

## **(5) Money Lending Dealt with by Money Lenders etc. <sup>\*1</sup>**

### **A. Present Situation**

Lending money or acting as an intermediary for lending money (hereinafter referred to as “money lending”, collectively) by money lenders etc. helps consumers and business operators, who need funds, raise money, by providing them with convenient financing products and carrying out quick examination, etc. In addition, with the spread of automatic contract reception machines and automatic teller machines (ATMs), including ones provided by tying up with deposit-taking institutions etc., and expansion of transactions through the internet, money lending service has become more convenient.

No money laundering case involving money lending by money lenders etc. has been reported in Japan in recent years. However, because of such convenience of money lending, those who obtained criminal proceeds can make tracking criminal proceeds difficult by misusing money lending, for example, by repeating debt and repayment.

The Money Lending Business Act stipulates that a person who intends to engage in money lending business shall be registered by the prefectural governor or the Prime Minister (in case where the person establishes offices within 2 or more prefectural areas).

The Act also stipulates that the competent authorities can conduct on-site inspection, require submission of reports or issue business improvement orders to money lenders etc. Comprehensive Guidelines for Supervision of Money Lenders also include focal points on the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and to make STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

In the industry, Japan Financial Services Association has made self-regulating rules which require member companies to establish an internal management system by means of making each company’s internal rules about the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and STRs and prevention of damage caused by anti-social forces.

### **B. STRs**

There are 6,849 STRs by money lenders etc. from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Transactions related to Boryokudan or its related parties (3,019 reports, 44.1%)
- Deposit and withdrawal using accounts suspected to be opened by a fictitious or other person’s name (1,898 reports, 27.7%)

### **C. Risk**

Money lending by money lenders etc. can make tracking criminal proceeds difficult. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that money lending by money lenders etc. has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Money lending contracts suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person’s name

To mitigate the risks money lending by money lenders etc. has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires them to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision based on the registration system under the Money Lending Business Act, and the industry also makes voluntary efforts.

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<sup>\*1</sup> Money Lenders etc. mean those listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 28 (money lender) and item 29 (call money market broker) of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.



## **(6) Funds Transfer Service Dealt with by Funds Transfer Service Providers**

### **A. Present Situation**

Funds transfer service means exchange transaction services (limited to transactions that the amount is not more than 1 million yen per remittance) provided by general business operators other than deposit-taking institutions. With the demand for reasonable and convenient remittance service along with the spread of the internet etc., funds transfer service was introduced in 2010, to promote deregulation.

Those who intend to operate funds transfer service have to be registered by the Prime Minister under the Payment Services Act. As of the end of March 2015, the number of Funds Transfer Service Providers is 39. There are 16.82 million remittances which total 330.7 billion yen in 2013.

With the advance of globalization, it is expected that needs for funds transfer service, such as remittance by foreign people in Japan to their home countries, will increase further (see table 9).

There are three main remittance methods in funds transfer service. One is that a client brings cash to a Funds Transfer Service Provider and a receiver receives cash at the provider's different business location. Another is that fund is transferred between a client's account and a receiver's account which were opened in a funds transfer service provider. The other is that a Funds Transfer Service Provider issues an instrument (money order) correspondent to money recorded in its server and payment is done to a person who brings the instrument.

Funds transfer service is a convenient system providing a quick and secure way to transfer funds on a global scale with reasonable fees. However, the service facilitates transferring criminal proceeds to foreign countries where law or transaction systems are different from Japan and decreases traceability of the criminal proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires Funds Transfer Service Providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make exchange transactions etc. which accompany receiving and paying cash more than 100,000 yen. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

The Payment Services Act provides that the authorities can conduct on-site inspection and issue business improvement orders etc. against funds transfer service providers if necessary. The Act also provides grounds for refusing or rescinding the registration of a funds transfer service provider which include "a corporation who has not established a system that is necessary for the proper and secure provision/conducting of funds transfer service". The Guidelines for Administrative Processes by the Financial Services Agency include focal points on the development of an internal management system to fulfill the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. When business operators apply for registration of a funds transfer service operator, these points are also included in the examination items related to "establishing a system that is necessary for the proper and secure provision/conducting of funds transfer service". Through these measures, competent authorities provide AML/CTF guidance and supervision.

In the industry, Japan Payment Service Association supports AML/CFT measures taken by Funds Transfer Service Providers through developing self-regulating rules, providing training, etc.

Besides, Funds Transfer Service Providers themselves also take measures to establish and strengthen their AML/CTF internal management system. For example, they set up a division in charge, develop internal regulations and manuals, provide periodic training, conduct internal audit, screen out transactions that are considered at high risk, and adopt enhanced monitoring for transactions at high risk.

Business schemes of Funds Transfer Service Providers vary. Some of them, for example, who can conduct international remittance to many countries or accept occasional customers have risks to be misused for ML/TF. On the other hand, some providers, for example, who deal with only refund for cancelled mail order have limited risks. Business scales of providers also vary, from major companies listed in the First Section of Tokyo Stock Exchange to small companies. Providers' Internal management systems have

been developed in accordance with characteristics and scales of their business.

**Table 9 [Number of Performance by Funds Transfer Service (2011-2013) ]**

Year	2011	2012	2013
Number of remittances a year	765,431	10,388,222	16,819,029
Transaction volume a year (million yen)	42,388	188,574	330,709
Number of registered funds transfer service providers	25	32	35

Note: Data from the Financial Services Agency

## B. STRs

There are 1,550 STRs by funds transfer service providers from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Transactions related to customers who provide information suspected to be false or obscure information when remitting to foreign countries (263 reports, 17.0%)
- Transactions having unnatural aspects or conducted in unnatural frequency considering the purpose of the transactions, occupation or business of the client, etc. (183 reports, 11.8%)

On top of that, funds transfer service providers made some STRs about Money Mule<sup>\*1</sup> in recent years. In the STRs, typically, a fund transfer service provider asked a customer the purpose of remittance and found out that he had applied to a job offer on a foreign website and had received money and instruction to forward the money to a foreign country.

## C. Case

With the introduction of funds transfer service, it became easier to remit money overseas with reasonable fees. Some people came to misuse the service to commit money laundering by disguising their remittance as lawful one. Specifically, there are cases of Money Mule where a person was asked to remit money overseas with reward and carried out the remittance through a funds transfer service provider while knowing that the remittance had no justifiable reasons, and a case where a person who operated underground banking related to foreign remittance restocked funds which had to be pooled in the remittee country through a funds transfer service provider. Among others, seeing cases of money laundering by Money Mule which misuse funds transfer service, they arise in relation with illegal money transfer involving internet banking services. Particularly, there are cases where offenders steal information of internet banking users by “Phishing”<sup>\*2</sup> or by using computer viruses, then illegally access internet banking services, transfer deposit/savings money to a different account, and make Money Mule remit the money overseas by misusing funds transfer service.

## D. Risk

Considering characteristics of exchange transaction business and the fact that some funds transfer service providers provide service to remit to many countries, funds transfer service can be a useful measure for ML/TF.

\*1 A method of money laundering. In Money Mule, a third party is utilized as a carrier of criminal proceeds. Third parties are recruited through email or recruitment websites, etc.

\*2 An operation that requires a person to enter his/her identification code related to the access control function, by pretending to be an access controller.

Actually, there are cases where criminal proceeds were transferred overseas through funds transfer service, by using a third party who was not involved in predicate offenses or by using another person's ID to pretend to be the person. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that funds transfer service has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs, cases where the service was misused for money laundering etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions suspected that the customer provides false information about the purpose or source of funds of overseas remittance
- Remittances originated from cash etc. which are conducted frequently in a short period and large in total (including a case where some of the remittances are slightly below the threshold)
- Transactions suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person's name
- Transactions suspected that the customer acts on behalf of other people

To mitigate the risks funds transfer service has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires funds transfer service providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, etc. Providers make efforts to establish an internal management system to fulfill the obligation, based on the Guideline for Administrative Processes by the Financial Services Agency. Japan Payment Service Association, which is a self-regulatory organization of the industry and many providers participate in, supports AML/CFT measures taken by providers through developing self-regulating rules, providing training, etc.

## **(7) Foreign Currency Exchange Dealt with by Currency Exchanging Operators**

### **A. Present Situation**

Many Japanese employ foreign currency exchange to obtain foreign currency when they go overseas for sightseeing, business, etc. Foreign currency exchange is also employed by foreign people staying in Japan to get Japanese yen.

Currently, foreign currency exchanging operators are roughly divided into deposit-taking institutions and other business operators. The latter includes hoteliers, travel agencies, and secondhand dealers. They deal with foreign currency exchange as a sideline for the convenience of customers in their main business (see table 10).

By physically bringing criminal proceeds overseas, it is possible to lower the possibility of detection of the proceeds, punishment, confiscation, etc. After exchanging criminal proceeds to foreign currency it is also possible to use the proceeds while lowering such possibility. Furthermore, foreign currency exchange has the characteristics of handling cash which is high in liquidity and anonymity, and the capability of physically changing the appearance of criminal proceeds and integrating a lot of bills of small denominations into a small number of bills of high denominations.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires foreign currency exchanging operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make a transaction more than 2 million yen per transaction. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances. In addition, the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act requires foreign currency exchanging operators, whose transaction volume is more than 1 million yen in a month, to report to the Minister of Finance.

In order to have operators fulfill their legal obligations, the Ministry of Finance prepares brochures describing outline of the report system and how to report, etc. The brochures, along with inspection manuals etc., are published on the Ministry's website. Furthermore, the Ministry holds briefing session on revision of inspection manuals for foreign currency exchanging operators and, together with the National Police Agency, sends them a document that requires thorough implementation of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and making STRs. If the implementation of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act turned out to be insufficient during on-site inspection at operators, deficiencies would be pointed out and required to be improved.

So far, the Ministry of Finance has not issued rectification orders to foreign currency exchanging operators. However, when there is a case showing that their verification at the time of transactions is improper or their system of making STRs is insufficient, written or oral administrative guidance is given, depending on the extent of the deficiencies.

These obligations and supervision are important to understand the actual state of foreign currency exchange and to prevent foreign currency exchange from being misused for ML/TF.

Some foreign currency exchanging operators make voluntary efforts against ML/TF. These operators, mainly those who handle a large volume of foreign currency exchange, set lower threshold for verification at the time of transactions than a legal threshold. Other than that, they take measures to establish and strengthen their internal management system. For example, they develop AML/CTF manuals, set up a division in charge, and provide training and internal audit. On the other hand, operators who handle lower volume tend to be modest in taking such measures.

Incidentally, in Japan, license or registration is not necessary to operate foreign currency exchanging business. Anyone can conduct the business. In the third round Mutual Evaluation by the FATF, such a situation was pointed out as deficiency. New "40 Recommendations" of the FATF (Recommendation 26) requires that "Businesses providing a service of currency changing should be licensed or registered, and subject to effective systems for monitoring and ensuring compliance with national AML/CFT requirements.

**Table 10 [Situation of Transactions by Foreign Currency Exchanging Operators (March, 2015)]**

Reporter	Number of reporters (Note 3)	Number of transactions	Transaction value (1 million yen)	Value per transaction (1,000 yen)
<b>Deposit-taking institutions</b>				
Major banks	4	319,109	27,477	86.1
Regional banks	95	222,189	16,585	74.6
Shinkin banks	122	6,040	752	124.6
Foreign banks	15	1,421	6,312	4442.2(Note 4)
Other deposit-taking institutions (Note 2)	7	45,776	3,352	73.2
<b>Excluding deposit-taking institutions</b>				
Funds transfer service /credit card business	6	189,838	10,874	57.3
Hoteliers	64	10,270	287	27.9
Travel agencies	33	31,184	1,879	60.3
Secondhand dealers	36	45,229	4,820	106.6
Business related to airport	4	152,786	5,194	34.0
Large-scale retailers	4	484	11	22.9
Others	10	21,562	1,474	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1,045,888</b>	<b>79,017</b>	<b>75.6</b>

Note 1: Data from the Ministry of Finance

2: The Shinkin Central Bank, credit associations, Japan Post Bank, and other banks

3: Number of operators that conducted foreign currency exchange transactions more than 1 million yen for business in February 2015 and then conducted a foreign currency exchange transaction(s) in March 2015 (pursuant to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, if the total transaction volume has exceeded 1 million yen in a month, performance in the following month shall be reported.)

4: Value per transaction is large because some banks procure/buy foreign currency with other financial institutions.

## B. STRs

There were 5,528 STRs by foreign currency exchanging operators from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Cases suspected that a customer visits a particular shop or its neighboring shops several times a day or during a couple of days so that the amount of each transaction is slightly lower than the threshold for verification at the time of transactions (2,265 reports, 47.5%)
- Currency exchange of large amounts of cash or traveler’s checks (1,281 reports, 23.2%)

## C. Case

There are cases where foreign currency exchange was misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where a drug trafficking organization used unregistered foreign currency exchanging operators to exchange drug proceeds to foreign currency.

Also in Japan, there are cases where foreign currency exchange was misused for money laundering, including a case where an offender of murder attended with robbery overseas gained huge foreign currency from the crime, then converted it to Japanese yen through a third party.

## D. Risk

Foreign currency exchange can be a part of a measure to take out criminal proceeds overseas and use them. Foreign currency exchange is usually carried out in cash which has high liquidity and can be possessed or transferred without information of the holder. From these characteristics, foreign currency exchange can be a useful measure for ML/TF.

Actually, there is a case where foreign currency which is criminal proceeds gained overseas was converted to Japanese yen through a third party who didn't know the actual circumstances. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that foreign currency exchange has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs, cases where foreign currency exchange was misused for money laundering, etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions of large amounts of cash
- Frequent transactions in a short period
- Transactions suspected that the customer intentionally avoid verification at the time of the transactions
- Transactions suspected that the customer does not conduct for his/her own sake
- Transactions related to currency etc. which was forged/stolen or suspected to be forged/stolen

To mitigate the risks foreign currency exchange has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. Other than that, competent authorities provide guidance, and operators make voluntary efforts.

## **(8) Financial Leasing Dealt with by Financial Leasing Operators**

### **A. Present Situation**

Financial leasing is dealt with by a financial leasing operator, in the form of contracting with a company etc. (lessee) who intend to obtain machinery, vehicles, etc.; purchasing the products from a distributor (supplier); and leasing the products to the lessee. Financial leasing has some advantages. For example, a company who intends to obtain facilities can make the payment on the installment plan for a certain period.

Financial leasing has certain characteristics, such as existence of a supplier in addition to the contracting parties (i.e. a financial leasing operator and a lessee), and the relatively long leasing period. Due to those, financial leasing may be misused for ML/TF through, for example, a scheme where a lessee and a supplier in conspiracy make up fictitious financial leasing.

No money laundering case involving misuse of financial leasing has been reported in Japan in recent years. However, there is a case where financial leasing was misused for paying tribute to Boryokudan. In that case, a person associated with Boryokudan got quality goods through financial leasing and allowed a head of Boryokudan to use them for a long term.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires financial leasing operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they conclude contracts. The Act also requires operators to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

In the industry, Japan Leasing Association and Japan Automotive Leasing Association support AML/CTF measures taken by financial leasing operators. For example, they prepare and distribute leaflets and brochures to inform operators the outline of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and verification items at the time of transactions, and provide training.

In addition, the Road Transport Vehicle Law (Act No. 185 of 1951) stipulates that no motor vehicles shall be driven if the name and address of the owner, principal place of use, etc. are not registered in the vehicle registration file managed by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. In effect most of the leased vehicles are registered ones, so the registration system is useful to mitigate the risks motor vehicle leasing has.

### **B. STRs**

There were 257 STRs by financial leasing operators from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Transactions related to Boryokudan or its related parties (178 reports, 69.3%)
- Transactions related to financial leasing suspected that a lessee etc. intend to defraud a financial leasing operator of money by concluding several leasing contracts based on the same facilities (so called “multiple leasing”) (30 reports, 11.7%)
- Transactions related to financial leasing suspected that a lessee and a supplier in conspiracy intend to defraud a financial leasing operator of money by pretending to install facilities (so called “empty leasing”) (12 reports, 4.7%)

### **C. Risk**

Financial leasing may be made up by a lessee and a supplier in conspiracy. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that financial leasing has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions related to financial leasing suspected that a lessee etc. intend to defraud a financial leasing operator of money by concluding several leasing contracts based on the same facilities (so called “multiple leasing”)
- Transactions related to financial leasing suspected that a lessee and a supplier in conspiracy intend to defraud a financial leasing operator of money by pretending to install facilities (so called “empty leasing”)
- Frequent financial leasing contracts suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person’s name

To mitigate the risks financial leasing has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision, and the industry makes voluntary efforts.



## **(9) Credit Cards Dealt with by Credit Card Operators**

### **A. Present Situation**

Credit cards are widely used as the method for payment because they can be used in a timely manner, with simple procedures.

No money laundering case involving misuse of credit cards has been reported in Japan in recent years. However, credit cards could make it difficult to track criminal proceeds because a holder of criminal proceeds in cash can transform them into different kinds of property through a credit card.

Furthermore, by providing a credit card or credit card information to a third party, it is possible to make the third party purchase products etc. Credit cards can be used all over the world, and some of them have a high usage maximum amount. Therefore, for example, if someone who intends to transfer funds provides a third party with a credit card and make him/her purchase a cashable product and the third party sells the product, it is actually possible to transfer funds, either in Japan or abroad.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires credit card operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make contracts. The Act also requires operators to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

The Installment Sales Act (Act No. 159 of 1961) requires credit card operators to be registered by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry if the credit card operators conduct business of intermediation of comprehensive credit purchases, in which operators are provided by a user with money corresponding to the payment for products etc. over 2 months or in a revolving form. <sup>\*1</sup> As of the end of March, 2015, 260 operators are registered.

The Act stipulates that the competent authorities can conduct on-site inspection, require submission of reports, or issue business improvement orders to comprehensive credit purchase intermediaries if necessary for the enforcement of this Act. In guidelines for comprehensive credit purchase intermediaries, focal points include execution of the obligation to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and to make STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

In the industry, Japan Consumer Credit Association has made self-regulating rules which require member companies to conduct verification at the time of transactions and STRs. The Association also supports AML/CTF measures taken by operators through providing training on making STRs, along with introduction of a system which enables member companies to register card holder information with credit bureaus designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry based on the Installment Sales Act. When operators receive application for concluding or renewing a contract, they can refer to the system to examine whether any suspicious situations exist, for example, whether a person has applied for several credit cards in a short period.

Business operators also make voluntary efforts. For example, they set a usage maximum amount on each card holder after strict admission/renewal examination, screen out transactions that are considered at high risk, adopt enhanced monitoring for transactions at high risk, introduce a system to prevent credit cards being used by a person who pretends to be a true card holder in non-face-to-face transactions (i.e setting a password etc.), conduct customer identification in face-to-face transactions to prevent credit cards being used by a person who pretends to be a true card holder, and have periodically meeting with law enforcement authorities.

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<sup>\*1</sup> In a revolving form, credit card operators receive an amount of money arrived at by a predetermined method of calculation based on the total cost of products from the user, at regular, predetermined intervals (Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Installment Sales Act).

## **B. STRs**

There were 19,358 STRs by credit card operators from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Transactions related to Boryokudan or its related parties (6,101 reports, 31.5%)
- Credit card contracts suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person’s name (5,711 reports, 29.5%)
- Cases suspected that a person who is not a true card holder uses the credit card (2,907 reports, 15.0%)

## **C. Risk**

Credit cards allow a holder of criminal proceeds in cash to transform them into different kinds of property. It is also possible to transfer funds by providing a credit card to a third party and making him/her purchase products. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that credit cards have risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Credit card contracts suspected that the customer uses a fictitious or other person’s name
- Cases suspected that a person who is not a true card holder uses the credit card
- Transactions related to a customer who frequently purchases large amounts of cash equivalent, such as gift cards, by the use of credit cards.

To mitigate the risks credit cards has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision based on the registration system under the Installment Sales Act, and the industry makes voluntary efforts.

## **(10) Real Estate Dealt with by Real Estate Brokers**

### **A. Present Situation**

Real estate has high value and can be exchanged to a large amount of cash. In addition, result of evaluation of real estate may differ depending on the utility value, usage of the property, etc. for the parties concerned. These facts make it possible for offenders to transfer criminal proceeds with ease by, for example, paying more than customary price. It is also possible to obscure source of funds or beneficial ownership of real estate by purchasing it under a fictitious or other person's name.

Among real estate products, building lots and buildings are especially valued and actively traded in Japan. Business operators who handle transactions of these properties are subject to relevant laws and regulations as Real Estate Brokers (Brokers).

There are approximately 122,100 Brokers as of the end of March 2014, and their business scale varies. While there are major Brokers who handle more than thousands of transactions a year, there also exist small and medium-sized Brokers, such as a private business who conduct community-based operation. The latter gets a majority.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires Brokers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make a purchase and sale contract of building lots and buildings or conduct intermediary or agency service thereof. The Act also requires Brokers to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Operators are required to operate with license under the Real Estate Brokerage Act (Act no. 176 of 1952). The Act stipulates that every office of Brokers must keep books which record names, addresses, etc. of customers who are counterparties of each sale, purchase, exchange or lease, or who ask agency service for such transactions. These rules ensure proper and secure conduct of building lots and buildings business.

Furthermore, real estate industry makes efforts to secure effective implementation of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, including information sharing efforts. For example, "Liaison Council for Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and Prevention of Damage by Anti-social Forces in Real Estate Business" arranged an agreement on Brokers' developing a management system to prevent from being misused for ML/TF and damage by anti-social forces, and distributes leaflets for announcement and education.

### **B. STRs**

There were 12 STRs by brokers from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in "List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions", major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Purchase of building lots or buildings in large amount of cash. (3 reports, 25.0%)
- Transactions related to customers who don't seem to have reasonable cause to buy or sell the building lots or buildings, considering the scale of the transaction, location of the property, business form of the customer, etc. (3 reports, 25.0%)

### **C. Case**

There are cases where real estate was misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where drug traffickers bought real estate by the use of drug proceeds and their friend's name, and used the real estate for living and drug manufacturing.

Also in Japan, there are cases where real estate was misused for money laundering, including a case where proceeds derived from prostitution were used to purchase real estate in the name of another person. There is also a case where proceeds from fraud were used to buy real estate.

### **D. Risk**

Real estate has high value and can be exchanged to large cash. Furthermore, it is possible for offenders to transfer criminal proceeds by for example, paying more than customer price. From these aspects, real estate can be a convenient instrument for ML/TF.

Actually, there are some cases where criminal proceeds from prostitution or fraud were used to buy real estate. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that real estate has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs, cases where real estate was misused for money laundering etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions in large amount of cash
- Transactions suspected that they were conducted under a fictitious or other person's name

To mitigate the risks real estate has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires Operators to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision based on license systems, and the industry makes voluntary efforts.

## **(11) Precious Metals and Stones Dealt with by Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones**

### **A. Present Situation**

Precious metals and stones have high value. They can be easily exchanged to cash anywhere in the world. Other than that, they are small, so it is easy to carry with, and it is difficult to track distribution channels and location after transactions. Transaction related to precious metals and stones have high anonymity.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires dealers in precious metals and stones to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make sales contracts of precious metals and stones which exceed 2 million yen in cash. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Industrial associations also make efforts to promote AML/CFT measures. For example, they endeavor to raise awareness of dealers about AML/CFT by preparing manuals that explain obligations in related laws (the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and the Secondhand Articles Dealer Act (Act No. 108 of 1949)) and provide trainings.

### **B. STRs**

There were 40 STRs by dealers in precious metals and stones from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Unnatural transactions or transactions related to customers who show unnatural behavior or attitude based on the knowledge and experience of staff (28reports, 70.0%)
- Buying and selling a lot of precious metals etc. by the same person or company in a short period (4reports, 10.0%)
- Purchase in large amount of cash (3reports, 7.5%)

### **C. Case**

There are cases where precious metals and stones were misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including ones where offenders used drug proceeds to buy gold bullion then smuggled it to a foreign country. Precious metals and stones are easy to carry with and have high liquidity and anonymity, so they are misused for money laundering.

Also in Japan, there were cases where precious metals, etc. were purchased by cash derived from predicate offenses, such as violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act or theft. In such transactions, money launderers have conducted transactions keeping higher anonymity by means where they gave false information on customer identification data pretending to be another person or providing falsified identification documents when concluding a sales contract.

### **D. Risk**

Precious metals and stones have high value. They are distributed all over the world. It is easy to exchange to cash or carry with. In addition, it is difficult to track distribution channels and locations after transactions with high anonymity. From these aspects, precious metals and stones can be an effective instrument to transfer criminal proceeds.

Actually, there are cases where offenders pretended to be another person and bought precious metals with cash derived from crimes. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that precious metals and stones have risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs, cases where precious metals and stones were misused for money laundering etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions in a large amount of cash
- Transactions of frequent purchases resulting in a large amount, even if the purchase amount at the time is small

- Transactions suspected that identification documents, etc. provided at the time of customer identification might be falsified
- Transactions suspected that customers sell precious metals etc. but ownership is suspicious
- Transactions related to customers who refuse to explain or provide complementary documents related to persons who truly attempt to purchase when dealers asking the customers to identify the persons

To mitigate the risks precious metals and stones have, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires dealers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. The industry also makes voluntary efforts.

## **(12) Postal Receiving Service Dealt with by Postal Receiving Service Providers**

### **A. Present Situation**

In postal receiving service business, service providers consent to use their own address or their office address as the place where customers receive mail, to receive the mail to the customer, and to hand it over to customers.

By the use of the service, customers can announce a place where they do not actually live as their address and receive mail. There are cases where postal receiving service providers are misused as a delivery address of defrauded money etc. in specialized fraud etc.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires postal receiving service providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make service contracts. The Act also requires providers to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

### **B. STRs**

There were 133 STRs by postal receiving service providers from 2012 to 2014. Among cases exemplified in “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions”, major ones (and the number of reports) are as follows.

- Transactions related to customers who show unnatural behavior or attitude in the process of contract based on the knowledge and experience of staff (23 reports, 17.3%)
- Transactions in which remittance to a customer was made through registered mail for cash or telegraphic wire under the name which seems like loan shark or shell company (4 reports, 3.0%)

### **C. Case**

There are cases where postal receiving services were misused for money laundering, including ones where a service contract was made in the name of a shell company then money derived from selling obscene DVDs was sent to the postal receiving service provider in the form of ordinary money order, cases where a contract was made in a fictitious name and defrauded money of false bill fraud was sent to the postal receiving service provider, and cases where a contract was made in a fictitious name and defrauded cash card etc. were sent to the postal receiving service provider.

### **D. Risk**

Postal receiving service is misused to receive proceeds derived from crimes including frauds and sales of illegal goods. If falsified customer identification data are provided to conclude service contract, the transferor or ownership of criminal proceeds can be unclear. Therefore, postal receiving service can be an effective instrument to transfer criminal proceeds.

Actually, there are cases where offenders made contract with postal receiving service providers in a fictitious name and made providers receive criminal proceeds for concealment. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that postal receiving service has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, based on STRs, cases where the service was misused for money laundering etc., it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects concerning circumstances at the transaction, customer types, etc. have higher risks.

- Transactions suspected that customers might make contract under a fictitious or another person's name
- Transactions suspected that customers might use the service to disguise the company's actual state

- Transactions with a customer who plans to make contracts of postal receiving service using multiple companies' names.
- Transactions with customers who often receive a large amount of cash
- Transactions in which remittance to a customer was made through registered mail for cash, etc. from the name which seems to be a loan shark or shell company

To mitigate the risks postal receiving service has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. Other than that, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision to postal receiving service providers.



### **(13) Telephone Receiving Service Dealt with by Telephone Receiving Service Providers**

#### **A. Present Situation**

Telephone receiving service providers consent to use their telephone number as a customer's telephone number, provide service to receive the call to the customer's telephone number, and transmit the content to the customer.

By the use of the service, customers can announce a telephone number which is different from that of their home or office as their telephone number, and can receive a telephone call using the provider's number. Because of these characteristics, telephone receiving services are misused in specialized fraud etc.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires telephone receiving service providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make service contracts. The Act also requires providers to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications holds briefing sessions for telephone receiving service providers and explains the outline of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and important points to conduct the duty of the Act to realize thorough compliance by operators. The Ministry also explains the Act on its website.

We have not seen a cleared money laundering case where telephone receiving service was misused in recent years. However, there are cases where a telephone receiving service was misused for making a transferor or ownership of criminal proceeds unclear in, for example, a fraud case where company bonds of a fictitious company were sold. STRs by telephone receiving service providers are not made from 2012 to 2014.

#### **B. Risk**

Through telephone receiving service, customers can make a fictitious appearance of the business and can make a transferor or ownership of criminal proceeds unclear. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that telephone receiving service has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks telephone receiving service has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision to telephone receiving service providers.

## **(14) Telephone Forwarding Service Dealt with by Telephone Forwarding Service Providers**

### **A. Present Situation**

Telephone forwarding service providers consent to use their telephone number as a customer's telephone number and provide service to automatically forwards the call to or from the customer to the telephone number designated by the customer.

By the use of the service, customers can announce a telephone number which is different from that of their home or office as their telephone number, and can receive a telephone call using the provider's number. Because of these characteristics, telephone forwarding services are misused in specialized fraud etc.

To operate a business as a telephone forwarding service provider, providers should make an application stipulated in the Telecommunications Business Act (Act No. 86 of 1984).

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires telephone forwarding service providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make service contracts. The Act also requires providers to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications holds briefing sessions for telephone forwarding service providers and explain the outline of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and important points to conduct the duty of the Act to realize thorough compliance by operators. In addition, the Ministry sends brochures to inform telephone forwarding service providers of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and it explains the Act on its website.

We have not seen a cleared money laundering case where telephone forwarding service was misused in recent years. However, there are cases where telephone forwarding service was misused for making a transferor or ownership of criminal proceeds unclear in, for example, false billing fraud cases where a victim was claimed charges for withdrawing a civil trial or charges for a pay website. STRs by telephone forwarding service providers are not made from 2012 to 2014.

### **B. Risk**

Through telephone forwarding services, customers can make a fictitious appearance of the business and can make a transfer or ownership of criminal proceeds unclear. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that telephone forwarding service has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks telephone forwarding service has, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions, to make STRs, etc. In addition, competent authorities provide guidance and supervision to telephone forwarding service providers.

## **(15) Legal/Accounting Service Dealt with by Legal/Accounting Professions<sup>\*1</sup>**

### **A. Present Situation**

There are lawyers, judicial scriveners, and certified administrative procedures legal specialists who possess legal expertise as professions. There are certified public accountants and certified public tax accountants who possess accounting expertise as professions (Hereinafter referred to as “legal/accounting professions”).

Lawyers provide legal services at the request of a client or other person concerned. A lawyer must be registered in the roll of attorneys kept at Japan Federation of Bar Associations (hereinafter referred to as “JFBA”) and must belong to a bar association that is established in jurisdiction of each district court. As of June 1, 2015, 36,437 lawyers, 9 Okinawa special members, 385 foreign lawyers, 853 legal profession corporations are registered.

Judicial scriveners provide services related to registration on behalf of client, consult about registration, and engage in the legal representation in summary court, etc. A judicial scrivener must be registered in the judicial scrivener roster kept in Japan Federation of Shihō-Shoshi Lawyer’s Associations. As of the end of March 2015, 21,689 judicial scriveners and 550 judicial scrivener corporations are registered.

Certified administrative procedures legal specialists prepare documents to be submitted to a public agency and documents relating to rights, duties or the certification of facts at the request of client. Other than that, certified administrative procedures legal specialists can carry out procedures as an agent to submit documents to a public agency. A certified administrative procedures legal specialists must be registered in the certified administrative procedures legal specialists registry kept in Japan Federation of Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialists Associations. As of the end of April, 2015, 45,028 certified administrative procedures legal specialists and 380 certified administrative procedures legal specialist corporations are registered.

Certified public accountants shall make it their practice to audit or attest financial documents. They may also make it their practice to compile financial documents, to examine or plan financial matters, or to be consulted on financial matters, using the title of certified public accountant. A certified public accountant must be registered on the certified public accountants roster or the registered foreign certified public accountants roster kept at the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants. As of the end of April 2015, 27,316 certified public accountants, 3 foreign certified public accountants, and 218 audit firms are registered.

Certified public tax accountants represent clients for filing, application, request, report, statement under laws regarding tax payment to tax agencies and prepare tax forms and consult about tax. Other than that, as incidental business of the mentioned above, they prepare financial forms, keep accounting books on client’s behalf, and provide any services related to finance. A certified public tax accountant must be registered in a certified public tax accountant roster kept in Japan Federation of Certified Public Tax Accountants’ Associations. As of the end of March, 2014, 75,146 certified public tax accountants and 2,984 tax accountant corporations are registered.

As mentioned above, legal/accounting professions possess expertise regarding law and accounting. They have good social credibility and are involved in various transactions.

However, for those who attempt the transfer of criminal proceeds, legal/accounting professions are useful because they have indispensable expertise in legal/accounting fields to manage or dispose property according to the purpose. At the same time, they can make up legitimate appearance in transactions and asset management by the use of high social credibility.

FATF etc. points out that with effective implementation of regulations on banks for AML/CFT those who attempt ML/TF have changed the methods. Instead of ML/TF through banks, they receive professional advice from legal/accounting professions. They also make legal/accounting professions, who have high social credibility, engage in transactions.

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<sup>\*1</sup> Legal/accounting professions mean those who listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 42 (lawyer or legal profession corporation), item 43 (judicial scrivener or judicial scrivener corporation), item 44 (certified administrative procedures legal specialists or certified administrative procedures legal specialists corporation), item 45 (certified public accountant or audit firm), and item 46 (certified tax accountant or certified tax accountant corporation) of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires legal/accounting professions, excluding lawyers, to conduct CDD including verification of customer identification data and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records with regard to specified transactions.

Regarding lawyers, measures equivalent to the measures mentioned above shall be stipulated in the rules of JFBA, in line with cases of other legal/accounting professions, under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. JFBA set rules which stipulate duty of lawyers, such as verification of customer identification data in case where customers are in a specified business, preservation of verification records, and avoiding acceptance of request if there is any suspicion of being abused for criminal proceeds transfer.

Associations of each profession also make efforts to promote AML/CFT measures, for example, by developing regulations, preparing materials concerning duties, providing training etc.

## **B. Case**

There are cases where legal/accounting service was misused for money laundering in foreign countries, including a case where criminal drug trafficker disguised his drug proceeds as compensation money from a purchaser of a building he had lived in and had to leave due to the disposal. In this case, the purchaser actually was his accomplice and a lawyer was used in the disposal of the building.

Also in Japan, there are cases where legal/accounting service was misused for money laundering, including a case where a loan shark asked a certified administrative procedures legal specialist to provide service for incorporation on behalf of them, set up a shell company, deceived financial institutions to open an account of the legal person, and misused the accounts to receive criminal proceeds.

These cases show that those who attempt money laundering misuse services provided by legal/accounting professions to disguise concealment of criminal proceeds etc. as legitimate transactions.

## **C. Risk**

Legal/accounting professions have high expertise about law and accounting, as well as high social credibility. Transactions through their services and related affairs can be practical means to transfer criminal proceeds.

Actually, there are cases where affairs by legal/accounting professions are misused to disguise concealment of criminal proceeds as legitimate transaction. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that when legal/accounting professions conduct following transaction on behalf of clients, the service has risks to be misused for ML/TF.

- Acts or procedures concerning buying and selling of building lots and buildings  
Real estate has high value, it is easy to convert to a large amount of cash, and the value lasts long. Result of evaluation may differ widely depending on the utility value and usage of the land. This difficulty in estimating the appropriate value of the property can be misused to for ML/TF by paying the price padded against the appropriate value. On top of that, because sales transactions of real estate require complicated procedures, such as boundary setting and registration of a transfer of ownership, the relevant expertise is indispensable. Offenders can conduct transfer of criminal proceeds easier by performing the complicated procedures with the help of legal/accounting professions, who possess expertise and social credibility.
- Acts or procedures concerning the establishment or merger of companies, etc.  
Separate asset independent of contributors can be made in companies and other legal persons, cooperatives, and trusts. It means, for example, a huge amount of asset can be transferred under the name of business and offenders can hide the beneficial ownership or source of property without difficulty. These aspects generate the risk misused for ML/TF. On top of that, legal/accounting professions have expertise that is indispensable in organization, operation, and management of companies, etc., as well as social credibility. Offenders can conduct transfer of criminal proceeds easier by carrying out the act or procedures regarding establishment

of company with the help of legal/accounting professions.

○ Management or disposition of cash, deposit, securities and other assets

Legal/accounting professions have expertise and valuable social credibility which are indispensable to store and sell assets or use the said assets for the purchase of other assets. When offenders manage or dispose asset with the help of legal/accounting professions, they can transfer of criminal proceeds without difficulty.

To mitigate the risks legal/accounting service has, various measures are taken, such as CDD including verification of customer identification data under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and measures that are equivalent to it, as well as voluntary efforts made by associations of professions.

## **2. Products and Services Utilizing New Technology, Which Requires Further Examination of Actual State of Use etc.**

### **(1) Electronic Money <sup>\*1</sup>**

#### **A. Present Situation**

Seeing average usage amount of electronic money per household a month in Japan, the amount has been increasing every year since 2008. In 2014, the amount was 12,480 yen. Seeing the ratio of households that use electronic money not less than 10,000 yen a month, it tripled from 2008 to 2014, from 6.0% to 20.1%. In Japan, the use of electronic money has spread in the past few years (see table 11).

Seeing so called “electronic money” in Japan, most of it falls under “Prepaid Payment Instruments” issued under the Payment Services Act. Prepaid Payment Instruments are certificates etc. or numbers, markings, or other signs (including instruments that the value is recorded in computer server etc.) that are issued in advance for value equivalent and used for purchase or leasing of goods or the receipt of provision of services from the issuer etc. Prepaid Payment Instruments is mainly used for specified services or at member shops for retail payment with small amount of value.

Prepaid Payment Instruments includes “own business type”, which is used for payment to issuer only and “third-party business type”, which is used for payment at member shops, too. The Payment Services Act requires issuers of Prepaid Payment Instruments for Third-Party Business to be registered with the competent authorities and issuers of Prepaid Payment Instruments for Own Business having unused balance exceeding designated threshold to notify to the competent authorities. The Act also sets many regulations, such as various reporting obligations, obligation of security deposits for issuance, management of member shops (measure to ensure that commodities are not against public order or morals), and prohibition of refund of Prepaid Payment Instruments in principle to ensure that appropriate service of Prepaid Payment Instruments should be implemented.

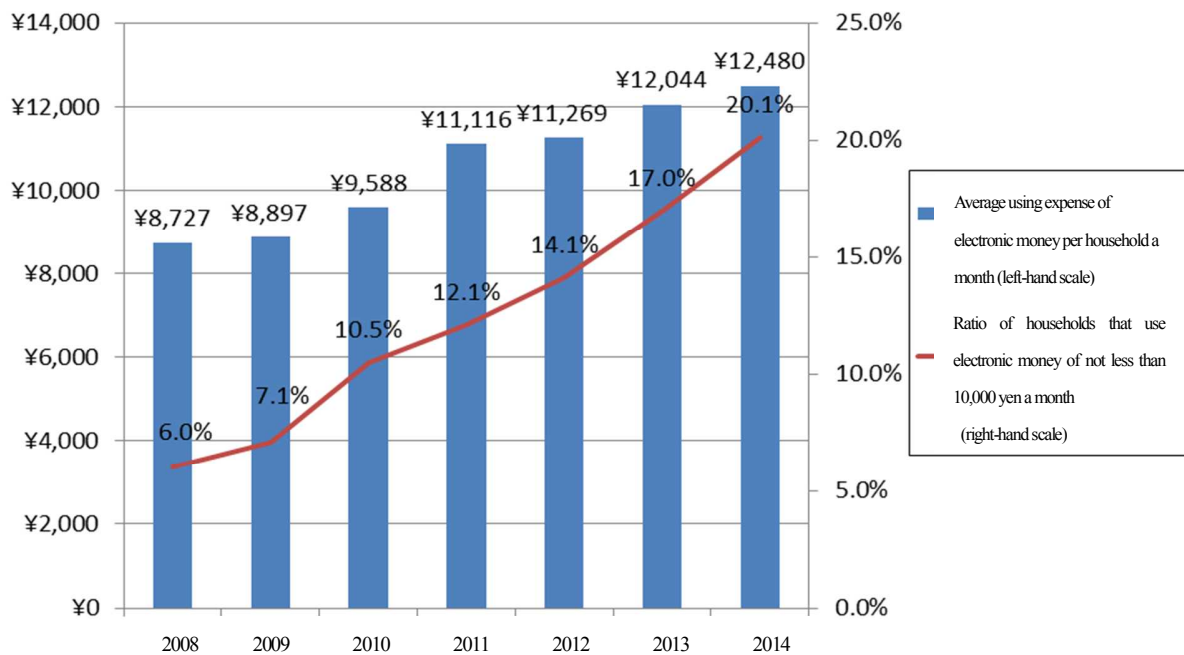
In Prepaid Payment Instruments, money value is changed to electromagnetic record and stored in IC chip or server on network. The instruments have excellent transportability. Furthermore, in many cases, customers don't have to provide customer identification documents. Identification is completed through declaration of their name and birth date on issuance. Because of these characteristics, Prepaid Payment Instruments have high anonymity. IC card and other intermediaries can be transferred without difficulty.

However, as refunds to holders of Prepaid Payment Instruments are prohibited under the Payment Services Act, except cases where issuers discontinue the business, they are not readily redeemable for cash in general. Furthermore, many issuers of Prepaid Payment Instruments voluntarily set the upper limit of charging and usage is limited to small value payment at specified member shops.

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<sup>\*1</sup> In the assessment, electronic money means IC card type systems such as Edy, Suica, ICOCA, PASMO; cell phone type systems such as Osaifu-Keitai; prepaid type systems such as WebMoney, BitCash, QUO Card; and systems that money value equivalent to cash is transferred to card etc. Credit card, debit card, payment by post-paid system, and payment by prepaid card for specific products or services, such as bus card, are not included.

**Table 11 [Transition of Average Usage Amount of Electronic Money per Household a Month (Households of 2 and More Persons) (2008-2014)]**



Note : Data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

### B. Case

In Japan, there is a case where an offender obtained electronic money by fraud and sold it to a trader in the name of another person. In another case, offenders gained electronic money by computer fraud, bought cash vouchers by using the electronic money, and converted them to cash.

### C. Risk

Electronic money has a wide variety of forms and usages, but, in general, electronic money which falls under Prepaid Payment Instruments has excellent transportability and high anonymity. Actually, there are cases where electronic money is used in the process of money laundering.

In Japan, however, refunds of Prepaid Payment Instruments are prohibited under the Payment Services Act, in principle. If criminal proceeds are changed to electronic money which falls under Prepaid Payment Instruments, cashability is low in general. In addition, under the present conditions, many issuers set the upper limit of charging and service places are limited to some specific member shops etc.

Considering such circumstances, risk assessment of electronic money is difficult at this phase. It is necessary to keep monitoring the usages of electronic money in Japan.

### (2) Bitcoin etc.

Bitcoin etc. are made as electromagnetic record with value by those who support the use of bitcoin. It is possible to use Bitcoin etc. as consideration for transaction, but it does not have mandatory circulating power. Bitcoin etc. is not a currency. There are no specified issuers of Bitcoin etc. and it does not have the credibility endorsed by governments or central banks.

As Bitcoin etc. are a quick and easy instrument to transfer and users can take advantage of high anonymity, it is pointed out that it may have risk to be misused for ML/TF all over the world.

So far, usage of Bitcoin etc. in Japan is not clear, and related administrative authorities will cooperate to collect information, while paying attention to the trend of international rule, and examine countermeasures to be taken.

## **Section 4. High Risk Transactions**

### **1. Transaction Type**

#### **(1) Non-face-to-face Transactions**

##### **A. Present Situation**

With the factors including development of Information Technology, improvement of services by business operators for customer convenience, non-face-to-face transactions through the Internet and other facilities have been expanding.

For example, deposit-taking institutions provide convenient services where customers can open bank accounts, remit money, or conduct other financial transactions through the Internet, as well as customers can use mail order service which enables them to apply for the opening of bank accounts by mail. At securities companies, customers can conduct transactions such as opening of securities accounts or share trading through the Internet.

On the other hand, as business operators don't see their customers directly in non-face-to-face transactions, they cannot confirm customers' sex, age, appearance, behavior, etc. directly and judge whether the customers give false identification data or whether they pretend to be another person. In addition, when a copy of a customer's identification document is used for customer identification, business operators cannot check the feel or texture to confirm whether the document is false one or not. These facts show that non-face-to-face transactions may limit measures to detect customers who intend to pretend to be another person and may deteriorate accuracy of customer identification.

Therefore, compared with face-to-face transactions, non-face-to-face transactions enable offenders to keep high anonymity, to falsify customer identification data such as name and address, and to pretend to be a fictitious or another person. Specifically, non-face-to-face transactions enable offenders to give false identification data or to pretend to be another person by means such as sending copies of falsified identification documents.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds stipulates customer identification methods to be taken by specified business operators when customers' identification documents are not presented to them directly. These methods are: (i) Where specified business operators receive identification documents or the copies thereof sent from customers, and send transaction documents to the residence indicated in the identification documents or the copies thereof by registered mail requiring no forwarding or the like; (ii) postal service providers visit the residence of customers on behalf of specified business operators, verify identification documents showed by the customers and inform specified business operators of customer identification data such as name; and (iii) by electronic signature.

In addition, the Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency provides that one of focal points of supervision is whether financial institutions have developed a system necessary to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transaction, including CDD measures based on the fact that Internet banking is a non-face-to-face transaction.

Incidentally, in the third round of FATF Mutual Evaluation, Japan was pointed out that the customer identification and verification requirements for non-face-to-face transactions are insufficient.

##### **B. Case**

There are cases where non-face-to-face transactions were misused for criminal offenses, including a case where a person, who owed money to a loan shark but was not able to repay, pretended to be a fictitious person and opened a bank account through non-face-to-face transactions, and provided the account to the loan shark as substitute for repayment.

Also, there are cases where non-face-to-face transactions were misused for money laundering, including a case where a stolen health insurance card was misused to open a bank account in the name of another party through non-face-to-face transactions, and the account was misused to conceal criminal proceeds derived from selling stolen goods.

##### **C. Risk**

As non-face-to-face transactions may hinder business operators from directly seeing customers and identification documents, accuracy of customer identification can be deteriorated. Therefore, compared with face-to-face transactions, non-face-to-face transactions facilitate offenders to keep high anonymity, to falsify customer identification data and to pretend to be a fictitious or another person by falsifying identification documents etc.



Actually, there are cases where non-face-to-face transactions were misused for money laundering, including a case where bank accounts opened by pretending to be another person were misused. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that non-face-to-face transactions have high risks to be misused for ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks of non-face-to-face transactions, specified business operators take CDD measures in non-face-to-face transactions, such as receiving identification documents or the copies thereof sent from the customers and sending transaction documents to the residence by mail requiring no forwarding, under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. Furthermore, competent authorities supervise business operators to prevent non-face-to-face transactions from being misused for ML/TF.

## (2) Cash Transactions

### A. Present Situation

Unlike exchange transactions, which are a quick way to transfer funds to remote places, cash transactions require certain amount of time to move cash physically.

On the other hand, cash has high liquidity and transfer of ownership is easy. Along with that, cash transactions have high anonymity unless they are recorded, resulting to impediment of traceability of fund flow.

In particular, the ratio of cash transactions in Japan is higher than that in other countries (see table 12).

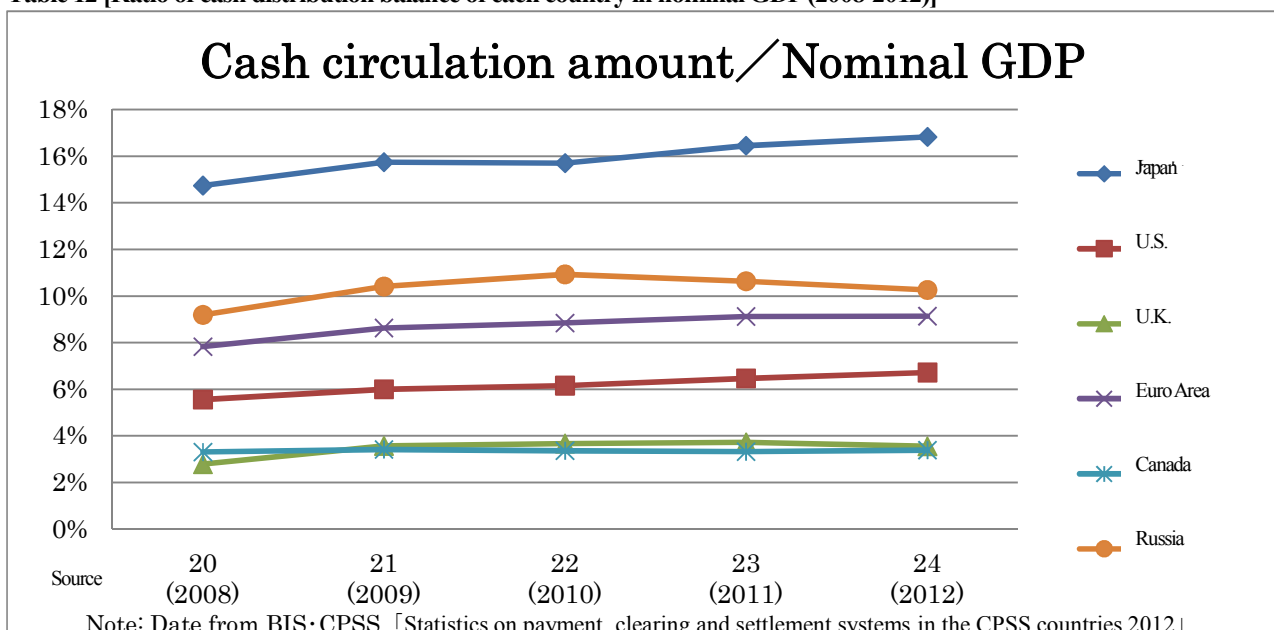
According to the statistics, in monthly average consumption expenditure of a household (2 or more persons) in 2009 by means of purchase, “cash” is 267,119 yen (88.8% in all consumption expenditure) and “credit card, monthly installment payment, and credit purchase (hereinafter referred to as “credit card etc.”) is 32,574 yen (10.8% in all consumption expenditure). Although the transition of cash ratio shows decline as 94.6% in 1999, 93.5% in 2004, and 88.8% in 2009, purchase in cash is still the biggest part in consumption expenditure by means of purchase (see table 13).

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires specified business operators who operate financial businesses etc. to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transaction and preparation and preservation of verification records and transaction records when they conduct transactions which accompany receiving and paying cash of more than two million yen (100,000 yen in the case of a transactions which accompany exchange transactions or the writing of a cashier’s check). The Act also requires specified business operators to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

Furthermore, competent authorities provide business operators with the “List of Reference Cases of Suspicious Transactions” etc. which indicate examples of potential suspicious transactions to which business operators should pay special attention. In the list, cases focusing on cash usage form are enumerated, and business operators take them into account and take measures to make STRs properly.

Incidentally, in the Interpretative Notes to the revised "40 Recommendations", FATF notes that “business that are cash-intensive” is one of the potentially higher-risk situations.

**Table 12 [Ratio of cash distribution balance of each country in nominal GDP (2008-2012)]**



**Table 13 [Expenditure by Type of Purchase (Two-or-more-person Households/ Monthly Average)]**

Consumption expenditure	1999			2004			2009			
	Cash	Credit card etc.	Total	Cash	Credit card etc.	Total	Cash	Credit card etc.	Electronic money	Total
Expenditure amount (yen)	317,147	17,967	335,114	299,340	20,724	320,063	267,119	32,574	1,244	300,936
Ratio (%)	94.6%	5.4%	100.0%	93.5%	6.5%	100.0%	88.8%	10.8%	0.4%	100.0%

Note: Data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

### B. Case

There are many cases where cash transactions were misused for money laundering, including cases of concealment of criminal proceeds where offenders sold stolen items in the name of a fictitious or another party at pawnshops or secondhand shops and also cases of receipt of criminal proceeds where offenders received criminal proceeds in cash derived from criminal activities such as prostitution.

### C. Risk

In general, cash transactions have high liquidity and anonymity, and may hinder LEAs from tracing criminal proceeds. Especially, people are more likely to perform cash transactions in consumer expenditure in Japan. Therefore, cash transactions may hinder from tracing criminal proceeds unless business operators dealing with cash properly prepare transaction records.

Actually, there are cases where money launderers misused cash transactions by pretending to be another person. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that cash transactions have high risks to be misused for ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks of cash transactions, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires specified business operators who operate financial businesses etc. to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transaction when they conduct cash transactions above a monetary threshold with customers. Furthermore, some laws which stipulate supervision and regulations for operations of specific business, such as the Pawnbroker Business Act (Act No. 158 of 1950), require business operators to verify customer identification data such as address and name. Those measures will contribute to effectively mitigate the potential risks of cash transactions.

### **(3) International Transactions**

#### **A. Present Situation**

Compared with domestic transactions, international transactions may generally hinder LEAs from tracing funds because of the fact that national legal system and transaction system varies from country to country, and AML/CFT measures such as monitoring and supervision implemented in the home country may be unlikely applied in foreign countries.

Especially, in foreign exchange transactions, serial payment is usually commissioned based on correspondent banking relationships and may be conducted in a short time through several intermediary banks at a distance. This may significantly hinder from tracing criminal proceeds.

In addition, in correspondent banking services, because financial institutions may not have direct relationships with remittance clients, they could be involved in money laundering unless respondent institutions develop internal control systems for AML/CFT. If a respondent institution is a fictitious bank which does not do business in fact (What is called “shell bank”), or if a respondent institution allows shell banks to use accounts, foreign exchange transactions have high risks to be used to transfer or conceal criminal proceeds.

Furthermore, by disguising as foreign trade, purpose of remittance is easily justified and criminal proceeds could be transferred by paying more for the merchandise than it is truly worth.

Besides, in international transactions, cash courier (physical cross-border transportation of cash and other means of payment) may be misused for transfer of criminal proceeds, as well as the above-mentioned exchange transactions based on correspondent banking relationships.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires specified business operators to conduct CDD measures that they should understand the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship when they conduct specified transactions, and requires financial institutions, which conduct exchange transactions to make payment to foreign countries, to notify the respondent institutions of identification records of customers (those who requested remittance). In addition, the Act also requires them to preserve identification records on customers provided from foreign financial institutions whose country has similar legislation.

In the Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency, the Agency requires financial institutions to develop integrated management system regarding legal matters for accurate CDD including verification at the time of transaction based on the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. The Agency requires institutions to pay special attention to development of the system pertaining to correspondent banking relationships, such as:

- Proper examination and judgment of conclusion and continuation of correspondent banking relationships, including decision making programs by senior compliance officers after collecting sufficient information of AML/CTF measures by respondent institutions and supervisory measures by the local authorities, etc.;
- To clarify the allocation of responsibility for preventing ML/TF with respondent institutions, by documentation etc.; and
- To verify that respondent institutions are not shell banks and the institutions do not allow shell banks to use accounts.

Furthermore, regarding cash couriers, when a person internationally carries cash, checks, securities, etc. over 1 million yen or precious metals over 1 kg, the person should submit written declaration to Finance Minister under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and to the Directors-General of Custom-Houses under the Customs Act.

#### **B. Case**

As to foreign cases where international transactions were misused for money laundering, there are cases where criminal proceeds were transferred to other countries by bulk cash smuggling or paying more for the merchandise than it is truly worth.

In Japan, most cases of money laundering where international transactions were misused are related to visiting foreigners. For example, there is a case where ransom money in a kidnapping-for-ransom case was remitted to a bank account of a visiting foreigner and was disguised as legal business proceeds, and a case where criminal proceeds from fraud were converted from Japanese yen to Chinese yuan through transactions (transactions of Internet auction bidding agent) with clients living in China.

Incidentally, in the process of criminal investigations, interviews to suspects, etc., there is a case believed that visiting foreigners repeated cash smuggling from Japan to their home country. In order to pool money in their home country to operate underground banking related to international remittance, they hid cash in their baggage and smuggled it.

### **C. Risk**

Compared with domestic transactions, international transactions make it difficult to track fund transfer because national legislation and transaction system, etc. varies from country to country.

Actually, in some cases, criminal proceeds were transferred to/from foreign countries, disguised as legal trade transactions. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that international transactions have risks to be misused for ML/TF.

In addition, it is recognized that transactions having the following aspects have higher risks.

- Transactions related to countries and regions where proper AML/CTF measures are not implemented
- International remittance originated from a large amount of cash

To mitigate the risks of international transactions, foreign exchange transaction, import / export of means of payment, etc. are regulated under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, as well as the competent authorities conduct guidance and supervision.

## 2. Countries/Regions

### (1) Present Situation

FATF identifies jurisdictions (countries/regions) with strategic AML/CFT deficiencies that have not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies or have not committed to an action plan developed with the FATF to address the deficiencies; and issues public statements which call on its members to take AML/CFT measures in consideration of risks arising from the deficiencies.

Among others, in regard to Iran and North Korea, FATF has continuously called on its members and other jurisdictions to apply countermeasures to protect international financial system from the ongoing and substantial ML/TF risks emanating from the jurisdictions, since February 2009 and February 2011, respectively.

FATF public statement on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 identified two jurisdictions<sup>\*1</sup> other than Iran and North Korea, and requires members to take AML/CFT measures in consideration of risks arising from deficiencies associated with these two jurisdictions.

In response to the statement, competent authorities notified specified business operators of the statement and requested them to thoroughly implement duty of CDD including verification at the time of transaction and submission of STRs and duty of giving notice related to foreign exchange transactions under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

For specified business operators to establish and develop a system to make STRs, the Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency stipulates focal points for supervision which includes ample consideration of circumstances of transactions such as payment amount, the number of times with cross-checking the nationality (for example, a jurisdictions which are set out by FATF as not cooperative to implement AML/CFT standards) etc.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and the Order stipulate that Iran and North Korea are jurisdictions where an AML/CFT system is deemed to be not sufficiently prepared (hereinafter referred to as “specified jurisdictions”), and require that specified business operators shall, upon conducting a specified transaction with a person who resides or is located in the specified jurisdictions and any other specified transactions which involve transfer of property to a person who resides or is located in the specified jurisdictions, conduct enhanced CDD including verification of the source of wealth and source of funds as well as customer identification data etc.

### (2) Risk

As mentioned in the previous section, it is recognized that international transactions have risks to be misused for ML/TF. Based on the FATF public statements, it is recognized that transactions related to Iran or North Korea have very high risks. It is recognized that transactions related to the two countries mentioned above have high risks although the risks are not as high as risks of Iran and North Korea.

To cope with the risks, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires specified business operators to conduct enhanced CDD for transactions related to specified jurisdictions. Furthermore competent authorities supervise business operators to prevent those transactions from being misused for ML/TF.

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\* 1 See [http://www.mof.go.jp/international\\_policy/convention/fatf/PAGE000000000000171971.html](http://www.mof.go.jp/international_policy/convention/fatf/PAGE000000000000171971.html). FATF public statement is adopted in FATF plenary meeting which is held every 4 months. Identified countries/regions could change in each time. In the statement dated on June 26, 2015, Algeria and Myanmar are included other than Iran and North Korea.

### 3. Customer Type

#### (1) Anti-social Forces (Boryokudan etc.)

##### A. Present Situation

In Japan, Boryokudan and other anti-social forces <sup>\*1</sup> not only commit various crimes to gain profit but also conduct fund raising activities by disguising them as or misusing business operations.

Especially, Boryokudan are typical criminal organizations in Japan. They commit crimes habitually or in an organized manner to gain profit.

There exist Boryokudan throughout Japan. Their size and activity vary. As of the end of 2014, 21 groups are listed as “designated Boryokudan gangsters” under the Act on Prevention of Unjust Acts by Organized Crime Group Members.

As of the end of 2014, total number of Boryokudan gangsters is 53,500, <sup>\*2</sup> including 22,300 Boryokudan members and 31,200 associates (see table 14).

These days, Boryokudan are more careful to conceal their organizations’ actual condition. They disguise their activities as business operations or claim to be a political activity or social campaign, etc. They become increasingly unclear. Furthermore, they often commit money laundering and make relationships between each fund raising activity and its result unclear, in order to avoid taxation on or confiscation of gained funds or being arrested due to the gained funds. Criminal proceeds are funds to maintain and strengthen organizations by using them as “operating capital” for further crimes or expenses to obtain weapons, etc. The criminal proceeds are also used for going into legal businesses.

However, “Guideline for How Companies Prevent Damage from Anti-Social Forces” (agreed on June 19, 2007 at a working group of Ministerial Meeting concerning Measure Against Crimes) has been formulated to facilitate companies, including deposit-taking institutions, to cut any relationships with anti-social forces.

Based on the situation mentioned above, the Financial Services Agency requires financial institutions etc. to develop a system to cut relationships with anti-social forces in Agency’s Guidelines for Supervision etc. The system includes institutional response, development of an integrated management system, proper before-and-after screening and review, and efforts to dissolve business relationships.

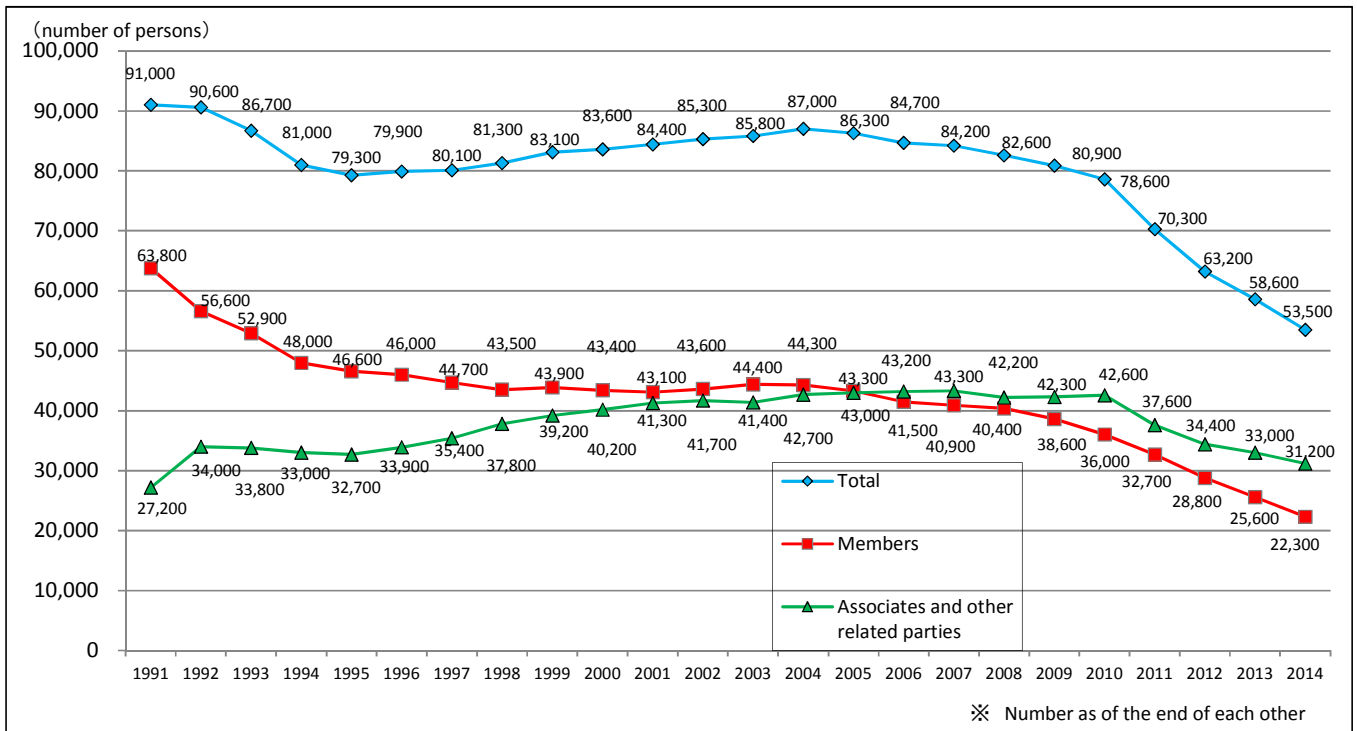
And financial institutions etc. are introducing clauses to exclude Boryokudan etc. into their terms and conditions of transactions. This is the efforts to dissolve business relationships in case a customer has turned out to be Boryokudan etc. Furthermore, as general business practices, if a customer has turned out to be a member of anti-social forces, financial institutions etc. shall consider making STRs under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds.

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\*1 They are groups/individuals that pursue economic profits through the use of violence, threats and fraudulent method, and include Boryokudan, Boryokudan affiliated companies, “Sokaiya” racketeer, person(s) engaging in criminal activities under the pretext of social campaigns or political activities and violent groups/individuals specialized in intellectual crimes.

\*2 The number of Boryokudan gangsters in this section is an approximate figure.

**Table 14 [Transition of the Number of Boryokudan Gangsters (1991-2014)]**



**B. STRs**

There are 1,091,240 STRs from 2012 to 2014, including 143,221 reports (or 13.1% of total reports) related to Boryokudan gangsters.

**C. Case**

There are 831 cases cleared of money laundering from 2012 to 2014, including 204 cases (24.5% of total cases) related to Boryokudan gangsters.

As to money laundering cases related to Boryokudan gangsters, there are a number of cases where they conceal ownership of criminal proceeds, which are from frauds including remittance frauds, illegal money lending business, drug offences, offenses against the Worker Dispatching Act, etc., by using an account in the name of another party, etc. In addition, there are cases where Boryokudan receives criminal proceeds in the name of protection fees, a contribution, etc., by taking advantage of their organizations' threat.

**D. Risk**

Other than committing various crimes to gain profit, Boryokudan and other anti-social forces conduct fund raising activities by disguising them as or misusing business operations. As money laundering makes the source of funds from criminal activities or fund raising activities unclear, money laundering is indispensable for anti-social forces. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that transactions with anti-social forces have high risks of ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks of transactions with anti-social forces, guidance and supervision by competent authorities and efforts by industries and business operators have been reinforced. Through these, measures to cut relationships with anti-social forces and to prevent ML/TF are taken.



## **(2) Non-resident Customers**

### **A. Present Situation**

Non-residents who trade through mail, Internet, etc. while staying in a foreign country (hereinafter referred to as “non-resident customers”) always make non-face-to-face transactions so they can keep high anonymity. Therefore, it is easy for them to falsify customer identification data or to pretend to be a fictitious or another person by altering their customer identification documents. In addition, in ongoing business relationships with non-resident customers, when they are suspected to be falsifying their identification data which has already been verified or when their bank accounts are suspected to be misused for ML/TF, business operators may have fewer measures to conduct appropriate CDD including verification of customer identification data, compared with customers residing in Japan.

Incidentally, in the Interpretative Note of New "40 Recommendations", FATF states that “Non-resident customers” is one of the potentially higher-risk situations.

### **B. Risk**

Transactions with non-resident customers are conducted through non-face-to-face transactions. Because of that, they can keep high anonymity and it is easy for them to falsify customer identification data or to pretend to be a fictitious or another person. At the same time, business operators have limited measures to conduct ongoing CDD, compared with customers residing in Japan. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that transactions with non-resident customers have high risks of ML/TF.

To mitigate the risks of transactions with non-resident customers, the Guidelines for Supervision by the Financial Services Agency requires business operators to develop management systems for suitable examination and judgment to make STRs, such as comprehensive consideration of customer types and situations of transactions.

### **(3) Foreign Politically Exposed Persons**

#### **A. Present Situation**

Foreign PEPs (Head of State, senior politicians, senior government, judicial or military officials, etc. are shown as examples by FATF) have positions and influences that can be misused for ML/TF. Other than that, business operators' CDD including verification of customer identification data and having a grasp of nature/ transfer of their assets are limited because they are sometimes non-resident customers, or even if they are residents, their main assets or income sources exist abroad. On top of that, strictness of laws to cope with corruption varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

FATF requires business operators to determine whether customers are foreign PEPs, and if they are, to conduct enhanced CDD including verification of asset and income. In January 2013, FATF established guidelines about PEPs and expressed its opinion that PEPs have potential risks to commit ML/TF or predicate offenses, including embezzlement of public funds and bribery, because of their position, so operators should always treat transactions with PEPs as high risk ones, regardless of each person's situation.

Bribery, embezzlement of property, and other corruption related to public officials have become international phenomenon which influence on any society and economy. Countries have come to share the recognition that comprehensive approach, including international cooperation, is necessary to promote efficient corruption prevention measures. Measures to prevent transfer of proceeds derived from corruption by foreign public officials are required internationally. In this circumstance, Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions was adopted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1997 with the recognition that unfair competition caused by bribery of foreign public officials should be prevented. In Japan, the Unfair Competition Prevention Act (Act No. 47 of 1993) was revised, and prohibitions of providing illicit profit to foreign public officials etc. were introduced in 1998.

Although concrete cases of ML/TF related to foreign PEPs have not been reported in Japan thus far, cases of violation of the Unfair Competition Prevention Act are reported. For example, in 2007, a worker of an overseas subsidiary of a Japanese company gave a set of golf clubs to a foreign government official as bribery. In 2009, a worker of a Japanese company handed cash to a foreign public official in reward for the road construction work in a project of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in a foreign country. In 2013, a worker of an overseas subsidiary of a Japanese company handed cash etc. to an official of local customs in reward for overlooking illegal operation of the company.

#### **B. Risk**

Foreign PEPs have the positions and influences that can be misused for ML/TF. Grasp of their identification data etc. is limited, and efforts to introduce anti-corruption measures varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that transactions with foreign PEPs have high risks of ML/TF.

Incidentally, considering the risks mentioned above, FATF calls on jurisdictions to conduct enhanced CDD when it comes to transactions with foreign PEPs.

#### **(4) Legal Persons without Transparency of Beneficial Ownership**

##### **A. Present Situation**

As corporations and other legal persons can be independent owners of property, a natural person can change his/her ownership of property without any cooperation of another natural person, by transferring the ownership to a legal person.

Furthermore, legal persons have, in general, complex right/control structures related to properties. For examples, various people in a company, including shareholders, directors, executive officers, and even creditors, have different rights for the company's property.

Hence, if property is transferred to a legal person, the property is in the complex right/control structures peculiar to legal persons. The natural person who has the beneficial ownership of the property can be easily concealed.

Furthermore, by controlling a legal person, it is possible to transfer large amounts of property frequently in the name of corporate business.

Those who plan ML/TF may attempt to achieve it by misusing these characteristics of legal persons. For example, they may hide behind complex right/control structures of a legal person, or may substantially control a legal person and its property while obscuring their own involvement with the legal person (e.g. placement of a third party, who is under control of them, as a director).

In such circumstance, in order to prevent legal persons from being misused for ML/TF, it is important to secure transparency of legal persons and traceability of their funds, by revealing their beneficial owners.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds and the Ordinance state that, in the case of legal persons that adopt capital principle of majority rule, such as joint-stock corporations, their beneficial owner shall be those who own more than 25% of voting right. In the case of other legal persons, their beneficial owner shall be representatives. Specified business operators have obligation to verify customer identification data of these beneficial owners when a customer is a legal person. But it is not required to track a beneficial owner to a natural person.

On the other hand, FATF requires each country to conduct the followings.

- To ensure that business operators conduct customer identification by tracking to a natural person who is a beneficial owner when the customer is a legal person.
- To have mechanisms where beneficial ownership of legal persons can be identified, as well as to ensure that competent authorities can obtain or access information on beneficial ownership of legal persons in a timely manner.
- To consider measures to facilitate access to beneficial ownership and control information by business operators.

Other than that, in Japan, there are business operators who provide legal persons etc. with an address, facilities, communication means for business/management sake as follows.

- Postal receiving service providers  
They authorize a customer to use their own address or their office address as the place where the customer receives postal items, then receive postal items addressed to the customer, and deliver them to the customer.
- Telephone receiving service providers  
They authorize a customer to use their telephone number as the customer's contact telephone number, then receive telephone calls addressed to the customer, and transmit the content to the customer.
- Telephone forwarding service providers

They authorize a customer to use their telephone number as the customer's contact telephone number, then automatically forward telephone calls addressed to or received from the customer to the telephone number designated by the customer.

By misusing services of these providers, it is possible to establish and maintain a legal person that has no physical presence, to be specific, by providing others with an address or a telephone number which actually aren't used by the legal person and making up fictitious or exaggerated appearances of business reliability, business scale, etc.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires the above-mentioned providers to conduct CDD including verification at the time of transactions and prepare and preserve verification records and transaction records when they make service contracts. The Act also requires them to make STRs when received property is suspected to be criminal proceeds or when customers are suspected to be involved in concealment of criminal proceeds, considering the result of CDD including verification at the time of transactions and other circumstances.

### **B. Case**

There are cases where legal persons were misused for money laundering, including a case where a beneficial owner of a company, who established it while placing a third party as a representative, concealed proceeds from fraud in the company's bank account.

### **C. Risk**

By placing property in the complex right/control structures of legal persons, a natural person who has beneficial ownership of the property can be easily concealed. Because of such characteristics of legal persons, it becomes difficult to track funds owned by legal persons without transparency of beneficial ownership.

Specified business operators verify customer identification data of beneficial owners of legal persons under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. However, there are some cases where beneficial ownership is opaque.

Actually, there are, for example, cases where a bank account, which was opened in the name of a legal person without transparency of beneficial ownership, was misused to conceal criminal proceeds derived from fraud. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that transactions with legal persons without transparency of beneficial ownership have high risks of ML/TF.

## **(5) Customers Who Use an Identification Document without a Photograph**

### **A. Present Situation**

Article 6 of the Ordinance stipulates customer identification documents for verification at the time of transactions under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds. Identification documents without a photo of the person to be verified (hereinafter referred to as “non-photographic ID”) such as health insurance cards and registered seal certificates are admitted as identification documents, as well as identification documents carrying a photo (hereinafter referred to as “photographic ID”) such as driver’s licenses and passports.

In case of photographic ID, business operators can compare the photo on the ID and appearance of a customer in front of them and can confirm the identity.

On the other hand, reliability of identification by non-photographic ID such as health insurance cards is lower than that by photographic ID although non-photographic ID is also issued only to a person to be verified and it helps identification between a person to be verified and a person who brings it. If non-photographic ID is used as customer identification documents, business operators might not be able to detect a person who pretends to be another, while conducting verification at the time of transactions. In addition, in the third round of FATF Mutual Evaluation of Japan, it was pointed out that some of customer identification documents admitted in Japan had vulnerability to be misused for ML/TF.

### **B. Case**

There are cases where non-photographic ID was misused for criminal offenses, including a case where offenders pretended to be another person and swindled bankbooks etc. from banks by using another person’s national health insurance card which they had obtained illegally and a case where offenders pretended to be another person and made service contracts with a postal receiving service provider by using another person’s registered seal certificate.

Bank accounts, postal receiving services, etc. which were obtained illegally like these cases are misused for specialized fraud (e.g. “Hey, it’s me” type remittance fraud), loan sharking, etc. as a tool to receive criminal proceeds, and thus are misused for money laundering.

### **C. Risk**

Compared with photographic ID, non-photographic ID is less reliable about identification between a person to be verified and a person who brings it. If those who attempt ML/TF illegally obtain another person’s non-photographic ID and conduct a transaction by pretending to be another, it is not easy for specified business operators to find out the deception during verification at the time of transactions. Therefore, non-photographic ID has vulnerability which could be misused for ML/TF.

Actually, there are cases where offenders illegally obtained another person’s non-photographic ID and conducted transactions by pretending to be another person. Considering a relevant situation, it is recognized that transactions with a customer who uses non-photographic ID have high risks of ML/TF, compared with transactions where photographic ID is used.

## **Section 5. Low Risk Transactions**

### **1. Factors to Mitigate Risks**

In the light of customer types, transaction types, settlement methods, legal systems, etc., it is considered that the following transactions have low risks to be misused for ML/TF.

(i) Transactions having a clear source of funds

When characteristics or ownership of a source of funds is clear, it is difficult to misuse for ML/TF.

(ii) Transactions with the State or a local public entity

Transactions with the State or a local public entity are carried out by national officers etc. within powers given by laws, internal control systems, etc. Process and nature of such transactions have high transparency, and a source/destination of funds is clear, so it is difficult to misuse for ML/TF.

(iii) Transactions in which customers etc. are limited by laws etc.

In some transactions, customers or beneficiaries are limited by laws etc. It is difficult for those who attempt ML/TF to participate in such transactions, so it is difficult to misuse for ML/TF.

(iv) Transactions in which the process is supervised by the State etc. based on laws, etc.

Transactions in which notification to or approval by the State etc. is required are supervised by the State etc., so it is difficult to misuse for ML/TF.

(v) Transactions that it is difficult to disguise the actual status of legal persons etc.

In general, services that provide legal persons etc. with an address, facilities, means of communication for business/management sake have risks to be misused for ML/TF because such services may make up fictitious or exaggerated appearances of business reliability, business scale, etc. However, when services have difficulty in disguising the actual status of legal persons etc., it is difficult to misuse for ML/TF (for example, telephone receiving service which indicates to a third party that it is a telephone receiving service).

(vi) Transactions with low or no fund accumulation features

Investment in products or services with no or low fund accumulation features is inefficient for ML/TF.

(vii) Transactions below the regulation threshold

Transactions below the regulation threshold are inefficient for ML/TF. In the Recommendations and Interpretative Notes etc., FATF also sets out transaction amounts which are the threshold for CDD measures.

Incidentally, if one transaction above the threshold is divided into several transactions and the amount of each divided transaction falls below the threshold, such an action (structuring) is to avoid regulation, and has high risks of ML/TF.

(viii) Transactions in which customer identification measures are secured by laws etc.

In some transactions, customers or beneficiaries are verified under laws etc. or are limited to person who, in conformity of business regulations, obtained a business license from the State etc. Customers' identity is clear and fund traceability is secured in such transactions.

### **2. Low Risk Transactions**

Specific transactions which have factors to mitigate risks described in 1 above are as follows.

Incidentally, transactions where customers are suspected that they pretend to be another person or falsify customer identification data are not considered as low risk transactions even if the transactions fall under the following transactions. Furthermore, regarding transactions prescribed by the current Ordinance as transactions that have low risks to be misused for ML/TF, we added applicable provisions to the following each item.

**(1) Specified Transactions in Money Trust** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 1 of Ordinance)

Each transaction prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 1 of Ordinance (A: customer-oriented money trust with financial instruments business <sup>\*1</sup>, B and D: Product client classification management trust with financial instruments business <sup>\*2</sup>, C : Client classification management trust with financial instruments business <sup>\*3</sup>, E : Trust contract of security deposit for issuance with issuer of prepaid payment instruments <sup>\*4</sup>, F : Trust of security deposits for providing funds transfer services with Funds Transfer Service Providers <sup>\*5</sup>, G : Trust for preservation of deposit asset with futures commission merchant <sup>\*6</sup>) falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risk; (i), (iii), (iv) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(2) Conclusion etc. of Insurance Contracts** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 2 of Ordinance)

Each transaction prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 2 of Ordinance (A: Insurance contracts without payment of maturity insurance money etc., B: Insurance contracts that total repayment is under 80% of total premium) falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (vi). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(3) Payment of Maturity Insurance Money etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 3 of Ordinance)

**A. Payment of Maturity Insurance Money etc.**

Payment of maturity insurance money etc. of insurance contracts that total repayment is under 80% of total premium, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 3, (a) of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks;(vi). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**B. Payment of Maturity Insurance Money etc. of Qualified Retirement Pension Contracts, Group Insurance Contracts, etc.**

Payment of maturity insurance money etc. of qualified retirement pension contracts or group insurance contracts <sup>\*7</sup> prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 3, (b) of Ordinance falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks;(i), (iii), (iv) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(4) Transactions Carried out on a Securities Market etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 4 of Ordinance)

Buying and selling of securities carried out on a securities market etc., <sup>\*8</sup> prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 4 of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(5) Transactions of Government Bonds etc. That Are Settled by an Account Transfer at the Bank of Japan** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 5 of Ordinance)

Transactions of government bonds etc. that are settled by an account transfer at the Bank of Japan, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph

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\*1 Conclusion of a contract pertaining to a trust under Article 43-2, paragraph 2 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 25 of 1948) or establishment by the terms of trust pertaining to the trust prescribed in the same paragraph or by exercise of the right to designate beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act (Act No. 108 of 2006) of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust.

\*2 Conclusion of a contract pertaining to a product client classification management trust prescribed in Article 142-5, paragraph 1 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance on Financial Instruments Services, etc. (Cabinet Office Ordinance No. 52 of 2007) or establishment by the terms of trust pertaining to a product client classification management trust prescribed in the same paragraph or by exercise of the right to designate a beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust.

\*3 Conclusion of a contract pertaining to a client classification management trust prescribed in Article 143-2, paragraph 1 of the Cabinet Office Ordinance on Financial Instruments Services, etc. or establishment by the terms of trust pertaining to a client classification management trust prescribed in the same paragraph or by exercise of the right to designate a beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust

\*4 Conclusion of trust contract of security deposit for issuance prescribed in Article 16, paragraph 1 of the Payment Services Act or establishment by the terms of trust contract of security deposit for issuance prescribed in the same paragraph or by exercise of the right to designate a beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust contract of security deposit for issuance.

\*5 Conclusion of trust contracts of security deposits of providing funds transfer services prescribed in Article 45, paragraph 1 of the Payment Services Act or establishment by the terms of trust pertaining to trust contracts of security deposits of providing funds transfer services prescribed in the same paragraph or by exercise of the right to designate a beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust contracts of security deposits of providing funds transfer services.

\*6 Conclusion of a contract pertaining to a trust prescribed in Article 98, paragraph 1, item 1 and Article 98-3 paragraph 1, item 1 of Ordinance for Enforcement of the Commodity Derivatives Act (Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry No. 3 of 2005) or establishment by the terms of trust pertaining to a trust prescribed in these provisions or by exercise of the right to designate a beneficiary prescribed in Article 89, paragraph 1 of the Trust Act of a legal relationship with a beneficiary of such trust.

\*7 In group insurance, the amount that is deducted from the salary of employees is used for premium.

\*8 Financial instruments exchange markets prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 17 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act or over-the-counter securities markets prescribed in Article 67, paragraph 2 of the same Act, or foreign markets (only in jurisdictions designated by the Financial Services Agency Commissioner) where sales and purchase of securities equivalent thereto or Foreign Market Transaction of Derivatives prescribed in Article 2, paragraph 23 of the same Act is carried out.

1, item 5 of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(6) Specified Transactions Concerning Loan of Money etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 6 of Ordinance)

**A. Loans for Which Settlement Is Made by an Account Transfer at the Bank of Japan**

Loans for which settlement is made by an account transfer at the Bank of Japan, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 6 of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**B. Loans etc. Based on Pensions, Insurance etc. without Refunds of Accumulated Premium**

Loans etc. based on insurance contracts etc. that total repayment is under 80% of total premium, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 6 of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks;(i), (iii), (iv) and(vi). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**C. Individual Credit**

Individual credit, etc. prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 6, c of Ordinance<sup>\*1</sup> falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(7) Specified Transactions in Cash Transactions etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7 of Ordinance)

**A. Transactions in Which a Public or Corporate Bearer Bond Is Provided as a Mortgage**

Transactions in which a certificate or coupon of a public or corporate bearer bond that exceed 2 million yen is provided as a mortgage, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7, (a) of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (i) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**B. Payment or Delivery of Money and Goods to the State or a Local Public Entity**

Payment or delivery of money and goods to the State or a local public entity, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7, (b) of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

As well as these payment or delivery, payment of utility bills of electricity, gas, water and fees to enter a university etc. also falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (viii), and is deemed to have low risks. This is because fund traceability is well secured in such payment, for instance,

- Operators who supply electricity etc. usually obtain information about a person who lives in the place where electricity etc. are going to be supplied when concluding a supply contract
- Existence of a student is secured when entering a university etc.

Such payment also falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (vi) because the payment depends on actual consumption and does not increase an asset.

**C. Exchange Transactions etc. Carried out for Accepting or Refunding Deposits or Savings**

Exchange transactions etc. for accepting or refunding deposit/savings not more than 2 million yen prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7, (c) of Ordinance fall under the transaction with factors to mitigate risks; (vii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**D. Receipt and Payment for Goods in Cash with Measures Equivalent to CDD Including Verification at the Time of Transaction**

Receipt and payment for goods in cash not more than 2 million yen which accompany an exchange transaction and, in which the payment receiver conducted CDD including verification at the time of transaction similar to the case for specified business operators, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 7, (d) of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (vii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

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<sup>\*1</sup> Individual credit is a transaction form. When purchasers buy products from sellers, purchases don't use cards etc. Instead, an intermediary provides the amount equivalent to the product price to the seller according to the contract with purchasers and sellers and purchasers make payment of the price according to a certain fixed method to the intermediary later. Incidentally, tie-up loan is a kind of individual credit. There are tie-up loans that financial institutions and sellers cooperate to provide funds for sales contracts or service provision contract and tie-up loans that purchasers apply to individual credit operators, operators examine and consent, and financial institutions lend funds to the purchasers, on condition that the individual credit operators guarantee the loan.



**(8) Opening a Special Account under the Act on Transfer of Bonds, Shares, etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 8 of Ordinance)

Opening a so-called special account <sup>\*1</sup> under the Act on Transfer of Bonds, Shares, etc., prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 8 of Ordinance, falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iii) and (viii). Therefore, it is deemed to have low risks.

**(9) Transactions through SWIFT** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 9 of Ordinance)

Transactions in which verification is made or settlement is directed through SWIFT <sup>\*2</sup>, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 9 of Ordinance falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iii) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risk.

**(10) Specified Transactions in Financial Leasing Contracts** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 10 of Ordinance)

Financial leasing transactions in which the rental fee received at one time by a lessor from a person who receives leasing services is 100,000 yen or less, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 10 of Ordinance, fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (vii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risk.

**(11) Buying and Selling Precious Metals and Stones etc. in Which the Payment Is Made through Methods Other Than Cash** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 11 of Ordinance)

Transactions of precious metals and stones, etc. in which the payment is over 2 million yen and is made through methods other than cash, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 11 of Ordinance, fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(12) Specified Contracts with Telephone Receiving Service Providers** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 12 of Ordinance)

Transactions prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 12 of Ordinance (A: a service contract of telephone receiving service in which indicating that being a telephone receiving service provider to a third party is included, B: contract of call center business etc. <sup>\*3</sup>) fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (v). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(13) Transactions with the State etc.** (Article 4, paragraph 1, item 13 of Ordinance)

**A. Transactions That the State etc. Conducts Based on Statutory Authority**

Transactions with the State or a local public entity, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 13, a of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**B. Transactions That a Bankruptcy Trustee, etc. Conducts Based on Statutory Authority**

Transactions conducted by a bankruptcy trustee, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 13, b of Ordinance fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (i), (iii), (iv) and (viii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.

**(14) Specified Transactions in Agent Work etc. for Specified Mandated Acts by a Judicial Scrivener etc.** <sup>\*4</sup> (Article 4, paragraph 2 of Ordinance)

**A. Conclusion of a Voluntary Guardianship Contract**

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<sup>\*1</sup> An account which is opened in a trust bank by a company issuing shares when the company doesn't know the account of shareholders.

<sup>\*2</sup> Transactions which are carried out between a specified business operator and the Bank of Japan as well as a person equivalent thereto who has his/her head office or principal office in a foreign country (hereinafter referred to as a "foreign specified business operator" in this item) that use a specified communications method (which means an international communications method used between a specified business operator, the Bank of Japan, and a foreign specified business operator, for which necessary measures are taken to identify the specified business operator, the Bank of Japan, and the foreign specified business operator by the Commissioner of the Financial Services Agency, who communicate with each other through the said communications methods) as a customer, etc. and for which verification is made or settlement is directed through the said specified communications method. SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) is designated by the matter of designating communications method (Public Notice of the Financial Services Agency No. 11 of 2008) prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 1, item 9 of Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds

<sup>\*3</sup> Businesses conducted by taking telephone calls (including telecommunications by facsimile devices) for receiving applications for contracts to provide explanations about or consultation on goods, rights, or services or to provide the goods, rights or services or for concluding such contracts. Concrete examples of call center business include counter for material request and inquiry, customer center, help desk, support center, consumer inquiry counter, maintenance center, and order reception center.

<sup>\*4</sup> As to agent work, etc. for specified mandated acts pertaining to the management or disposition of property listed in item 3 of the middle column of the row of persons listed in Article 2, paragraph 2, item 43 in the attachment to the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, cases where the value of the said property is two million yen or less are excepted.

Conclusion of a voluntary guardianship contract, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 2, item 1 of Ordinance, falls under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (iv) and (viii). Therefore, it is deemed to have low risk.

**B. Transactions, etc. that the States etc. Conduct Based on Statutory Authority**

Transactions conducted by the State etc. and a bankruptcy trustee etc. based on statutory authority, prescribed in Article 4, paragraph 2, item 2 of Ordinance, fall under the transactions with factors to mitigate risks; (i), (iv) and (viii), and also (ii) or (iii). Therefore, they are deemed to have low risks.