



The 10th Public Edition of the [Basel AML Index](#) has been published by the Basel Institute on Governance. This edition highlights four areas of AML/CFT policy that requires more attention:

- A stronger response to threats from virtual assets
- Effective prevention, not just enforcement
- Beneficial owner transparency
- Money laundering / terrorist financing vulnerabilities beyond the financial sector

Australia

AUSTRAC has released its key findings from the Australian banking sector ML/TF [risk assessment](#). This document is to be used to help the banking sector identify, understand and disrupt financial crime. The overall ML/TF rating for foreign subsidiary banks and foreign bank branches is medium, and high for major banks and other domestic banks operating in Australia.

AUSTRAC has [announced](#) its planned enhancements to its System Transformation Program, which will bring substantial changes to AUSTRAC Online, changing the way regulated entities interact and report to AUSTRAC. Earlier this year a Customer Advisory Group (CAG) was established to provide feedback about what works and what needs improvement. This will be an ongoing working group to help shape the future of AUSTRAC Online. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the CAG, email haveyoursay@austrac.gov.au

South Korea

A number of Crypto Exchanges in Korea have [partnered](#) to develop and implement the **Financial Action Task Force's** (FATF) travel rule which calls for certain customer information to be shared by exchanges as digital assets are transferred from one to another to ensure that funds are traceable.

Philippines

The Philippines **Anti-Money Laundering Council** (AMLC) has issued an advisory [note](#) encouraging covered persons to disclose beneficial ownership information when filing Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs). The AMLC reminds covered persons that STRs must be complete, accurate, and timely as they are vital sources of financial intelligence and are essential in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering, terrorism financing, and other related cases/crimes.

The **Securities and Exchange Commission** has issued the AMLC 2021 [Sanctions Guidelines](#) to all SEC covered persons which have been expanded to now cover targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism, terrorism financing and proliferation financing.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's **Securities and Futures Commission** (SFC) [has](#) finalized its AML [guidelines](#) for the securities sector following consultation from the market on its proposed amendments. The changes will affect how banks and asset managers qualify and onboard clients. The new guidelines will take effect from **30 September 2021** with the exception of the new cross-border correspondent relationships requirements, which will take effect on **30 March 2022**.

Taiwan

Taiwan's **Financial Supervisory Commission** (FSC) is [reportedly](#) looking to ease regulations on online consumer lending in banks meaning that the previous requirement to verify identity through a video conference or the use of encrypted digital tokens can now be verified through the use of biometric data in an attempt to create a comprehensive digital banking environment.

New Zealand

The **Financial Markets Authority** (FMA) [has](#) stepped up its enforcement approach to non-compliance with New Zealand's AML/CFT rules. The FMA's Director of Supervision, said: "New Zealand's AML/CFT regime has been in place for eight years and businesses have had plenty of time to comply with the regulations. Accordingly, we have now less tolerance for companies not meeting their obligations, which is reflected in an increased number of enforcement actions."

China

China has implemented its [new](#) supervision law published by the **National Supervisory Commission** (NSC) in an attempt to target corruption and strengthen President Xi's anti-corruption campaign. The regulation clarifies the duties of supervisory commissions, their jurisdiction, supervisory power and working procedure, and introduces rules concerning international cooperation and supervision on supervisors.

We are a consultancy with expertise in using financial and regulatory technology to combat financial crime.