

21 December 2021

## Update on the Annual Fund Return

On 12 April 2021, the Authority launched the annual fund return and published a circular explaining the steps forward. This circular is to give an update on the way forward and summarize recent changes made to the return.

As previously explained, the fund return will also be applicable to AIFs, NAIFs and PIFs for the period ended 31 December 2021 onwards. Following feedback received, the deadline for all annual fund return submissions (including UCITS returns), will permanently be a month after the deadline of the audited financial statements pack submission, being 7 months from the reference period for AIFs, NAIFs and PIFs, and 5 months from the reference period for UCITS. The relevant rules and the documentation timetable have been updated accordingly. As an example, AIFs, NAIFs and PIFs with a reference period of 31 December 2021 shall submit the annual fund return by not later than 29 July 2021. Similarly, UCITS with a reference period of 31 December 2021 shall submit the return by not later than 31 May 2021.

The above being said, PIFs submitting the annual fund return are not required to populate Sheet 6. Cross-Border Activities and Sheet 7. Additional Information. The rest of the information requested is to be provided by PIFs as outlined in the guidelines.

In addition to the above, the fund return template has been updated with some minor amendments. The following is a list of changes made to the annual fund return:

- Strategies tab: LEIs for each sub-fund are mandatory and have been included for entry;
- Tab 2. Balance Sheet: Minor changes made with respect to exchange rates to address common issues experienced by Licence Holders during 2020 and align the Fund Return with common practices;
- Tab 3. Statement of Income: Minor changes made with respect to exchange rates to address common issues experienced by Licence Holders during 2020 and align the Fund Return with common practices;
- Tab 4. Dealings & Net Asset Changes: Minor changes made with respect to exchange rates to address common issues experienced by Licence Holders during 2020;
- Contraventions tab has been removed;

- Tab 6. Cross-Border Activities: Reference to number of units has been introduced to replace the number of unit-holders. Guidelines also refer; and
- Tab 8. Portfolio Statement: Added: ISIN Code and LEI Code for entry. Sub-Fund name is now to be included under Column F instead of Column C. Bank Balances are also to be distinguished for each credit institution. The updated guidelines further refer.

Licence Holders are to ensure to download and populate the latest version of the fund return, currently being version 1.6 for any submissions falling due during 2022. In this regard, it is to note that the Authority will, from time to time, update the fund return in view of local and EU developments.

Over and above, the MFSA may carry out minor changes to the Fund Return to cater for any operational issues that may be identified. Unless the changes are material, the Authority will not issue any notices in this respect and any previous versions would be accepted for submission. Nevertheless, Licence Holders are encouraged to always download the latest version of the fund return from the MFSA's website.

Lastly, Licence Holders are to note that in addition to the changes made to the rulebooks to reflect the above, a further clarification has also been made to specify that the statutory appointed and approved auditor is the auditor that is expected to check the annual fund return in terms of the respective rules.

Licence holders are to continue to address specific queries relating to the Annual Fund Return on: [funds@mfsa.mt](mailto:funds@mfsa.mt).