PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE GOVERNOR

CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL POLICIES & PROCEDURES 2026 AND GENERAL REMINDERS ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL

The Central Bank of Samoa (CBS) advises that after the Annual Review of the Foreign Exchange Control Policies and Procedures completed in June 2026, no changes were made to the Exchange Control Policies. However, to strengthen the administration of the Foreign Exchange Control Regulations, CBS provides clarification regarding a major capital transaction processed regularly by financial institutions.

i. This procedural clarification relates to the documents required to process proceeds or funds remitted overseas from the **"Sale of Estates"** in Samoa.

In relation to other policies and procedures in the Exchange Control Regulations, CBS issues the following reminders:

i. **Export procedures**
   i. Any export of goods valued at more than SAT$500.00 requires an export permit from the Central Bank of Samoa. Notwithstanding this threshold, all exports of domestically produced goods from Samoa must be reported to and cleared by the Ministry of Customs.
   ii. All exporters are required to submit a valid business licence to the Central Bank of Samoa at the beginning of each calendar year, or when they submit their first export consignment for that year.
   iii. Exporters of agricultural products (e.g., taro) are reminded to submit relevant clearance documents issued by the Quarantine Division of the Ministry of Agriculture to the Central Bank for their export shipments.
   iv. For any export shipment of fish, the resident individual or business entity must complete the CBS Provisional Export Entry form and submit to the Central Bank of Samoa. This form must be endorsed by the Ministry of Fisheries, prior to processing by the Ministry of Customs.

ii. **General Reminders**
   i. To **buy or sell foreign currency** in Samoa in exchange for Samoan Tala, only licensed commercial banks and foreign exchange dealers who are authorised by the Central Bank of Samoa are allowed. A list of authorised foreign exchange dealers and licensed commercial banks is available on the CBS website (www.cbs.gov.ws) or by contacting the CBS Financial Supervision & Regulatory Services Department on telephone number (685) 34100.
   ii. For all capital payment transfers to overseas, it is a requirement to seek prior approval from the Central Bank of Samoa. Such foreign exchange transactions may include, but are not limited to:
      - Overseas investments

- Dividend repatriations
- Proceeds from the sale of local property
- Estate funds held in Samoa
- The liquidation of a businesses in Samoa
- Overseas borrowings.

Most current account transactions have been delegated to authorised commercial banks and money transfer operators (MTOs).

iii. For importers requesting payments to be made overseas, they are required to submit valid and complete invoices, together with any other supporting documents required by the financial institutions.

iv. Approval for overseas payments may not be granted unless all required documents is provided.

These exchange control document requirements are consistent with international standards for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and help safeguard the integrity of Samoa's financial system.

iii. Exchange Control Approvals from the Central Bank of Samoa

i. The processing time for applications submitted to the Central of Samoa, together with all relevant supporting documents, generally take up to **three (3) business days.** However, processing times may be significantly reduced if all required information and supporting documents are complete, accurate, and readily verifiable.

ii. The **Central Bank of Samoa BOP2 Form** issued together with the Central Bank's approval, is valid for **one (1) month** from the date of issuance. Accordingly, any payment must be processed within the validity period. Where the approval expires before the payment is made, a new approval must be obtained from the Central Bank of Samoa.

iii. Special exemptions from any exchange control requirements may only be granted by the Central Bank on a **case-by-case basis**.

For further clarification or assistance regarding any Foreign Exchange Control matters, please visit the Domestic Markets Division located on Level 1 of the CBS Building, or contact us on 34101, 34153, 34178, or 34152. You may also email us at exchange.ctrl@cbs.gov.ws.

Additional information is available in the CBS Exchange Control Information Booklet, which can be accessed on the CBS website at www.cbs.gov.ws.

Signed by: Sili Margaret Tafunai
ACTING GOVERNOR