



Cyprus - AML KYC Regulations

Document History

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Disclaimer: Neither Shufti Pro nor the authors of this document shall be held responsible, liable or accountable for the contents of this document. The responsibility to comply with AML - KYC regulations lies with the Client. Achieving full compliance with legal obligations requires a thorough analysis of the specific situation, organizational requirements, and regulatory practices. The information provided in this document should be seen as an overview of requirements and measures towards conducting proper and satisfactory Identity Verification procedures. This document suggests general measures in line with recommendations, resources, or procedures provided by relevant laws and authorities to support identity verification requirements. The mere reference to or reliance placed on this document alone does not constitute a warranty of any system nor does it guarantee legal compliance. It remains the sole responsibility of the Client to comply with its legal obligations.

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1. Introduction

Cyprus introduced its AML/CFT legislative framework in '*The Prevention And Suppression Of Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing Laws of 2007*'. Law 13(I)/2018 amending the Cyprus AML Law transposed the EU Directive 2015/849 which broadened the scope of AML oversight under Directive 2005/60/EC. The Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission's Directives for the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing further harmonized the AML/CFT framework with the EU Directive 2018/843. Cyprus being a member of MONEYVAL keeps in line with its recommendations and follows its evaluations.

2. Scope

The 'Cyprus - AML KYC Regulations' report may be used as a reference to highlight information from Cyprus's '*Law No. 188(I)/2007 The Prevention And Suppression Of Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing Law*' and '*The Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Law 2007-2021*'.

Under the guidelines from Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (CYSEC), Central Bank of Cyprus and the aforementioned act(s), this document highlights the necessary requirements for AML and KYC procedures, in particular, Identity Verification required in Cyprus. These requirements are approximated from relevant information/laws/directives from the aforementioned document.

3. Definitions

- **Client**: Shufti Pro's customer is referred to as the Client.
- **Customer**: The Client's customer who is subject to the KYC - AML checks.
- **End-user**: The Client's customer is referred to as end-user but from Shufti Pro's perspective.
- **Document Verification**: The process of verifying the authenticity of a government-issued identity document.
- **Identity Verification**: The process of verifying the identity of the Client's customers.
- **Proof of Identity**: Any government-issued identity document that can be used to identify an individual (a natural person).
- **EDD**: Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) is a process that executes a greater level of scrutiny related to potential business relationships.

- **Third-Party Diligence:** Outsourcing of the due diligence process to an external party by the Client who is originally responsible for carrying out due diligence activities.
- **PEP:** Politically Exposed Person is a person with a higher risk for potential involvement in bribery/corruption.
- **Due Diligence:** Refers to the measures taken to mitigate risk before entering into an agreement or carrying out a financial transaction with another party.

4. References

- [Cyprus The Prevention And Suppression Of Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing Law Of 2007 Original](#)
- [Cyprus The Prevention And Suppression Of Money Laundering And Terrorist Financing Law Of 2007 English](#)
- [The Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Amending Law 13\(I\) of 2018](#)
- [Directive \(EU\) 2018/843 of the European Parliament and Council of 30 May 2018](#)
- [Directives of the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission for the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing 2020.](#)
- [Law No. 13\(1\) of 2021 The Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering from Illegal Activities \(Amendment\) Law of 2021](#)
- [THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING LAWS OF 2007-2021](#)
- [Law No. 40\(1\)/2022 The Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering from Illegal Activities \(Amendment\) Law of 2022](#)

5. Due Diligence Requirements

5.1. Identity Verification Requirements

As per the requirements of Cyprus's regulations, these are the following ID attributes required for the purpose of identifying a natural person (Individual) from official documents.

- Name;
- Date and Place of birth;
- Full Permanent Address;
- Telephone Numbers;

- Professional Details;
- Nationality.

5.2. Compliant CDD Methods

We (Shufti Pro) may apply one or more of the following measures at the request of the Client to perform Identity Verification on its behalf. Where an End-user is an individual, who does not present himself to the Client for verification in physical presence.

- 5.2.1. Shufti Pro shall perform verification of the End-user's identity on the basis of documents that are highlighted in 5.3. These documents provide reasonable reliability to the confirmation of the identity in Cyprus's. Shufti Pro shall ensure that documents being utilised are photo-based biometric identification documents that suffice requirements for Identity Verification.
- 5.2.2. Shufti Pro can also perform verification of the End-user's identity through a real-time audio-video transmission, where a live, interactive video session is carried out between an Identification Expert and the End-user. During this session, the End-user will be asked to show their identity documents. The End-user will also be asked to perform some random gestures as a part of a liveness check.
- 5.2.3. For the purpose of verifying the End-user's identity, Shufti Pro shall also verify the documents that are submitted. We utilize our specialized Document Verification service to perform checks on the authenticity of the document. This includes checks on security features such as holograms, tapered/crumpled edges, doctored elements, form inconsistencies, document expiration, MRZ, reflected colors and microprinting.

5.3. Documents Required for Verification

The following documents are considered in Cyprus as Proofs of Identity:

For Identity Verification

- An official Cypriot passport;
- A current driving license;
- A Cypriot Identity Card (Biometric and Non biometric)
- Residence Permit/Card.

For Address Verification

- A current utility bill (such as gas, electricity, telephone or mobile phone bill); (issued no more than three months ago that shows the End-user's address and name);

- Bank statement (issued no more than three months ago that shows the End-user's address and name);
- A document issued by a government department that shows the End-user's address and name.

5.4. Timing of Verification

Identity Verification is not limited to a one-time, one instance process. In fact, it is required in multiple instances as per regulations. The application and choice of when to deploy Identity Verification procedures depend on your requirements and its conveyance to Shufti Pro.

You are to pursue Identity Verification when you onboard a new Customer. If you are dealing with transaction data, you should apply Identity Verification as per the monetary thresholds defined in Cyprus's regulations. In other instances, Identity Verification becomes more important to employ if you face higher risks from your Customers. A high risk situation would be any instance where an Individual might represent above normal exposure of money laundering related threats to you.

6. Politically Exposed Persons and EDD Measures

As per the Enhanced Due Diligence requirements under Cyprus's regulations, you are required to determine if your Customer is a Politically Exposed Person, holds a public office, or exhibits a higher risk profile. In order to fulfill your obligations, Shufti Pro provides you its AML Screening service. The service screens an individual's selected ID attributes of *Name* and *DOB* against watchlists of global regulatory authorities, foreign and domestic databases, compromised PEPs and sanctioned individuals.

The service highlights the category of the PEP based on the degree of risks they pose and also any immediate family member, or a close associate of the PEP.

You may utilize such services as per your requirements. This includes before or after establishing a relationship with your Customer.

7. Reliance on External Services

Cyprus's regulations state that you may seek the services of a third party to apply measures of due diligence. Regulations also require you to collect all such data (Diligence Information) from the third party, without undue delay. In this scenario, we will be the external third-party service provider to you.

Cyprus's regulations state that you, regardless of reliance on a third party, remain liable for maintaining all such compliance and fulfilling AML and KYC obligations.

8. Record Retention

As per Cyprus's regulations, you are required to retain data for not less than five (5) years. These are a part of your AML and KYC obligations for due diligence. In the case where this information is processed, collected and managed by a relevant third-party, you are liable to collect all such necessary information (due diligence data) from the third party without undue delay.