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Amendments to the General Rules of the Anti-Money Laundering Law

On August 7, 2026, the Agreement amending the general rules referred to in the Federal Law for the Prevention and Identification of Transactions with Illegally Sourced Funds (*Acuerdo por el que se modifican las Reglas de carácter general a que se refiere la Ley Federal para la Prevención e Identificación de Operaciones con Recursos de Procedencia Ilícita*) (the "**AML Rules**") was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) (the "**DOF**").

The amendments to the AML Rules complement the prior reforms to the Federal Law for the Prevention and Identification of Transactions with Illegally Sourced Funds (the "**AML Law**") and its Regulations, thus raising the standard of regulatory compliance in this area.

The AML Rules provide for:

i) a risk-based approach;

ii) an order of priority for identifying the ultimate beneficial owner;

iii) the required contents of the internal policies manual;

iv) audits, automated monitoring mechanisms, training programs and the selection of personnel.

This Legal Briefing provides a summary of these significant amendments and their impact on businesses, as well as the date of their entry into force, and practical recommendations.

I. Risk-based approach

Anyone carrying out a vulnerable activity under the AML Law must have a robust methodology in place to assess the risks of such activity and the risks to its customers.

This methodology must include a model that assigns one of three risk levels (low, medium, or high) to customers based on the risk factors that have been identified and the National Risk Assessment and its updates, issued by the Financial Intelligence Unit ("**FIU**").

When designing this methodology, it is essential to consider the transaction carried out, the customer and the information they provide, the geographic area, and the transactions and channels for the transfer or distribution of funds linked to the transactions carried out.

II. Order of priority for identifying the ultimate beneficial owner

The following order of priority must be followed to identify the ultimate beneficial owner of customers that are legal entities with whom a vulnerable activity is carried out:

i) Identify the natural person or group of natural persons who, directly or indirectly, acquires, holds title to, or possesses, under any legal title, 25% or more of the shares or equity interest in the customer's share capital.

ii) If the foregoing does not apply, identify the natural person or group of natural persons who control the customer through other means, whose functions are related to the strategy, decision-making and direction of the customer's main policies.

iii) Failing that, identify the natural person or group of natural persons who occupy the position of highest-ranking administrative officer or senior management.

In addition, the procedure followed for this identification must be documented, and the information, documentation, and records supporting it must be retained.

III. Contents of the internal policies manual

The internal policies manual for due compliance with the AML Law, its Regulations and the AML Rules must include 14 elements, including:

i) criteria for the identification, knowledge and risk classification of customers;

ii) mechanisms to detect activities or transactions that deviate from the customer's transactional profile;

iii) mechanisms to identify persons included on "blacklists" issued by national authorities or international organizations;

iv) functions and responsibilities of the compliance officer;

v) measures to ensure the confidentiality of information.

The Tax Administration Service (*Servicio de Administración Tributaria*) may require modifications to the manual whenever it considers such modifications necessary for compliance with, or the proper application of, the AML Rules.

IV. Audits, automated monitoring mechanisms, training programs and personnel selection

4.1. Audits

An annual review of the effectiveness of compliance with the AML Law, its Regulations and the AML Rules must be conducted by an internal or external auditor, as applicable:

i) **Internal auditor:** If the risk of the person carrying out a vulnerable activity is classified as low under the risk-based methodology (Section 1 above), the report may be issued by an internal audit or control department.[1]

1 The internal audit or control department must have knowledge of the internal processes and procedures of the person carrying out the vulnerable activity and must hold at least one accreditation from an annual training program as described in Section 4.3 of this Legal Briefing.

ii) **External auditor:** If so decided, or if the risk is high, the report must be issued by an independent external auditor.[2]

The results must be presented to the board of directors, the sole director, senior management or equivalent bodies, to assess the effectiveness of the compliance measures and follow up on the necessary corrective actions.

4.2. Automated monitoring mechanisms

Automated mechanisms may range from specialized computer systems to simpler tools, such as spreadsheets, databases, or other equivalent means, and must enable the retention and consolidation of customer identification data and details of the vulnerable activities carried out, provide inputs for the risk assessment methodology, generate alerts on transactions carried out with customers, and monitor the use of cash in such transactions.

4.3. Training programs and personnel selection

Anyone carrying out a vulnerable activity must implement and keep records of annual training programs for its personnel that include, at a minimum: (i) the regulatory framework applicable to the vulnerable activities carried out; (ii) the internal policies manual; (iii) the vulnerable activities carried out; and (iv) the risks arising from such activity.[3]

Selection processes must also be established to ensure that personnel recruited have the necessary technical qualifications, experience, and good standing, and a signed statement stating the following must be obtained: the sectors in which the employee has previously worked that are subject to the AML Law, and that the employee has not been convicted of property crimes, barred from engaging in trade, or disqualified from holding a position in public service or in the Mexican financial system.

V. Entry into force of the AML Rules

The Agreement amending the AML Rules will enter into force on November 30, 2026, with the exception of the following:

Obligation	Effective date
Risk-based assessment	March 1, 2027
Internal policies manual	March 1, 2027
Client Risk Rating Classification	March 1, 2027
Order of priority for identifying the ultimate beneficial owner	March 1, 2027

2 The external auditor must (i) hold a university degree and professional license (*cédula profesional*) in law, accounting, finance, business administration, information technology or related fields, and have at least three years of experience in the prevention and detection of acts or transactions that could involve funds of illegal origin; (ii) hold a valid certification issued by the FIU at the time the audit report is prepared and signed; (iii) not have been convicted of property crimes; (iv) not have provided prior services to the person carrying out the vulnerable activity during the audited period that would give rise to a conflict of interest; and (v) not have accepted the position of compliance officer representative of the audited party during the audited period and until the issuance of the corresponding report.

3 Whoever provides this training must demonstrate at least five years of experience in the prevention of money laundering and related offenses.

First audit review period	January 1, 2028, through December 1 of the same year
Automated mechanisms	June 1, 2027
Annual training period	January 1 through December 1, 2027
Procedures for the selection of personnel	March 1, 2027

VI. Practical recommendations

The amendments to the AML Rules consolidate a compliance model that is based on: (i) determining the risk level of a business's own transactions and those of third parties; (ii) the traceability of transactions carried out; and (iii) their ongoing monitoring.

Below are some practical recommendations for businesses operating in Mexico that carry out a vulnerable activity under the AML Law:

- **Design the risk assessment methodology:** Design, document, and internally approve a methodology that classifies the business's own transactions and those carried out with each customer according to their risk level, in accordance with the AML Rules.

- **Update the internal policies manual:** Review and, where applicable, amend the anti-money laundering compliance manual (vulnerable activities) to ensure it includes, at a minimum, the elements required by the AML Rules.

- **Determine the type of auditor required:** Determine whether an internal or external audit is appropriate based on the business's risk level and plan this decision sufficiently in advance to meet the requirements and timeframes set out in the AML Rules.

- **Implement automated monitoring mechanisms:** Identify and implement the most appropriate monitoring mechanism based on the type of internal transaction and the vulnerable activity carried out by the business.

- **Strengthen training and personnel selection processes:** Strengthen training programs and personnel selection procedures in accordance with the requirements of the AML Rules.

While these obligations are not yet enforceable following the publication of the amendments to the AML Rules in the DOF, their implementation requires an in-depth, strategic analysis that will demand time, personnel and resources.

Therefore, we recommend that businesses begin a gradual process of implementing the obligations set out in the AML Rules now. **Pérez-Llorca Mexico**'s AML, Anti-corruption and Compliance team remains at your disposal to assist you with the implementation of and compliance with these new obligations.

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