



TO : **Cyprus Investment Firms ('CIFs')**
FROM : **Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission**
DATE : **June 30, 2023**
CIRCULAR No : **C583**
FILE No : **E.K. 02.03.001, E.K. 01.03.001 and E.K. 01.13.001.002.002**
SUBJECT : **CIFs Quarterly Statistics (Form QST-CIF) – 30/06/2023 Submission**

The present Circular is issued pursuant to section 25(1)(c)(ii) & (iii) of the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission Law (the 'CySEC Law').

The Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (the 'CySEC') wishes to inform all CIFs about the following:

1. Information Requested by CySEC

- 1.1 The latest version of the **Form QST-CIF, Version 11**, found in the [Appendix](#), must be completed and submitted to CySEC by **all CIFs that were authorised by June 30, 2023**. In this respect, CIFs that were authorised by June 30, 2023, but have not made use of their authorisation **must also submit the Form**.
- 1.2 The steps that CIFs will have to follow, for the successful submission of the Form to the TRS, can be found [here](#). Upon submission, CIFs are responsible to ensure that they have received a **feedback file**, i.e. an official submission confirmation dispatched by the TRS in the Outgoing directory.
- 1.3 The feedback file will either contain a NO ERROR indication or, in case that an error(s) has occurred during submission, the description of that error(s). In case of any errors detected during submission of the Form, CIFs must review the Form and ensure that all errors are addressed and corrected, before they digitally sign (only applicable for the Excel files) and re-submit the Form. **The Form is regarded as being successfully submitted to CySEC, only when a NO ERROR indication feedback file is received**. This feedback file is dispatched, only during CySEC regular hours.

2. Deadline for the submission of the Form

- 2.1. The Form must be successfully submitted electronically via the CySEC's Transaction Reporting System ('TRS') **by 15:00 hrs, Friday, August 4, 2023, the latest**. CySEC wishes to emphasise the importance of meeting the deadline set, for successful submission of the Form.

2.2. Kindly note that the deadline for submissions of the Form to TRS is **5 weeks after each quarter end**.

2.3. Please refer to the **table below** for **submission deadlines of the remaining quarters of 2023**:

Quarter	Reporting Period	Submission Deadline
Q2 2023	01/04/2023-30/06/2023	04/08/2023
Q3 2023	01/07/2023-30/09/2023	06/11/2023
Q4 2023	01/10/2023-31/12/2023	05/02/2024

2.4. **Failure to promptly and duly comply with the above may bear the administrative penalties of section 37(5) of the CySEC Law. It is further noted that CySEC will not send any reminders to those CIFs, which fail to promptly and duly comply.**

3. Useful information regarding the new version of the Form

3.1. Section K

3.1.1. Point 6.2

Please analyse the number of retail clients (**physical persons only**) reported in point 6.1 above, by classifying them into the specific age group.

3.1.2. Point 6.3

Please state the number of retail clients, out of the number of retail clients reported in point 6.1 above, that are classified/considered as first-time investors.

"First-time investors" refer to investors with no prior experience in financial investments, based on the firms' client suitability **and/or appropriateness** assessment.

3.2. Section L

3.2.1. Basis of provision of Services (Column C)

3.2.1.1. In Column C, please choose from the drop-down list, whether the services/activities provided to clients whose country of residence is an **EEA Country** (excluding Cyprus) fall under '**Freedom to provide services**' basis or under '**Freedom of establishment**' basis.

3.2.1.2. For the provision of services to clients whose country of residence is **Cyprus**, please choose the '**Not Applicable**' (N/A) option, under the basis of provision of services field (Column C).

3.2.1.3. For the provision of services to clients whose country of residence is a **Third Country**, please choose the '**Provision of Services in Third Country**' option, under the basis of provision of services field (Column C).

4. General Comments for the Form

- 4.1. The Form will be available **only** in the **English language**.
- 4.2. CIFs are required to report data in **Euro**, rounded to the nearest unit.
- 4.3. Please always ensure that you have the latest version of the Form, i.e. **Version 11**.
- 4.4. Instructions on the completion of the Form can be found in the **‘Instructions’** worksheet of the Form.
- 4.5. **Definition of ‘client’ varies** across different Sections of the Form. CySEC wishes to emphasize the importance of reading the Instructions/Definitions Sections of the Form **carefully** when completing each Section.
- 4.6. **Reporting periods vary** across different Sections of the Form: **“as at the reference date”, “during the reporting period”, “during the cumulative reporting period”**. CIFs are expected to read **carefully** the **‘General Instructions’** found on the top of each Section so that the figures reported in that Section refer to the correct reporting period.

Kind reminder of the table below:

Quarter	Reporting Period		Cumulative Reporting Period		Reference Date
	Period	Time Span	Period	Time Span	Date
Q1	01/01/20XX-31/03/20XX	3 months	01/01/20XX-31/03/20XX	3 months	31/03/20XX
Q2	01/04/20XX-30/06/20XX	3 months	01/01/20XX-30/06/20XX	6 months	30/06/20XX
Q3	01/07/20XX-30/09/20XX	3 months	01/01/20XX-30/09/20XX	9 months	30/09/20XX
Q4	01/10/20XX-31/12/20XX	3 months	01/01/20XX-31/12/20XX	12 months	31/12/20XX

- 4.7. **Before submitting the Form, please ensure that all validation tests that are contained in the Form (Sections General Info, A, B, C, Reconciliation, D1, D2, E, F1, F2, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O and Validation Tests Worksheet) are TRUE (Green Colour).**

5. Method of creating, signing and submitting the Form to the CySEC

After populating the required Excel fields in the Form, CIFs should name their Excel file in accordance to the following naming convention:

Username_yyyymmdd_QST-CIF

The information below explains the naming convention:

- (1) **Username** – is the username of the TRS credentials, which should already be in the possession of the CIFs, which have previously submitted any electronic files to the TRS system. This codification should be entered in capital letters. CIFs, that have not previously requested the TRS credentials, can do so, by referring [here](#), where further information is provided about the TRS.

- (2) **yyyymmdd** – this denotes the end of the reporting period of the Form. In this case, the Form should have a 20230630 format. Future forms will have different reporting periods.
- (3) **QST-CIF** – this is the coding of the Form, that it remains unchanged and should be inserted, exactly as it appears.
- (4) **The Excel® must be of 2007 version and onwards**. Excel will add the extension .xlsx, as soon as it is saved. This extension should not under any circumstances, be inserted manually.

The fully completed excel form, which is named based on the above paragraph, must be submitted only electronically, through the Transaction Reporting System ('TRS'), within the timeframes set.

6. Support

6.1. Queries on how to complete the fields of the Form

Should you have any queries on the completion of Form QST-CIF, please submit them **only** in writing, any day **PRIOR to Friday, July 28, 2023**, by sending an email to the address riskstatistics.cifs@cysec.gov.cy.

6.2. Technical Queries on digitally signing and submitting the Form

For technical matters on digitally signing and submitting the Form, the CIFs are advised to frequently visit the CySEC's website, at the specified [section](#). For further clarifications, CIFs are requested to use the electronic address information.technology@cysec.gov.cy.

All email communication with CySEC should include in the subject, the CIF's full name and the TRS coding.

Yours sincerely,

Dr George Theocharides
Chairman, Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission