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CREDIT UNION ACT 1997 (REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS 2016 (S.I. No. 1 of 2016)

Unofficial Consolidation

This document is an unofficial consolidation of the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 1 of 2016) as amended by the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 32 of 2018)¹, Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 642 of 2019)², Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 675 of 2020)³, the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 496 of 2024)⁴ and the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 655 of 2024)⁵. For ease of reference, changes made by the amending regulations in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2024 are shown in **blue**.

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Central Bank of Ireland, 13 January 2025

¹ Amendments made by S.I. No. 32 of 2018 came into operation on 1 March 2018

² Amendments made by S.I. No. 642 of 2019 came into operation on 1 January 2020

³ Amendments made by S.I. No. 675 of 2020 came into operation on 22 December 2020

⁴ Amendments made by S.I. No. 496 of 2024 came into operation on 30 September 2024

⁵ Amendments made by S.I. No. 655 of 2024 came into operation on 1 January 2025.

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S.I. No. 1 of 2016

CREDIT UNION ACT 1997 (REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS 2016

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

1. Citation and Commencement
2. Interpretation

PART 2

RESERVES

3. Reserves Perpetual in Nature and Available to Absorb Losses
4. Regulatory Reserve Requirement
5. Reporting Requirements
6. Dividends

PART 3

LIQUIDITY

7. Interpretation – Part 3
8. Liquidity Requirements
9. Reporting Requirements
10. [...]

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PART 4

LENDING

11. Categories of Lending
12. Concentration Limits
- 12A. [Approval for increasing Combined Lending Capacity to 15 per cent]
13. Large Exposure Limit
14. [Maximum Loan Terms]
15. Requirement for House Loans
16. Lending Practices for Specific Categories of Lending
17. General Lending Practices
18. Related Parties – General
19. Related Parties – Specific
20. Related Parties – Exempt Exposures
21. Related Parties – Recording and Monitoring Requirements
22. Related Parties – Credit Policy
23. Lending Policies
24. Transitional Arrangements

PART 5

INVESTMENTS

25. Classes of Investments

Please Note: This is an unofficial consolidation prepared by the Central Bank of Ireland. This is not a legal document and should only be used as an informal guide to the legislation.

- 26. Counterparty Limits
- 27. Concentration Limits
- 28. Maturity Limits
- 29. [\[Minimum Rating Requirements\]](#)
- 30. Holding of Investments
- 31. Investment Practices – Distribution of Investment Income/ Investment Gain
- 32. Investment Practices – Concentration Risk
- 33. Transitional Arrangements

PART 6

SAVINGS

- 34. Savings Requirement – Aggregate Liabilities
- 35. Savings Limit
- 36. Transitional Arrangements – Retention of savings in excess of €100,000
- 37. Approval for additional savings
- 38. Regulations 36 and 37: Conditions on approval

PART 7

BORROWING

- 39. Interpretation – Part 7
- 40. Borrowing Limit
- 41. Borrowing Requirement – Notice to Bank
- 42. Borrowing Requirement – Calculation

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43. Borrowing Policy

44. Transitional Arrangements

PART 8

SYSTEMS, CONTROLS AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

45. Risk Register

46. Plans, Policies and Procedures

47. Reporting and Disclosure in the Annual Accounts

PART 9

SERVICES EXEMPT FROM ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

48. Performing Services

PART 10

MISCELLANEOUS

49. Revocations

Schedule 1

Schedule 2

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S.I. No. 1 of 2016

CREDIT UNION ACT 1997 (REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS 2016

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Central Bank of Ireland (the “Bank”) by section 182A of the Credit Union Act, 1997 (“the Act”), the Bank, having consulted with the Minister for Finance, the Credit Union Advisory Committee and other bodies that appear to the Bank to have expertise or knowledge of credit unions generally and that the Bank considers appropriate to consult in the circumstances, hereby makes the following Regulations.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Citation and Commencement

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Credit Union Act 1997 (Regulatory Requirements) Regulations 2016.
- (2) These Regulations commence on 1 January 2016.

Interpretation

2. (1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“accounts in credit institutions” means interest bearing deposit accounts (or instruments with similar characteristics) in a credit institution;

[“approved housing body” means a housing body granted approval status under section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992;]⁶

“assets” means the total assets referred to in section 85A of the Act;

[“bank bond” means a senior bond issued by a credit institution and traded on a regulated market where the capital amount invested is guaranteed by the issuer and, for the avoidance of doubt, does

⁶ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

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not include any bond that is subordinated to any other liability of that credit institution;]⁷

“the Bank” means the Central Bank of Ireland;

“business day” means a day upon which a credit union is open to conduct all or part of its activities;

[...] ⁸

[...] ⁹

[“business loan” means a loan other than a community loan, that is made to-

- (a) a member of the credit union that is an approved housing body, or
- (b) a member, or where there is more than one member, at least one of those members, that satisfies the following conditions:
 - (i) the loan is made for purposes of the person’s trade, business or profession;
 - (ii) the person is a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise within the meaning of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC;
 - (iii) the loan is not made for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the purchase, construction or refinancing of buildings or the purchase or refinancing of land that the person intends to rent to a third party in order to generate income;]¹⁰

[“Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC” means the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises¹¹];¹²

“community loan” means a loan to a community or voluntary organisation which is established for the express purpose of furthering the social, economic or environmental well-being of individuals within the common bond of the credit union in any of the following areas-

- (a) sport and recreation;
- (b) culture and heritage;
- (c) the arts (within the meaning of the Arts Act 2003);

⁷ Inserted by Regulation 3(a) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

⁸ Definition of ‘collective investment schemes’ deleted by Regulation 3(b) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

⁹ Definition of ‘commercial loans’ deleted by Regulation 3(a) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

¹⁰ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

¹¹ OJ No. L124, 20.5.2003, p.36

¹² Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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- (d) health of the community;
- (e) youth, welfare and amenities; and
- (f) natural environment;

["corporate bond" means a bond issued by a company and traded on a regulated market excluding the following:

- (a) a bond issued by a credit institution;
- (b) a bond issued by a holding company of a credit institution;]¹³

"counterparty" means any person that a credit union has made investments with. Where a counterparty is a company, the definition also includes a related company;

"credit institution" means a person authorised as same pursuant to Directive 2013/36/EU;

["credit rating" has the same meaning as it has in Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No. 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009¹⁴ on credit rating agencies;]¹⁵

["credit transfer" means a payment service for crediting a payee's account with a payment transaction or a series of payment transactions, from a member's share account, deposit account, budget account or current account by the credit union which holds the member's account, based on an instruction given by the member;

"current account" means an account held by a member or members with the credit union that is used primarily for the execution of day-to-day payment transactions and in respect of which members holding the account may use an ATM card, payment card or similar device and payment card or similar device having ATM functionality;]¹⁶

"deposit protection account" means the amount a credit union must maintain under the Deposit Guarantee Scheme;

["direct debit" means a payment service for debiting a member's share account, deposit account,

¹³ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

¹⁴ OJ No. L302, 17.11.2009, p. 1

¹⁵ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

¹⁶ Inserted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 655 of 2024

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budget account or current account, where a payment transaction is initiated by the payee on the basis of the consent given by the member to the payee, to the payee’s payment service provider or to the member’s payment service provider;]¹⁷

“EEA” means the European Economic Area;

“final repayment date” means the date on which the loan is due to expire, as indicated on the relevant credit agreement in accordance with section 37C(1)(j) of the Act or any subsequent date agreed between the credit union and the member to whom the loan has been made;

[“holding company” means a company whose business consists wholly or mainly of the holding of shares or securities of other companies;]¹⁸

[“house” means any building or part of a building that does not have a commercial use as its primary purpose and is used or suitable for use as a dwelling and any outhouse, yard, garden or other land appurtenant thereto or usually enjoyed therewith;]¹⁹

“house loan” means a loan made to a member secured by property for the purpose of enabling the member to:

- (a) have a house constructed on the property as their principal residence;
- (b) improve or renovate a house on the property that is already used as their principal residence,
- (c) buy a house that is already constructed on the property for use as their principal residence, or
- (d) refinance a loan previously provided for one of the purposes specified in (a), (b) or (c) for the same purpose;

“investment gain” means an increase in the value of an investment, made as provided for under section 43 of the Act on the balance sheet of a credit union, other than income receivable;

“investment income” means income received or receivable from an investment made as provided

¹⁷ Inserted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 655 of 2024

¹⁸ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

¹⁹ Inserted by Regulation 3(b) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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for under section 43 of the Act;

“Irish and EEA State Securities” means transferable securities issued by the Irish State and other EEA States and traded on a regulated market;

[“member” includes a person in respect of whom services are being offered or provided by a credit union –

(a) as part of an agreement referred to in section 35(2)(c) of the Act; or

(b) pursuant to the receipt of a referral from another credit union in accordance with section 51A of the Act;]²⁰

“member of the family” means in relation to any person, that person’s father, mother, spouse or civil partner, cohabitant, son, daughter, brother, or sister;

[“minimum reserve deposit account” means an account that a credit union must hold with the Bank in accordance with the minimum reserve requirement regulation;]²¹

[“minimum reserve requirement regulation” means Regulation (EC) No. 1745/2003 of the European Central Bank of 12 September 2003 on the application of minimum reserves (ECB/2003/9)²², as amended from time to time;]²³

[“money remittance” means a service where funds are received by the credit union from a member, for the sole purpose of transferring a corresponding amount to a third party or to another payment service provider acting on behalf of the payee, and/or where such funds are received on behalf of and made available to the payee;

“payment service provider” means a person referred to in Regulation 6(1) of the European Union (Payment Services) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 6 of 2018);

“payment transaction” means an act, initiated by a member or on the member’s behalf, as the payer, or by the payee, of placing, transferring or withdrawing funds, irrespective of any underlying

²⁰ Inserted by Regulation 3 of S.I. No. 496 of 2024

²¹ Substituted by Regulation 3(a) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

²² Official Journal L 250, 02/10/2003 P. 0010 - 0016

²³ Inserted by Regulation 3(b) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

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obligations between the payer and the payee including transactions which may take place in respect of, but not limited to the following payment services:

- (a) services enabling cash to be placed on a current account as well as all the operations required for operating a current account;
- (b) services enabling cash withdrawals from a current account as well as all the operations required for operating a current account;
- (c) execution of transactions comprising transfers of funds on a current account with the member's credit union or with another payment service provider, including:
 - (i) execution of direct debits, including one-off direct debits;
 - (ii) execution of transactions through a payment card or a similar device; or
 - (iii) execution of credit transfers, including standing orders;
- (d) execution of transactions where the funds are covered by a credit line for the credit union member, including:
 - (i) execution of direct debits, including one-off direct debits;
 - (ii) execution of transactions through a payment card or a similar device; or
 - (iii) execution of credit transfers, including standing orders;
- (e) issuing of payment instruments in the form of payment cards and similar devices;]²⁴

“personal loan” means a loan to a natural person, once the loan is for purposes unrelated to the person's trade, business, profession or the purchase of property;

“Personal Retirement Savings Account”, “PRSA” and “PRSA Provider” each have the same meaning as in Part X of the Pensions Act 1990;

[“recognised rating agency” means a credit rating agency that is registered or certified in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009²⁵ on credit rating agencies;]²⁶

“regulated market” means a multilateral system as defined in Article 4 of Directive 2004/39/EC;

“related company” means companies related within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Companies

²⁴ Inserted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 655 of 2024

²⁵ OJ No. L302, 17.11.2009, p. 1

²⁶ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

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Act 2014;

“related party” means –

- (a) a member of the board of directors or the management team of a credit union;
- (b) a member of the family of a member of the board of directors or the management team of a credit union; or
- (c) a business in which a member of the board of directors or the management team of a credit union has a significant shareholding;

[“secured loan” means a loan that is secured by a mortgage, charge, assignment, pledge, lien, or other encumbrance in or over any asset or property, but shall not include unsecured guarantees by third parties;]²⁷

“significant shareholding” means 10 per cent or more of the shares or voting rights in the business;

[“supranational bond” means a bond issued by a supranational institution, being an institution formed by two or more central governments with the purpose of promoting economic development for the member countries;]²⁸

“the Act” means the Credit Union Act, 1997;

[“Tier 3 Approved Housing Body” means a housing body granted approval status under section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 and classified as Tier 3 under the Voluntary Regulation Code for Approved Housing Bodies in Ireland;]²⁹

“total realised reserves” means the regulatory reserves of the credit union held in accordance with, and for the purposes of, Part 2 of these Regulations and section 45 of the Act, plus any other realised reserves held by the credit union;

“total savings” means, in respect of a member, those savings referred to in section 27(1) of the Act and any other amounts held by a credit union;

²⁷ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

²⁸ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

²⁹ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

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[“UCITS” means an undertaking authorised as an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities by the Bank or by a competent authority of another EEA State pursuant to Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009³⁰ on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS);]³¹

“unattached savings” means those total savings which are not attached to loans or otherwise pledged as security and are withdrawable by members;

[“unsecured loan” means a loan that is not a secured loan.]³²

- (2) A word or expression used in these Regulations and also used in the Act has, unless the contrary intention appears, the same meaning in these Regulations that it has in the Act.

PART 2 RESERVES

Reserves Perpetual in Nature and Available to Absorb Losses

3. (1) A credit union shall ensure that all reserves held in accordance with, and for the purpose of, this Part and section 45 of the Act are:
- (a) perpetual in nature;
 - (b) freely available to absorb losses;
 - (c) realised financial reserves that are:
 - (i) unrestricted; and
 - (ii) non-distributable.
- (2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), any instrument classified or contributing to a reserve shall, in order to be eligible:
- (a) not be secured or subject to a guarantee which enhances its seniority;
 - (b) be permanent and without an obligation for repayment of principal;

³⁰ OJ No. L302, 17.11.2009, p. 32

³¹ Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

³² Inserted by Regulation 3(c) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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- (c) have no preferential distribution rights;
- (d) rank below all other claims in the event of a liquidation;
- (e) qualify as a reserve for accounting purposes.

Regulatory Reserve Requirement

4. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a credit union shall establish and maintain a minimum regulatory reserve requirement of at least 10 per cent of the assets of the credit union.
- (2) A newly registered credit union shall establish and maintain an initial reserve requirement that:
- (a) is sufficient to meet the credit union's anticipated growth over 3 years;
 - (b) takes account of operating losses that can be expected to occur until the credit union reaches an operationally viable performance level; and
 - (c) is at least equal to the greater of:
 - (i) €10,000; or
 - (ii) minimum regulatory reserve requirement specified in paragraph (1).

Reporting Requirements

5. (1) A credit union shall monitor its reserves on a continuous basis to ensure compliance with this Part and section 45 of the Act.
- (2) Where a credit union fails, or is likely to fail, to comply with its reserve requirement in this Part or section 45 of the Act, the credit union shall notify the Bank in writing no later than close of business of the next business day.

Dividends

6. Where a credit union has complied with the requirements in this Part and section 45 of the Act, but has recorded a deficit in its annual accounts and is proposing to pay a dividend and/or a loan interest rebate, the credit union shall inform the Bank in writing at least 3 weeks before it gives notice of its Annual General Meeting, as required under section 80(3) of the Act.

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PART 3 LIQUIDITY

[Interpretation - Part 3

[7. (1) In this Part "relevant liquid assets" means, subject to paragraph (1A), the following unencumbered assets only:

- (a) cash;
- (b) investments with a maturity of less than 3 months, excluding any amount held in the credit union's—
 - (i) minimum reserve deposit account for the purpose of complying with its reserve requirement under the minimum reserve requirement regulation;
 - (ii) deposit protection account;
- (c) Irish and EEA State Securities, bank bonds and supranational bonds with a maturity of greater than 3 months, held either directly or through a UCITS, provided that all such Irish and EEA State Securities and supranational bonds comply with the minimum rating requirements specified in Regulation 29(1) or 29(3).]³³

[(1A) If a credit union maintains on each day during a maintenance period, as defined in the minimum reserve requirement regulation, a balance in its minimum reserve deposit account that is equal to the average daily balance that would be required to satisfy that credit union's reserve requirement for that maintenance period, any balance in the account in excess of that amount may be included in relevant liquid assets.]³⁴

- (2) For the purposes of calculating the minimum liquidity ratio specified in [Regulation 8]³⁵, the following discounts shall be applied in valuing the relevant liquid assets specified in paragraph (1)(c):
- (a) where such investments have a maturity of greater than three months and less than one year, a 10 per cent discount shall be applied to the market value of such investments;
 - (b) where such investments have a maturity of at least one year but less than 5 years, a 30 per cent discount shall be applied to the market value of such investments;
 - [(c) where such investments have a maturity of 5 years or more, a 50 per cent discount

³³ Substituted by Regulation 4(a) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

³⁴ Inserted by Regulation 4(b) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

³⁵ Substituted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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shall be applied to the market value of such investments.]³⁶

[Liquidity Requirements

8. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a credit union shall establish and maintain a liquidity ratio of at least 20 per cent.
- (2) A credit union shall establish and maintain a liquidity ratio of –
- (a) at least 25 per cent, where the total gross loan amount outstanding to that credit union with more than 5 years to the final repayment date exceeds 20 per cent but is less than 25 per cent of the total gross amount outstanding in relation to all loans,
 - (b) greater than 25 per cent, where the total gross loan amount outstanding to that credit union with more than 5 years to the final repayment date is equal to or exceeds 25 per cent but is less than 29 per cent of the total gross amount outstanding in relation to all loans, or
 - (c) at least 30 per cent, where the total gross loan amount outstanding to that credit union with more than 5 years to the final repayment date is equal or exceeds 29 per cent of the total gross amount outstanding in relation to all loans.
- (3) Where a credit union fails to comply with paragraph (2), it shall not make any new loan with more than 5 years to the final repayment date unless it has obtained the Bank's prior approval in writing to make such a loan.
- (4) A credit union shall ensure that relevant liquid assets held in compliance with this Regulation shall have the following composition:
- (a) at least 2.5 per cent of unattached savings shall comprise cash and investments with a maturity of less than 8 days;
 - (b) no more than 10 per cent of unattached savings shall comprise the relevant liquid assets specified in Regulation 7(1)(c), after application of the applicable discounts specified in Regulation 7(2).
- (5) In this Regulation, 'liquidity ratio' means relevant liquid assets as a percentage of unattached savings.]³⁷

³⁶ Substituted by Regulation 4 (c) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

³⁷ Substituted by Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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Reporting Requirements

9. (1) A credit union shall monitor its liquidity ratio on a continuous basis to ensure compliance with the liquidity requirements in this Part and in the Act.
- (2) Where a credit union is failing, or likely to fail to comply, with the liquidity requirements in this Part or in the Act, it shall notify the Bank in writing no later than close of business on the next business day.]³⁸

[Transitional Arrangements

10. ...]³⁹

PART 4 LENDING

[Categories of Lending

11. A credit union shall only make loans that fall within the following categories:
- (a) personal loans;
 - (b) business loans;
 - (c) community loans;
 - (d) house loans;
 - (e) loans to other credit unions.]⁴⁰

[Concentration Limits

12. (1) A credit union shall not make –
- (a) a community loan, where such a loan would cause the total amount of outstanding community loans of the credit union to exceed 25 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve, or
 - (b) a loan to another credit union, where such a loan would cause the total amount of outstanding loans of the credit union to other credit unions to exceed 12.5 per cent

³⁸ Substituted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

³⁹ Deleted by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

⁴⁰ Substituted by Regulation 6 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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of the credit union's regulatory reserves.

- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), a credit union shall not make a house loan or a business loan where such loan would cause the combined total gross amount outstanding in relation to house loans and business loans to exceed 7.5 per cent of the assets of the credit union.
- (3) A credit union that satisfies all of the requirements in paragraph (4) can increase its combined total gross amount outstanding in relation to house loans and business loans to 10 per cent of the assets of the credit union.
- (4) The requirements referred to in paragraph (3) are the following:
 - (a) the credit union has maintained, for 2 or more consecutive quarters immediately preceding the date on which the notification referred to in subparagraph (b) is made –
 - (i) a minimum asset size of €50,000,000, and
 - (ii) regulatory reserves of at least 12.5 per cent of the assets of the credit union;
 - (b) the credit union has provided the Bank with at least one month's prior notification in writing that the credit union –
 - (i) is satisfied that it is compliant with the criteria in paragraph (a) at the time of the notification, and
 - (ii) intends to increase lending in respect of house loans and business loans in accordance with paragraph (3).
- (5) A credit union that is subject to the limits set out in paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) shall not make a business loan where such a loan would cause the total gross amount outstanding in relation to business loans to exceed 5 per cent of the assets of the credit union.
- (6) A credit union that has made a notification to the Bank under paragraph (4)(b) but no longer complies with the criteria in paragraph (4)(a), shall –
 - (a) notify the Bank in writing without delay, and
 - (b) cease making new house loans or new business loans in breach of paragraph (2) except where the credit union has already entered into a legally binding agreement with a member to advance a new house loan or a new business loan.]⁴¹

⁴¹ Substituted by Regulation 7(a) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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[Approval for increasing Combined Lending Capacity to 15 per cent

- 12A.(1) A credit union may apply to the Bank for approval to increase its combined total gross amount outstanding in relation to house loans and business loans to 15 per cent of the assets of the credit union.
- (2) The Bank may grant an approval referred to in paragraph (1) where –
- (a) the credit union had assets of at least €100,000,000 for 2 or more consecutive quarters immediately preceding the date on which the application was submitted under paragraph (1), and
 - (b) the Bank is satisfied that the credit union has demonstrated that the approval would be –
 - (i) consistent with the adequate protection of the savings of the members of that credit union, and
 - (ii) effective and proportionate, having regard to the nature, scale and complexity of the credit union.
- (3) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(b), the Bank shall consider the following:
- (a) the total realised reserve position of the credit union;
 - (b) such other matters that the Bank may specify from time to time.
- (4) Where the Bank grants an approval under paragraph (2), it may, at that time or at any other time, make the approval subject to conditions with which the credit union shall comply.
- (5) A credit union that is approved by the Bank pursuant to paragraph (2) shall notify the Bank in writing without delay where it no longer complies with any of the requirements in paragraph (2) or any condition imposed on the approval under paragraph (4).
- (6) Subject to paragraph (7), a credit union that has made a notification pursuant to paragraph (5) shall –
- (a) not make new house loans or new business loans that would cause the combined total gross amount outstanding in relation to house loans and business loans to exceed –
 - (i) 10 per cent of the assets of the credit union if the credit union complied with the requirements of Regulation 12(4)(a)(i) and (ii) for 2 or more

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consecutive quarters immediately prior to the date that the notification referred to in paragraph (5) is made, or

(ii) 7.5 per cent of the assets of the credit union in all other cases,

and

(b) not make new business loans that would cause the total gross amount outstanding in relation to business loans to exceed 5 per cent of the assets of the credit union.

(7) Paragraph (6) shall not apply where the credit union has already entered into a legally binding agreement with a member to advance a new house loan or a new business loan.]⁴²

Large Exposure Limit

13. (1) A credit union shall not make a loan to a borrower or a group of borrowers who are connected which would cause the credit union to have a total exposure to the borrower or group of borrowers who are connected of greater than €39,000 or 10 per cent of the regulatory reserve of the credit union.

(2) Where an exposure to a borrower or group of borrowers who are connected exceeds the limit set out in paragraph (1), the credit union must hold the amount of the exposure that is in excess of the limit in a realised reserve, separate from the regulatory reserve of the credit union.

(3) The requirement specified in paragraph (2) shall not apply to exposures existing at the time of the commencement of these Regulations, for a period of 2 years from the commencement of these Regulations.

[Maximum Loan Terms

14. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a credit union shall not make –

(a) an unsecured loan to a member where the period from the date on which the loan is made until the final repayment date exceeds 10 years, or

(b) a secured loan to a member where the period from the date on which the loan is made to the final repayment date exceeds 35 years.

⁴² Inserted by Regulation 7(b) of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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- (2) With respect to a loan made to a member, a credit union may, with the consent of the member or of a person acting under the member's written authority, alter the repayment conditions to extend the term of the loan beyond the limit set down in paragraph (1) in either of the following circumstances:
- (a) the loan is in arrears at the time the repayment conditions are altered;
 - (b) the loan would fall into arrears if the repayment conditions were not altered because the terms of the original loan agreement would no longer be met.]⁴³

[Requirement for House Loans

15. A credit union shall only make a house loan -
- (a) for one or more of the purposes specified in subparagraph (a) or (c) of the definition of 'house loan', or
 - (b) to refinance a loan previously provided for one or more of the purposes specified in subparagraph (a) or (c) of the definition of 'house loan',
- where that loan will be secured as a first legal charge on the property.]⁴⁴

[Lending Practices for Specific Categories of Lending

16. (1) A credit union shall only grant a business loan, a community loan or a loan to another credit union where a comprehensive business plan and detailed financial projections (supported by evidence-based assumptions), appropriate for the scale and complexity of the loan, have been provided to it before it grants the relevant loan.
- (2) A credit union shall report on the performance of loans, in writing, to the board of directors of the credit union on a monthly basis, and such report shall include details on the performance of business loans, community loans, house loans and loans to other credit unions.
- (3) This Regulation does not apply to a business loan granted by a credit union where the total amount of business loans granted to a borrower, or group of borrowers who are connected, is less than €25,000.]⁴⁵

⁴³ Substituted by Regulation 8 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

⁴⁴ Substituted by Regulation 9 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

⁴⁵ Substituted by Regulation 10 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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General Lending Practices

17. (1) A credit union shall permit a member to repay a loan on any day that the credit union is open for business (including opening hours of branch or otherwise available for business).
- (2) A credit union shall establish and maintain the matters specified below in writing:
- (a) limits in respect of credit concentration and loan portfolio diversification including the maximum amount of [business lending]⁴⁶, community lending and lending to other credit unions; and
 - (b) processes which the credit union will follow in relation to arrears management and rescheduling.
- (3) A credit union shall ensure that its credit assessment process is based on coherent and clearly defined criteria and that the process of approving loans and amending loans is clearly established and documented in its credit policy.

Related Parties - General

18. (1) A credit union shall not make a loan to a related party which would provide that party with more favourable terms than a loan by the credit union to non-related parties (including, without limitation, terms as to credit assessment, duration, interest rates, amortisation schedules, collateral requirements).
- (2) A credit union shall not manage a loan to a related party on more favourable terms than a loan by the credit union to non-related parties (including but not limited to varying the terms of a loan, permitting rescheduling, interest roll-up, granting a grace period for payment, loan write-off in whole or in part, provisioning against a loan, decisions to take or not to take enforcement action).

Related Parties - Specific

19. (1) Subject to Regulation 18, a credit union shall ensure that the making of a loan to a related party is subject to individual prior approval in writing by the credit committee and that actions in relation to the management of a loan are subject to individual prior approval in

⁴⁶ Substituted by Regulation 11 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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writing by the credit committee or the credit control committee of the credit union as appropriate.

- (2) A credit union shall exclude individuals on the credit committee or the credit control committee with conflicts of interest in relation to matters specified in paragraph (1).

Related Parties – Exempt Exposures

20. (1) Regulations 19 and 21 do not apply where the total credit union exposure to the related party is not greater than €2,000.
- (2) In relation to exempt exposures referred to in paragraph (1), a credit union shall ensure that:-
 - (a) the credit union monitors these loans to ensure that the limit imposed is not exceeded;
 - (b) a register of these loans recording how it has complied with this requirement is maintained by the credit union; and
 - (c) a report on these loans is reviewed and approved by the board of directors of the credit union on a quarterly basis.

Related Parties – Recording and Monitoring Requirements

21. (1) A credit union shall record and monitor loans made to related parties and report, in writing, to the board of directors on related party loans on a monthly basis. Such a report shall include details of loans advanced to related parties during the month, total loans outstanding to related parties, the performance of loans to related parties and actions in respect of the management of loans to related parties.
- (2) A credit union shall ensure that the internal audit function assesses, at least annually, the compliance or otherwise by a credit union with Regulation 19 and paragraph (1) of this Regulation and, after each assessment, submit a written report to the board of directors indicating their findings and conclusions and, where appropriate, making recommendations on any changes required.

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Related Parties – Credit Policy

22. A credit union shall include the process in relation to lending to a related party in its Credit Policy.

[Lending Policies

23. (1) A credit union shall, at a minimum, establish and maintain the following written lending policies:

- (a) a credit policy;
- (b) a credit control policy;
- (c) a provisioning policy.

(2) A credit union shall assess the adequacy of its provisioning for bad and doubtful debts on a quarterly basis, having regard to its provisioning policy.

(3) A credit union shall, without delay, make any adjustments to its provisioning for bad or doubtful debts deemed necessary as a result of a review provided for by paragraph (2).⁴⁷

Transitional Arrangements

24. [(1) Nothing in these Regulations shall render unlawful any loan that conflicts with these Regulations but was made or restructured by a credit union in accordance with the legislative requirements applicable at the time the loan was made or restructured, and the credit union may continue to hold such loan until it has been paid or discharged in full.]⁴⁸

(2) Where, at the commencement of these Regulations, a credit union is failing to comply with the requirements in this Part, that credit union shall only make a loan where the making of such a loan would not cause the credit union to either fail to comply or exacerbate a failure to comply with any of the requirements in this Part.

⁴⁷ Substituted by Regulation 12 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

⁴⁸ Substituted by Regulation 13 of S.I. No. 642 of 2019

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PART 5 INVESTMENTS

[Classes of Investments]

25. (1) A credit union may only invest in euro denominated investments in the following:
- (a) Irish and EEA State Securities;
 - (b) supranational bonds;
 - (c) accounts in credit institutions;
 - (d) bank bonds;
 - (e) corporate bonds;
 - (f) regulated investment vehicles where the underlying investments of the regulated investment vehicle are investments in Tier 3 Approved Housing Bodies;
 - (g) UCITS;
 - (h) shares of, and deposits with, other credit unions;
 - (i) shares of a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 to 1978, provided the society is not an approved housing body.
- (2) For the purposes of Regulation 25(1)(f), the underlying investments of a regulated investment vehicle in a Tier 3 Approved Housing Body shall consist exclusively of loans or other forms of debt financing provided by the regulated investment vehicle to the Tier 3 Approved Housing Body.
- (3) A credit union may invest in a UCITS only where -
- (a) the underlying investments of the UCITS are composed of instruments specified in Regulation 25(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) (or any combination of such instruments),
 - (b) the UCITS has total assets with a value of at least €150 million, and
 - (c) the making of such an investment would not cause a credit union to fail to comply with this Part.
- (4) The Bank may prescribe from time to time, in accordance with section 43 of the Act, further classes of investments in which a credit union may invest its funds which may include investments in projects of a public nature. Investments in projects of a public nature include, but are not limited to, investments in social housing projects.

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Counterparty Limits

26. (1) A credit union shall not make an investment with a counterparty which, were that investment to be made, would cause the credit union's investments with that counterparty to exceed 20 per cent of the credit union's total value of investments.
- (2) A credit union shall not make a direct investment in corporate bonds issued by a particular counterparty which, were that investment to be made, would cause the credit union's direct investments in corporate bonds issued by that counterparty to exceed 5 per cent of the total value of the credit union's regulatory reserve.

Concentration Limits

27. (1) A credit union shall not make an investment in Irish and EEA State Securities, either directly or through a UCITS, which would cause the credit union's combined investments in Irish and EEA State Securities and supranational bonds, held directly or through a UCITS, to exceed 70 per cent of the total value of the credit union's investments.
- (2) A credit union shall not make an investment in supranational bonds, either directly or through a UCITS, which would cause the credit union's combined investments in Irish and EEA State Securities and supranational bonds, held directly or through a UCITS, to exceed 70 per cent of the total value of the credit union's investments.
- (3) A credit union shall not make an investment in bank bonds, either directly or through a UCITS, which would cause the credit union's investments in bank bonds, held directly or through a UCITS, to exceed 70 per cent of the total value of the credit union's investments.
- (4) A credit union shall not make an investment in corporate bonds, either directly or through a UCITS, which would cause the credit union's investments in corporate bonds, held directly or through a UCITS, to exceed 50 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve.
- (5) A credit union shall not make an investment in a regulated investment vehicle referred to in Regulation 25(1)(f) which would cause the credit union's investments in such regulated

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investment vehicles to exceed-

- (a) 50 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve, where the credit union has assets of at least €100 million, or
 - (b) 25 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve, where the credit union has assets of less than €100 million.
- (6) A credit union shall not make an investment in another credit union which would cause the credit union's investments in other credit unions to exceed 12.5 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve.
- (7) A credit union shall not make an investment in the shares of a society referred to in Regulation 25(1)(i) which would cause the credit union's investments in shares in societies referred to in Regulation 25(1)(i) to exceed 12.5 per cent of the credit union's regulatory reserve.

Maturity Limits

28. [(1) Subject to paragraph (1A), with the exception of an investment in a regulated investment vehicle referred to in Regulation 25(1)(f), a credit union shall not make an investment, either directly or through a UCITS, which has a maturity date which exceeds 10 years from the date of the investment]⁴⁹.

[(1A) In the case of an investment made, directly or through a UCITS, in either Irish and EEA State Securities referred to in Regulation 25(1)(a) or supranational bonds referred to in Regulation 25(1)(b), the maturity date shall not exceed 10 years and 6 months from the date of the investment.]⁵⁰

- (2) A credit union shall not make an investment in a regulated investment vehicle referred to in Regulation 25(1)(f) where the underlying investments of that regulated investment vehicle have a maturity date which exceeds 25 years from the date of the investment.
- (3) A credit union shall not make an investment which would cause the credit union to have more than 30 per cent of its investments maturing after 7 years.

⁴⁹ Substituted by Regulation 5(a) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

⁵⁰ Inserted by Regulation 5(b) of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

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- (4) A credit union shall not make an investment which would cause the credit union to have more than 50 per cent of its investments maturing after 5 years.

Minimum Rating Requirements

29. (1) A credit union may invest directly in -
- (a) Irish and EEA State Securities, or
 - (b) supranational bonds,
- only where at least two recognised rating agencies have assigned to those investments a credit rating of investment grade or higher.
- (2) A credit union may invest in corporate bonds directly only where at least two recognised rating agencies have assigned to each such investment a credit rating that is at least equivalent to an A3 rating on the rating scale issued by Moody's Investor Service.
- (3) A credit union may invest in UCITS where the underlying investments of the UCITS are composed of -
- (a) Irish and EEA State Securities,
 - (b) supranational bonds, or
 - (c) corporate bonds,
- only where at least one recognised rating agency has assigned to each such underlying investment of the UCITS a credit rating of investment grade or higher.

[(4) Subject to Regulation 33(4), where an investment made by a credit union no longer complies with the minimum rating requirements specified in paragraph (1), (2) or (3), a credit union shall divest itself of that investment as soon as possible.]⁵¹

Holding of Investments

30. A credit union shall ensure that any investments made remain in compliance with the investment requirements in this Part.

Investment Practices - Distribution of Investment Income/ Investment Gain

⁵¹ Substituted by Regulation 6 of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

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31. A credit union shall not distribute from its annual operating surplus, investment income or an investment gain to members or transfer investment income or an investment gain to a reserve set aside to provide for dividends, unless the investment income or investment gain falls within the following:
- (a) investment income or an investment gain received by the credit union at the balance sheet date;
 - (b) investment income that will be received by the credit union within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Investment Practices - Concentration Risk

32. A credit union shall establish and maintain a written strategy having regard to section 43 of the Act to manage concentration risk which can result from dealing with a single counterparty or holding investments with similar characteristics like maturities and to ensure investments remain within the limits contained in these Regulations.]⁵²

[33. *Transitional Arrangements*

- (1) Where, on 1 March 2018, a credit union has investments made in accordance with legislative requirements applicable at the time of the investment which do not comply with the requirements in this Part, the credit union shall (subject to paragraph (4)) -
- (a) take such actions as are necessary in relation to those investments in order to ensure compliance with this Part -
 - (i) as soon as possible without incurring a loss, and
 - (ii) in any event not later than 1 March 2020 or such later date as the Bank may permit;
 - (b) only make an investment where the making of such an investment would not cause the credit union to either –
 - (i) fail to comply with any of the requirements in this Part, or
 - (ii) exacerbate a failure existing on 1 March 2018 to comply with any of the requirements in this Part.
- (2) Where a credit union has made an investment of a class referred to in Regulation 25(1) (c) or (d), and where that investment -
- (a) does not comply with this Part as a result of the occurrence of the relevant event, and
 - (b) was in compliance with this Part immediately before the occurrence of the relevant

⁵² Substituted by Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 32 of 2018

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- event,
the credit union shall comply with paragraph (3).
- (3) Subject to paragraph (4), a credit union shall take such actions as are necessary in relation to the investments referred to in paragraph (2) in order to ensure compliance with this Part -
- (a) (i) as soon as possible without incurring a loss, and
 - (ii) in any event not later than 2 years from the day on which the relevant event occurred or such later date as the Bank may permit;
 - (b) only make an investment where the making of such an investment would not cause the credit union to fail to comply with any of the requirements in this Part.
- (4) Where an investment held by a credit union is a fixed term investment to which paragraph (1) or (2) applies, the credit union may hold that investment to maturity provided that it was made in accordance with legislative requirements applicable at the time of the investment.
- (5) In this Regulation “relevant event” means when Title V of Directive 2013/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013⁵³ (or other Union law concerning the freedom of establishment or the freedom to provide services with respect to banking) ceases to apply to a person with whom an investment is made as a direct consequence of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the European Union.]⁵⁴

PART 6

SAVINGS

Savings Requirement – Aggregate Liabilities

34. The aggregate liabilities of a credit union in respect of deposits shall not at any time exceed 100 per cent of aggregate liabilities in respect of shares issued to members.

Savings Limit

35. Subject to Regulation 36 and 37, a credit union shall ensure that no member shall have total savings which exceed €100,000.

⁵³ Official Journal, L 176, 27/06/2013, p. 338–436.

⁵⁴ Substituted by Regulation 7 of S.I. No. 675 of 2020

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Transitional Arrangements – Retention of savings in excess of €100,000

36. (1) (a) Subject to paragraph (2), where, on the commencement of these Regulations, a member has total savings with a credit union in excess of €100,000 the credit union shall repay to such members those savings in excess of €100,000.
- (b) For the purpose of subparagraph (a), the repayment shall occur as soon as possible and in any event within 12 months of the commencement of these Regulations or such other date that the Bank may permit.
- (2) (a) Where, on the commencement of these Regulations, a member has total savings with a credit union in excess of €100,000 the credit union may apply to the Bank for approval to continue to hold (but not increase) such savings.
- (b) For the purpose of subparagraph (a), an application shall be submitted in writing to the Bank and contain such information as the Bank may specify from time to time.
- (c) The Bank may grant approval for an application received under subparagraph (a) where the credit union has demonstrated and the Bank is satisfied that the granting of such approval is:
- (i) consistent with the adequate protection of the savings of members; and
 - (ii) effective and proportionate, having regard to the nature, scale and complexity of the credit union.
- (d) For the purpose of subparagraph (c) the Bank shall consider the following:
- (i) the total realised reserve position of the credit union;
 - (ii) the asset size of the credit union, by reference to its total assets; and
 - (iii) such other matters that the Bank may specify from time to time.

Approval for additional savings

37. (1) A credit union may apply to the Bank for approval to increase individual member total savings in excess of €100,000.
- (2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), an application shall be submitted in writing to the Bank and contain such information as the Bank may specify from time to time.

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- (3) The Bank may grant approval for an application received under paragraph (1) where the credit union has a minimum total asset size of €100,000,000 and has demonstrated and the Bank is satisfied that the granting of such approval is:
 - (a) consistent with the adequate protection of the savings of members; and
 - (b) effective and proportionate, having regard to the nature, scale and complexity of the credit union.

- (4) For the purpose of paragraph (3) the Bank shall consider the following:
 - (a) the total realised reserve position of the credit union; and
 - (b) such other matters that the Bank may specify from time to time.

Regulations 36 and 37: Conditions on approval

38. (1) Where the Bank grants an approval under Regulation 36 or 37, it may, at that time or at any other time, subject such approval to conditions with which the credit union shall comply.

- (2) Where a credit union fails to comply with a condition imposed pursuant to paragraph (1), the credit union shall notify the Bank as soon as possible and thereafter repay to such members those savings in excess of €100,000.

- (3) For the purpose of paragraph (2), the repayment shall occur as soon as possible and in any event within 12 months after the credit union has notified the Bank, or the Bank otherwise becomes aware, of the matters specified in paragraph (2) or such date as the Bank may permit or require.

PART 7
BORROWING

Interpretation – Part 7

39. In this Part the word “borrow” or any word which is a variant, derivative or translation of, or is analogous to that word shall not include the issue of shares, or the acceptance of deposits from members of the credit union in accordance with the Act.

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Borrowing Limit

40. A credit union may borrow money, on security or otherwise, so long as the total amount outstanding in respect of monies so borrowed does not at any time exceed 25 per cent of the total savings of the credit union.

Borrowing Requirement – Notice to Bank

41. Where a credit union proposes to borrow in accordance with Regulation 40, the credit union shall provide at least 28 days' notice in writing to the Bank of its intention to undertake the proposed borrowing.

Borrowing Requirement - Calculation

42. For the purposes of Regulation 40, when calculating the total amount outstanding in respect of moneys borrowed by a credit union at any time, an overdraft received from its banker shall be disregarded.

Borrowing Policy

43. A credit union shall establish and maintain a written policy in relation to borrowing. The board of directors of the credit union shall, [at least every 3 years]⁵⁵, review, update and approve this policy.

Transitional Arrangements

44. Where, at the commencement of these Regulations, a credit union has borrowings made in accordance with or under the Act which exceed the requirements in this Part, the credit union shall:
- (a) reduce those borrowings in order to ensure compliance with this Part;
 - (i) as soon as possible without incurring a loss; and
 - (ii) in any event not later than the second anniversary of the commencement of these Regulations or such later date as the Bank may permit, and
 - (b) only borrow where such borrowing would not cause the credit union to either fail to comply

⁵⁵ Amended by Regulation 4 of S.I. No. 496 of 2024

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or exacerbate a failure to comply with any of the requirements in this Part.

PART 8

SYSTEMS, CONTROLS AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Risk Register

45. (1) A credit union shall establish and maintain a written risk register, maintained by a risk management officer, that documents the risks that the credit union is, or may be, exposed to and the systems and controls that the credit union has established to manage and mitigate those risks.
- (2) A credit union shall ensure that the board of directors of the credit union review and approve the risk register, at least annually, to ensure that the risks that the credit union is, or may be, exposed to are contained on the risk register and that the systems and controls are appropriate to manage and mitigate these risks.

Plans, Policies and Procedures

46. (1) A credit union shall establish and maintain, in writing, all policies specified in section 55(1)(o) of the Act.
- (2) A credit union shall ensure that the matters specified below shall be communicated to all officers in the credit union following any updates made, including the review, approval and update by the board of directors required [at least every 3 years]⁵⁶ of:
- (a) the risk management policy;
 - (b) the business continuity plan;
 - (c) the conflicts of interest policy; and
 - (d) the standards of conduct and ethical behaviour of officers.
- (3) A credit union shall document, approve and update, at least annually, the matters specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

⁵⁶ Amended by Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 496 of 2024

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- (4) A credit union shall, at a minimum, establish and maintain information systems and management information policies which include:
- (a) a management information policy;
 - (b) an information security policy;
 - (c) an information systems change management policy; and
 - (d) an information systems asset management policy.

Reporting and Disclosure in the Annual Accounts

47. (1) In addition to the information required under section 111 of the Act, a credit union shall ensure that the directors of a credit union shall prepare or cause to be prepared the following supplementary information to be contained in its annual accounts:
- (a) the regulatory reserve requirement, the credit union's regulatory reserve expressed as a percentage of total assets, the additional reserves that the credit union holds in respect of operational risk expressed as a percentage of total assets, together with the credit union's dividend and loan interest rebate policy; and
 - (b) the total amount of loans outstanding to related parties and the loans to such persons as a percentage of the total loans outstanding.
- (2) A credit union shall separately analyse investment income and investment gains in the income and expenditure account (or notes) of the annual accounts of the credit union, as follows:-
- (a) investment income and investment gains received by the credit union at the balance sheet date;
 - (b) investment income that will be received within 12 months of the balance sheet; and
 - (c) other investment income.

PART 9

SERVICES EXEMPT FROM ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

Performing Services

48. (1) The services set out in Schedule 2 to these Regulations are services prescribed by the Bank for the purposes of section 48(2)(b) of the Act.

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- (2) A credit union shall not perform the services specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations unless the appropriate conditions specified in that Schedule are fulfilled.
- [(3) Subject to the conditions specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations and any other requirements that apply under financial services legislation, a credit union may charge fees and receive commission in relation to the provision of services specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations.
- (4) Where a credit union receives fee or commission income in relation to the provision of services specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations, the credit union shall account separately in its books for any such fees and commissions received in relation to the provision of the individual service.
- (5) The provision of any of the services specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations is without prejudice to the application of any other legal or regulatory requirements that a credit union must comply with when providing the service in question, including any requirements relating to authorisation or license from, or registration with, the Bank or other authority.
- (6) Where a credit union refers, or introduces, a member to another regulated financial service provider, acts in the capacity of agent for another regulated financial service provider or provides intermediation services in accordance with relevant services specified in Schedule 2 to these Regulations, it shall ensure that the relevant third party financial service provider has any necessary authorisation or license from, or registration with, the Bank or other authority to provide the relevant services.]⁵⁷

PART 10 MISCELLANEOUS

Revocations

49. The following are revoked:

- (a) The Credit Union Act 1997 (Section 85) Rules 2009 (S.I. No. 344 of 2009); and
- (b) The Credit Union Act 1997 (Section 85) Rules 2010 (S.I. No. 515 of 2010).

⁵⁷ Inserted by Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 655 of 2024

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SCHEDULE 1

1. The systems of control of its business and records required under section 108(1)(b) of the Act,
2. A succession plan for the board of directors and the management team which shall detail the key skills and competencies required for members of the board of directors and management team,
3. The annual review of overall performance carried out by the board of directors as required under section 55(4) of the Act,
4. The annual compliance statement, together with supporting documentation used in the preparation of the compliance statement.

SCHEDULE 2

[1. Certain payment services, that is to say any service which may be provided by a credit union whereby a member may instruct the member's credit union to transfer funds on the member's share account, deposit account or budget account through —

- (a) execution of direct debits, including one-off direct debits, or
- (b) execution of credit transfers, including standing orders,

and which shall not include debit card or credit card services.

2. Current account services, that is to say services which a credit union may provide to its members, from 1 April 2025, whereby a credit union member avails of a euro-denominated current account provided by the credit union subject to the following conditions:

- (a) at least 30 days before it intends to make current account services available to members, the credit union submits a notification to the Bank in a form to be published by the Bank on its website from time to time;
- (b) services are provided to —
 - (i) members in their personal capacity as personal current accounts only,

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- (ii) members in their capacity as a charity, club or society for purposes relating to the activities of the charity, club, or society only, or
- (iii) (members in their capacity as a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise within the meaning of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC for purposes related to the business activities of the enterprise only;
- (c) interest, including surcharge interest, on an overdraft facility does not at any time exceed the maximum interest rate that may be charged by a credit union on loans made to its members pursuant to section 38 of the Act;
- (d) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions;
- (e) the credit union safeguards any transaction funds not yet credited to a member's account or transferred to another payment service provider from any claim, right or recourse of a liquidator, administrator or examiner of the credit union;
- (f) the credit union holds a separate operational risk reserve in respect of its current account services which —
 - (i) is distinct and in addition to the reserves that the credit union is required to hold under Regulation 4 of these Regulations and other operational risk reserves held by the credit union, and
 - (ii) has the characteristics set out in Regulation 3 of these Regulations;
- (g) the credit union ensures, by means of putting in place and maintaining adequate insurance cover, that adequate compensation is available to members in respect of negligence, fraud or other dishonesty on the part of officers of the credit union in connection with the provision of current account services; and
- (h) in the event of any major difficulty, failure or delay affecting the service or the provision of the services (or any part thereof), the credit union shall, as soon as it becomes aware thereof, notify the Bank immediately, advising it of such difficulty, failure or delay and the nature, extent, effect and likely duration of the circumstances, and shall use its best endeavours to minimise the effect of such circumstances including the making of any alternative arrangements which may be practicable and shall after the cessation of any such circumstances, notify the Bank.

3. Bill payment services, that is to say a service by which a credit union member may have a utility or other household bill paid by the credit union, either by debiting the member's account or by using cash supplied by

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the credit union member.

4. Budget account, that is to say a service by which the credit union may agree to provide members with a budget account, on which a credit facility may be offered, and into which a member pays agreed regular sums and from which the credit union will discharge, on the member's behalf, a list of bills agreed with the member as and when they fall due, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) terms and conditions in respect of this service are agreed by the credit union and the member, including —
 - (i) the provision of the credit facility to the member, where one is offered as part of this service,
 - (ii) the interest rate or rates on any credit facility,
 - (iii) where a credit facility is offered as part of this service, a requirement for the member to pay off the credit facility at least once in every 12 month period, and
 - (iv) any fees and charges that apply;
- (b) where a credit facility is offered as part of this service, it is reasonable and proportionate and in place only for the purpose of managing the level of payments to be made by a member in respect of relevant bills over a defined period; and
- (c) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions.

5. Money remittance service, that is to say a money remittance service the credit union may provide to its members, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) this service is provided on an agency basis;
- (b) the credit union is indemnified for the provision of this service under an insurance policy in accordance with section 47 of the Act;
- (c) the credit union charges the members any expenses incurred for the provision of these services; and
- (d) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions.

6. Automated teller machine services (ATMs), that is to say a service which enables a credit union member to withdraw funds from the member's credit union account by means of a credit union branded ATM card, subject to the following conditions:

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- (a) the terms and conditions of use of such a card are agreed by the credit union and the member; and
- (b) the member completes a registration or application form prior to the issue of the card.

7. Euro drafts and bureau de change, that is to say a service the credit union may provide to its members whereby a credit union member may —

- (a) purchase euro drafts,
- (b) purchase foreign currency drafts, travellers cheques and travel money cards, or
- (c) purchase or sell foreign currency;

subject to the following conditions:

- (i) these services are provided on an agency basis;
- (ii) the credit union is indemnified for the provision of these services under an insurance policy in accordance with section 47 of the Act;
- (iii) the credit union charges members availing of these services any expenses incurred for the provision of these services; and
- (iv) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions.

8. Gift cheques, that is to say a service by which a credit union member may purchase a cheque made payable to a third party in return for payment of that amount, subject to the condition that the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions.

9. Savings stamps, that is to say a service by which a credit union member may purchase savings stamps issued by the credit union, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the credit union maintains systems and controls to ensure that the status of all savings stamps, issued by the credit union from 1 January 2025, is tracked by the credit union at all times and that up-to-date records are maintained by the credit union attributing the beneficial ownership of any such savings stamps purchased by a member to the member;
- (b) savings stamps purchased by a member are non-transferable between members; and
- (c) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all such transactions.

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10. Member prize draws, that is to say a service under which the credit union carries out prize draws for which members are eligible to enter on payment of an entry fee or subscription, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) such draws are conducted on a break-even basis;
- (b) the credit union has a policy in place setting out the principles governing such draws which is reviewed by the board of directors as often as is necessary;
- (c) the credit union has documented operational procedures in place detailing the operation of such draws;
- (d) such draws operate in a clear and transparent manner with appropriate systems and controls in place;
- (e) members are only included in such draws where they have given their written consent for inclusion in advance of their inclusion in any such draw;
- (f) written consent is obtained from each member, in advance of their inclusion in any such draw, for the deduction of entry fees for such draws from a member's account with the credit union, and a record of this is maintained by the credit union;
- (g) the credit union documents clear terms and conditions, to be provided to participating members in advance of their participation in such draws;
- (h) the credit union notifies winning members in writing and without delay;
- (i) officers directly involved in the operation of such draws are excluded from participating in such draws;
- (j) an independent observer attends all such draws and the person operating the draw and the independent observer sign the results at the conclusion of each such draw;
- (k) the credit union's external auditor reviews, on an annual basis, all transactions in the prize draw;
- (l) the credit union accounts separately in its books for all transactions relating to the operation of such draws;
- (m) prize draw transactions and balances are reported separately in the credit union's annual accounts; and
- (n) the credit union maintains full and proper records relating to the operation of each such draw for a period of at least 6 years from a draw taking place or such longer period as may be required by law and in the case of records relating to member consent for inclusion in, or member withdrawal from participation in, such draws, a period of 6 years from a member's last participation in a draw to which the consent relates or 6 years from receipt by the credit union of the member's withdrawal respectively.

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11. Will making, that is to say a service whereby the credit union may arrange for a solicitor to attend at the credit union's premises for the purpose of taking instructions and drawing up wills and other testamentary documents for credit union members, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the credit union ensures that the solicitor concerned is a practising solicitor within the meaning of the Solicitors Act 1954; and
- (b) the credit union ensures that the solicitor concerned is one in respect of whom a policy of professional indemnity insurance under the Solicitors Act 1954 is in force in respect of such services.

12. Electricity budget meter cards or tokens, that is to say a service by which a credit union member may purchase electricity budget meter cards or tokens from the member's credit union to facilitate payment of the member's electricity expenses.

13. Member insurance services, that is to say any service the credit union may provide to its members in respect of each of the following categories of insurance:

- (a) loan protection insurance;
- (b) life savings insurance;
- (c) death benefit insurance;

including related riders, subject to the condition that the insurance contract is between the insurance undertaking and the credit union such that the credit union is the policy holder.

14. Insurance intermediation services on an introduction basis only, that is to say any service whereby a credit union member may be introduced by the credit union to an insurance intermediary or an insurance undertaking (hereinafter either intermediary or undertaking shall be referred to as "regulated entity"), for the purpose of obtaining insurance related services ("services"), subject to the following conditions:

- (a) prior to introducing a credit union member to a regulated entity for the purpose of obtaining the services, the credit union has undertaken an assessment of the financial and other implications for the credit union of the provision of the services and has, on the basis of that assessment, determined that there is no undue risk to members' savings;
- (b) the credit union ensures that adequate compensation is available to those members in respect of negligence, fraud or other dishonesty on the part of officers of the credit union in connection with the

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provision of the services;

- (c) the credit union ensures that no officer of the credit union receives remuneration directly or indirectly in respect of the services;
- (d) the credit union ensures that the services are on an introduction basis only, where the credit union introduces the member to the regulated entity and the credit union does not undertake insurance distribution as defined in Regulation 2 of the European Union (Insurance Distribution) Regulations 2018;
- (e) the credit union ensures that a clear distinction exists between the business of the credit union and that of the regulated entity;
- (f) the credit union ensures that any marketing material relating to the services clearly identifies the regulated entity providing the services to the member and this shall extend to all signage, stationery or other branding of whatever kind relating to the services; and
- (g) the credit union ensures that any contract arising from the provision by the credit union of the services is between the regulated entity and a credit union member and that the credit union is not party to any such contract.

15. Other intermediation services, that is to say:

- (a) any service for which the credit union holds an authorisation under or pursuant to the Investment Intermediaries Act 1995;
- (b) any service for which the credit union holds a registration under or pursuant to the European Union (Insurance Distribution) Regulations 2018;
- (c) any mortgage credit intermediary service within the meaning of the European Union (Consumer Mortgage Credit Agreements) Regulations 2016;
- (d) any mortgage intermediary service within the meaning of the Consumer Credit Act 1995, where the credit union is a mortgage lender within the meaning of the Consumer Credit Act 1995;
- (e) any mortgage intermediary service for which the credit union holds an authorisation as a mortgage intermediary within the meaning of the Consumer Credit Act 1995;
- (f) any service whereby a credit union arranges, or offers to arrange, for a mortgage lender as defined in the Consumer Credit Act 1995 to provide a credit union member with a housing loan as defined in the Consumer Credit Act 1995, or introduces a credit union member to an intermediary who arranges, or

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offers to arrange, for a mortgage lender to provide the credit union member with such a loan and where the credit union does not receive commission or some other form of consideration for that service; and

- (g) any service whereby a credit union is merely introducing, either directly or indirectly, a credit union member, to a creditor or credit intermediary as defined in the European Union (Consumer Mortgage Credit Agreements) Regulations 2016, and the credit union does not for remuneration undertake any of the activities referred to in Regulation 4(2) of the European Union (Consumer Mortgage Credit Agreements) Regulations 2016;

subject to the condition that at least 30 days before it intends to make any of the services described in paragraphs (c) and (d) available to members, the credit union submits a notification to the Bank, in a form to be published by the Bank on its website from time to time, to inform the Bank of the service it intends to provide and the date from which the credit union intends to make the service available to members.

16. Group health insurance schemes, that is to say a service by which a credit union may provide to its members a discount scheme with an undertaking, which is registered in the Register of Health Benefits Undertakings within the meaning of the Health Insurance Act 1994.

17. Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA), that is to say any service whereby —

- (a) a credit union member may be introduced to a PRSA Provider by the member's credit union for advice on the provision of a PRSA, or
- (b) when such an introduction takes place, a credit union may make facilities at its premises available to a PRSA Provider to enable it to provide such advice,

subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the service is on an introduction basis only, where the credit union introduces the member to a PRSA Provider with which it has entered into an arrangement for this purpose, and the credit union does not provide any advice to a member in relation to a PRSA;
- (ii) a credit union intending to enter into an arrangement with a PRSA Provider notifies the Bank in writing of such intention not less than 7 days before entering into such an arrangement;
- (iii) the credit union only has such an arrangement with one PRSA Provider at any one time in relation to the service;

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- (iv) any contract arising from the service is between the PRSA Provider referred to in subparagraph (iii) (“contracting PRSA Provider”) and a credit union member, and the credit union concerned is not a party to any such contract;
- (v) the credit union does not permit its premises to be used for the purposes of arranging or offering to arrange the provision of a PRSA to a member of the credit union by a PRSA Provider other than the contracting PRSA Provider;
- (vi) the credit union ensures that a clear distinction is drawn between the business of the credit union and that of the contracting PRSA Provider and this shall extend to all signage, stationery or other branding of whatever kind;
- (vii) the credit union states on its letterhead and business forms which are used for the purposes of the service that the credit union acts as an introducer solely for the contracting PRSA Provider; and
- (viii) the credit union ensures that no officer of the credit union receives remuneration directly or indirectly from the contracting PRSA Provider in respect of the service.]⁵⁸

Signed for and on behalf of the CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND

1 January 2016

ANNE MARIE MCKIERNAN,

Registrar of Credit Unions

⁵⁸ Substituted by Regulation 6 of S.I No. 655 of 2024.