



PUBLIC NOTICE

FINANCIAL DEALERS LICENSING (AMENDMENT) ACT NO 5 OF 2024

This is a general advice to all entities and individuals licensed under the Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70], the Registered Agents and the General Public.

The Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) wishes to inform all FDL licensees, the Registered Agents and the General Public that the amendment to the Financial Dealers Licensing Act No 5 of 2024 has been passed in Parliament and gazetted on 4th December 2024

This amendment is a further amendment to the Financial Dealers Licensing Act (Amendment) No. 9 of 2021. The following major changes are outlined in the amendment:

1. Subsection 4(5):

- (5) A Class D Principal's License may only be issued to the license holders of Class A, B and C principal's licenses;
- (6.) A Class C Principal's license may only be issued to the license holders of Class A and B Principal's Licenses;
- (7.) A Class B Principal's License may only be issued to the license holders of Class A Principal's License;
- (8.) A Licensee must pay and annual license fee of VT 500,000 on or before the anniversary date of its incorporation.

2. Subsection 4A(3A)

The Commission may:

(a) subject to subsection (4), grant a license with or without conditions;
or

(b) refuse to grant a license.”

3. Subsection 4(A)(5):

“A licensee must pay an annual license fee of VT 500,000 on or before the anniversary date of its incorporation”.

4. Subsection 4AE: Annual Fee for a licensed manager

A licensed manager must pay an annual license fee of VT 500,000 on or before the date specified in the license.

5. Subsection 4BB (After Section 4BA)

“A person who fails to pay an annual license fee under this Act is liable to a penalty of 10% of the licensee fee for each month during which the failure continues, up to a maximum of 50% of the license fee”.

6. Commencement of the Act

This amendment was gazetted on 4th December 2024, which is the date of its commencement.

7. Additional Class of License

Subject to section 4(5):

(a) All holders of class C license must also hold classes A, and B Licenses.

(b) All holders of Class B license must also hold Class A license.

8. Renewal of License Fees

(a) Please be advised that the amended license fee is applicable to the renewal of licenses only. The fee is not applicable to a newly grant license.

- (b) The license renewal fee of VT 500,000 applies separately to a Principals license and the Representative License respectively.
- (c) The license renewal fees shall be paid on or before the anniversary date of the grant of the licenses and not on the incorporation date.
- (d) For Licensees whose renewal fees were due after 4th December 2024, and settlement had been made, VFSC will grant them a grace period until April 1st 2025 to settle the difference.

9. Penalty on Unpaid license fee

As per subsection 4BB of the Amendment Act, a licensee who fails to pay the renewal fee on the anniversary date of the grant of its license shall incur a penalty of 10% of the license fee for each month of delay to a maximum of 50% if it continues to remain unpaid.

10. License fees for a New Applicant

The license fees for a new license applicant remains the same at VT 100,000 for the Principal's license and VT 100,000 for the Representative license.

11. License Application Fees

This amendment has not made any changes to the License Application Fees. For any new applications, the application fees remain the same as VT 50,000 for the Principal's license and VT 50,000 for the Representative License.

12. Transition Period

- a) Given the catastrophic earthquake experienced by Vanuatu on 17th December 2024, the VFSC is giving the licensees a transition period until April 1st 2025, to apply for the rest of the licenses and pay the new license renewal fees as outlined in the Amendment Act.

13. Application Process for the Remaining Classes

All existing licensee must apply for the remaining Class of Licenses using the approved application form. The application must include the appropriate application fee and the license fee.

Supporting documents may not be necessary unless there have been or proposed changes to the key persons or the business plan. All Applications must reach VFSC by 1st April 2025.

Anyone requiring clarification on this matter should contact Mr. Joshua Tari on tjoshua@vfsc.vu or 22247.

DATED this 24th day of January 2025.


Branan Karae
Commissioner

