

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**MARKET CONDUCT REGULATIONS**

**English Translation of the Official Arabic Text  
Issued by the Board of the Capital Market Authority  
Pursuant to its Resolution Number 1-11-2004  
Dated 20/8/1425H Corresponding to 4/10/2004G  
Based on the Capital Market Law  
issued by Royal Decree No. M/30 dated 2/6/1424H**

**Amended by Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority Number 3-3-2016  
Dated 27/3/1437H Corresponding to 7/1/2016G**

**Arabic is the official language of the Capital Market Authority**

**The current version of these Regulations, as may be amended, can be found at  
the CMA website: [www.cma.org.sa](http://www.cma.org.sa)**

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**PART 1: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

**Article 1: Definitions**

- a. Any reference to the “Capital Market Law” in these Regulations shall mean the Capital Market Law issued by Royal Decree No. M/30 dated 2/6/1424H.
- b. Expressions and terms in these Regulations have the meaning which they bear in the Capital Market Law and in the Glossary of defined terms used in the Regulations and Rules of the Capital Market Authority, unless the contrary intention appears.

**PART 2: PROHIBITION OF MARKET MANIPULATION**

**Article 2: Prohibition of manipulative and deceptive acts or practices**

- a. It is prohibited for any person to engage in or participate in any manipulative or deceptive acts or practices in connection with an order or transaction in a security, if the person knows or has reasonable grounds to know the nature of the act or practice.
- b. It is prohibited for any person to, directly or indirectly, enter an order or execute a trade in a security for the purpose of creating any of the following:
  - 1) a false or misleading impression of trading activity or interest in the purchase or sale of the security; or
  - 2) an artificial bid price, ask price or trade price for the security or any related security.

**Article 3: Manipulative and deceptive acts or practices**

- a. The following actions shall be among those considered as manipulative or deceptive acts or practices:
  - 1) making a fictitious trade; or
  - 2) effecting a trade in a security that involves no change in its beneficial ownership.
- b. The following acts shall be among those considered as manipulative or deceptive acts or practices when committed for the purpose of creating a false or misleading impression of trading activity in a security or interest in the purchase or sale of the security, or for the purpose of creating an artificial bid price, ask price or trade price for a security:
  - 1) entering an order or orders for the purchase of a security with the prior knowledge that an order or orders of substantially the same size, time and price for the sale of that security, has been or will be entered;

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- 2) entering an order or orders for the sale of a security with the prior knowledge that an order or orders of substantially the same size, time and price for the purchase of that security, has been or will be entered;
- 3) purchasing or making offers to purchase, a security at successively higher prices or in a pattern of successively higher prices;
- 4) selling or making offers to sell a security at successively lower prices or in a pattern of successively lower prices; or
- 5) entering an order or orders for the purchase or sale of a security in order to:
  - \* establish a predetermined sale price, ask price or bid price;
  - \* effect a high or low closing sale price, ask price or bid price;
  - \* maintain the sale price, ask price or bid price within a predetermined range; or
  - \* entering an order or a series of orders for a security that are not intended to be executed.

**PART 3: INSIDER TRADING**

**Article 4: Disclosure of inside information and insider trading defined**

- a. For purposes of the application of Article 50 of the Capital Market Law and the provisions of this Part:
- 1) A security related to inside information must be a traded security.
  - 2) A security related to inside information shall mean any security whose price or value would be materially affected if the information was disclosed or made available to the general public.
  - 3) A person shall be considered directly trading in a security in any of the following two situations:
    - \* if he executes a trade in the security for any account in which he has an interest; or
    - \* if he makes a bid or offer on the Exchange for the security.
  - 4) A person shall be considered indirectly trading in a security in any of the following situations:
    - \* if he executes a trade as agent for another person;
    - \* if he arranges a trade to which a relative or person with whom he has a business or a contractual relationship is party; or
    - \* if he arranges for his agent or any other person acting on his behalf or at his direction to trade in the relevant securities.
  - 5) Trading shall constitute insider trading, if it is directly or indirectly effected in a security related to inside information.

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- b. For greater certainty, insider means any of the following:
- 1) a director, a senior executive or an employee of the issuer of a security related to inside information;
  - 2) a person who obtains inside information through a family relationship, including from any person related to the person who obtains the information;
  - 3) a person who obtains inside information through a business relationship, including obtaining the information:
    - \* from the issuer of a security related to inside information;
    - \* from any person who has a business relationship with the person who obtains the information; or
    - \* from any person who is a business associate of the person who obtains the information;
  - 4) a person who obtains inside information through a contractual relationship, including obtaining the information:
    - \* from the issuer of a security related to inside information; or
    - \* from any person who has a contractual relationship with the person who obtains the information.
- c. For greater certainty, inside information means information that fulfils the following:
- 1) information that relates to a security;
  - 2) that has not been disclosed to the general public, and that is not otherwise available to the general public; and
  - 3) that a normal person would realise that, in view of the nature and content of the information, disclosing it or making it available to the public would have a material effect on the price or value of the security.



**Article 5: Prohibition of disclosure of inside information**

- a. An insider is prohibited from disclosing any inside information to any other person when he knows or should have known that it is possible that such other person may trade in the security related to the inside information.
- b. A person who is not insider is prohibited from disclosing to any other person any inside information obtained from an insider, when he knows or should have known that it is possible that such other person to whom the disclosure has been made may trade in the security related to the inside information.

**Article 6: Prohibition of insider trading**

- a. An insider is prohibited from engaging in insider trading.
- b. A person who is not insider is prohibited from engaging in insider trading if he obtains the inside information from another person and he knows or should have known, that the information is inside information.

**PART 4: UNTRUE STATEMENTS**

**Article 7: Prohibition of untrue statements**

A person is prohibited from making an untrue statement of material fact verbally or in writing or from failing to make a statement required to be made under the Capital Market Law, the Implementing Regulations, or the rules of the Exchange or the Depository Center, if the statement is made, or the person fails to make the required statement, for the purpose of influencing the price or value of a security, inducing another person to purchase or sell a security, or inducing him to exercise or refrain from exercising rights under a security.

**Article 8: Rumours**

- a. A person is prohibited from circulating, directly or indirectly, an untrue statement of material fact or a statement of opinion for the purpose of influencing the price or value of a security or for any manipulative purpose.
- b. The prohibition in paragraph (a) applies to a statement made by the person who circulates the statement or to a statement made by another person.

**Article 9: Untrue statements defined**

- a. A person makes an untrue statement of material fact in any of the following circumstances:
  - 1) if he makes a statement that is false or inaccurate in a material respect;
  - 2) if he procures another person to make a statement that is false or inaccurate in a material respect;
  - 3) if he makes a statement that contains a misrepresentation of a material fact;
  - 4) if he procures another person to make a statement that contains a misrepresentation of a material fact; or
  - 5) if he omits a material fact when making a statement.

- b. A material fact is any information relating to a security which, if the investor knew about, would have materially affected the price or value at which the investor purchased or sold the security.

**Article 10: Responsibility for untrue statements**

For the purposes of application of Article 56 of the Capital Market Law and the provisions of this part:

- a. A person shall be liable for damages to a claimant if he makes an untrue statement of material fact and the statement is made:
  - 1) for the purpose of profit or commercial benefit; and
  - 2) in relation to the purchase or sale of a security.
- b. A claimant for damages under paragraph (a) of this Article must establish that:
  - 1) he was not aware that the statement was untrue;
  - 2) he would not have purchased or sold the security in question if he was aware of the untrue statement, or that he would not have purchased or sold the security at the price at which such security was purchased or sold; and
  - 3) the person who made the untrue statement knew, or knew that there was a substantial likelihood, that the statement was untrue in relation to a material fact.
- c. A person shall be liable for damages to a claimant, if he is obliged under the Capital Market Law, the Implementing Regulations, or the rules of the Exchange or the Depository Center to make a statement and fails to do so provided that:
  - 1) the claim for damages is in relation to the purchase or sale of a security; and
  - 2) what has been omitted relates to a material fact.

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- d. A claimant for damages under paragraph (c) of this Article must establish that:
- 1) he was not aware of the failure to make the statement; and
  - 2) he would not have purchased or sold the security in question had he known in advance that the statement was omitted, or that he would not have purchased or sold the security at the price at which such security was purchased or sold.

**PART 5: AUTHORISED PERSONS' CONDUCT**

**Article 11: Conduct in case of market manipulation and insider trading by clients**

- a. An authorised person or a registered person must not accept or execute a client order if any of them has reasonable grounds to believe that the client:
  - 1) is engaging in market manipulation or insider trading;
  - 2) would be engaging in market manipulation or insider trading in another market if these Regulations applied to that market; or
  - 3) would be considered in breach of the law, regulations or rules applicable in the relevant market.
- b. Where an authorised person or registered person has decided not to accept or execute an order under paragraph (a) of this Article, he must document the circumstances of and reasons for his decision in writing and the authorised person must notify the Authority of the decision within three days.
- c. An authorised person must retain the records in relation to any decision under this Article for ten years from the date of the decision.

**Article 12: Clients priority and front running trades**

- a. An authorised person or a registered person must execute client orders for a security before executing any order on the same security for his own account.
- b. An authorised person, a registered person and any associated person are prohibited from dealing in any security for their own benefit, or for the benefit of another client, or for the benefit of an account which they have an interest in, including any account which they have a discretion on, if such dealing is on the basis of prior knowledge that a client order has been or will be entered on the same security.
- c. Persons referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article are prohibited from disclosing to any other person any information related to clients orders that have been entered or will be entered, when they know or should have known that it is

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possible that such other person may trade in the security related to that information .

- d. Any person that obtains through an authorised person or a registered person information related to client orders that have been or will be entered is prohibited from dealing in the security related to such information., if such dealing is for the purpose of benefiting from potential material effect of those orders on the price of that security.
- e. Any person authorised to deal with the account of a legal person is prohibited from dealing in any particular security for his own benefit, or for the benefit of an account which he has an interest in, if such dealing is for the purpose of benefiting from potential material effect of that legal person's account orders that have been or will be entered on the price of that security.
- f. Any person authorised to deal with the account of a legal person is prohibited from disclosing to any other person any information related to that account orders that have been or will be entered, when he knows or should have known that it is possible that such other person may trade in the security related to that information.
- g. Any person that obtains from to deal in any particular security on the basis of information obtained from a person authorised to deal with the account of a legal person related to this account orders that have been or will be entered, if such dealing is for the purpose of benefiting from potential material effect of those orders on the price of that security.
- h. For the purposes of this Article:
  - 1) "Associated person" means in relation to an authorised person:
    - Any director, partner, employee, or any person that is (directly or indirectly) controlled by that person; or controls (directly or indirectly) that person.
    - any company which is its subsidiary or parent or fellow subsidiary of the parent.
    - any company whose directors are accustomed to act in accordance with the authorised person's directions or instructions.
    - any company in the capital of which the authorised person is directly or indirectly interested so that it is able:
      - to exercise or control the exercise of 30% or more of the votes at the general meeting on all, or substantially all matters; or

- to appoint or remove directors holding a majority of voting rights at board meetings on all, or substantially all matters.
- 2) "Associated person" means in relation to a registered person:
- that person's spouse or minor children (together "members of his family").
  - any company in whose equity shares the registered person or any member or members (taken together) of his family are directly or indirectly interested so that they are able:
    - to exercise or control the exercise of 30% or more of the votes at the general meeting on all, or substantially all matters; or
    - to appoint or remove directors holding a majority of voting rights at board meetings on all, or substantially all matters.

**Article 13: Timely execution**

If an authorised person accepts a client order or decides in its discretion to execute a client order, it must execute the order as soon as is practical in the circumstances.

**Article 14: Best execution**

- a. Where an authorised person deals with or for a client, it must provide best execution.
- b. An authorised person is considered to provide best execution if:
  - 1) acting as agent, it ensures that the order is executed at the best prevailing price in the relevant market or markets for the size of the order; or
  - 2) acting as principal, it executes the transaction at a better price for the client than it would have obtained if it executed the order in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

**Article 15: Timely allocation**

An authorised person who executes a transaction based on a client order must ensure that the transaction is promptly allocated to the account of that client. An authorised person who

executes a discretionary transaction must ensure that the transaction is promptly allocated to the account of the client for whom the authorised person decided to transact.

**Article 16: Churning**

An authorised person must not advise or solicit a client to deal or deal or arrange a deal in the course of managing for a client if the dealing would reasonably be regarded as contrary to the interest of the client, having regard to the number and frequency of trades relative to the client's investment objectives, financial situation and the size and character of his account.

**Article 17: Aggregation of client orders**

- a. An authorised person must not aggregate a client's orders with those of other clients or with the authorised person's own orders if the order is for a security traded on the Saudi Stock Exchange.
- b. If the order is for a security that is not traded on the Saudi Stock Exchange, an authorised person may aggregate a client's orders with those of other clients or with the authorised person's own orders if the following is fulfilled:
  - 1) the authorised person has provided a written explanation to the client of the advantages and disadvantages of aggregation and obtained written consent from the client to aggregate orders;
  - 2) the authorised person ensures that no client will be disadvantaged by aggregation of his orders; and
  - 3) all clients' orders that are aggregated receive the average price of execution for all of the orders that are executed.
- c. An authorised person must establish a written policy setting out its method of allocating trades to client and principal orders.

**Article 18: Dealing ahead of research**

- a. Where an authorised person intends, or knows that an affiliate intends, to issue to a client or clients an investment recommendation, or a research, study or analysis



relating to a security, subject to paragraph (b) below, the authorised person must not knowingly make a trade for its own account in the security concerned or in any related security until the clients for whom the recommendation or research was intended have had a reasonable opportunity to react to it.

- b. An authorised person may make a trade for its own account if the recommendation, research, study or analysis could not reasonably be expected to affect the price of the security concerned or any related security.

**Article 19: Prohibition of dealing contrary to a recommendation**

Where an authorised person or any of its affiliates issues an investment recommendation, research, study or analysis relating to a security it is prohibited from:

- 1) providing advice to a client or making a trade for a client that is contrary to the recommendation unless the authorised person, prior to providing the advice or making the trade, discloses to the client the recommendation and the potential conflict of interest between the authorised person and the client;  
or
- 2) making a trade for its own account in the security that is contrary to the recommendation unless reasonable grounds exist to make the trade.

**Article 20: Liability for acts of others**

Where a person is found to have violated the provisions of the Capital Market Law or the Implementing Regulations on market manipulation, insider trading or untrue statements while acting on behalf of another person and at the direction of the person on whose behalf the relevant act is carried out, that other person is liable and is subject to any sanctions to which the person carrying out the relevant acts is subject unless the person on whose behalf the act is carried out:

- 1) took reasonable steps to prevent the violation of the provisions of the Capital Market Law and its Implementing Regulations; and
- 2) did not authorise the acts in question.

**PART 6: PUBLICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE**

**Article 21: Publication and entry into force**

These Regulations shall become effective upon their publication.