



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
BANK OF ALBANIA
SUPERVISORY COUNCIL**

**DECISION
No. 43, dated 4.8.2021**

**APPROVAL
OF THE REGULATION “ON THE REPRODUCTION CRITERIA OF BANKNOTES AND/OR
COINS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA”**

In accordance with Article 12 (a), Article 43 (c), and Chapter V of the Law No. 8269, dated 23/12/1997 “On the Bank of Albania”, as amended, having regard to the proposal from the Issue Department, the Supervisory Council of the Bank of Albania,

DECIDED:

1. To approve the Regulation “On the reproduction criteria of banknotes and/or coins in the Republic of Albania’, thereof.
2. The Issue Department at the Bank of Albania, and the entities involved in the reproduction of banknotes and/or coins in the Republic of Albania are responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
3. The Research Department is responsible for the publication of this Decision in the Official Bulletin of the Bank of Albania.
4. The Governor's Office is responsible for publishing this Decision in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

This decision shall enter into force 15 (fifteen) days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

SECRETARY

CHAIR

Elvis ÇIBUKU

Gent SEJKO

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation lays down the technical criteria for the reproduction of the image of banknotes and/or coins in the Republic of Albania.

Article 2

Legal grounds

This Regulation is issued pursuant to:

- a) Article 12 (a), Article 43 (c), and Chapter V of the Law No. 8269, dated 23.12.1997 “On the Bank of Albania”, as amended;
- b) Article 70, paragraph 1, and Article 85 of the Law No. 9590, dated 27.07.2006, “On the Rectification of “The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part (the “EU-Albania Agreement”)”.

Article 3

Scope of application

This Regulation shall apply on banks, branches of foreign banks and non-bank financial institutions, being granted a license to carry out the banking and/or financial activity in the Republic of Albania, as well on economic operators involved in the reproduction of banknotes and/or coins.

Article 4

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) "Reproduction"- shall mean any tangible or electronic image that uses all or part of a banknote/coin, or parts of its individual design elements such as, inter alia, colour, dimensions and use of letters or symbols, which image may resemble or give the general impression of a genuine banknote/coin, irrespective of:
 - i. the size of the image; or
 - ii. the materials and techniques used to produce it; or
 - iii. whether or not elements of the design of the banknotes/coins, such as the letters or symbols, have been altered or added to
 - b) “banknote” – shall mean any banknote either Lek or Euro, with legal tender, and those without legal tender, which can be exchanged versus the initial value of issuance;
 - c) “coin” shall mean any metal coin either in Lek or Euro, with legal tender, and those which can be exchanged versus the initial value of issuance;

- d) “economic operators”- shall mean natural or legal persons involved in the production, use and dissemination for other commercial purposes of reproduction, in accordance with point (a) in this paragraph.

Article 5

Reproduction criteria for banknotes

1. The reproductions which can be mistaken by the general public for genuine banknotes shall be prohibited. Their production, possession, transportation, distribution, sale, promotion, import and use or attempted use for transactions shall be prohibited.
2. Reproductions shall be classified as unmistakable by the general public for genuine banknotes, if complying with at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) one-sided reproductions of a banknote, provided that the size of the reproduction is equal to or greater than 125 % of both the length and width, or equal to or less than 75 % of both the length and the width of the respective banknote; or
 - b) two-sided reproductions of a banknote, provided that the size of the reproduction is equal to or greater than 200 % of both the length and width or equal to or less than 50 % of both the length and width of the respective banknote; or
 - c) reproductions of individual design elements of a banknote, provided that such a design element is not depicted on a background resembling a banknote; or
 - d) one-sided reproductions depicting a part of the front side or reverse side of a banknote, provided that such a part is smaller than one third of the original front side or reverse side of the genuine banknote; or
 - e) reproductions made of a material clearly different from paper or polimer, which looks and feels distinctly different from the material used for genuine banknotes; or
 - f) intangible reproductions made available electronically on websites, that allow the public to access these intangible reproductions, provided that:
 - i. the word SPECIMEN is incorporated diagonally across the reproduction in Arial font or a font similar to Arial font,
 - ii. the resolution of the electronic reproduction in its 100 % size does not exceed 72 dots per inch (dpi),
 - iii. the length of the word SPECIMEN is at least 75 % of the length of the reproduction,
 - iv. the height of the word SPECIMEN is at least 15 % of the width of the reproduction, and
 - v. the word SPECIMEN is displayed in a non-transparent (opaque) colour contrasting with the dominant colour of the respective banknote.

Article 6
Reproduction criteria for coins

1. The reproductions which can be mistaken by the general public for genuine coins shall be prohibited. In particular, reproductions, which consist in the placement of the coin's image onto a metal disk, from which the genuine coins are impressed, or from a metal with similar colour, similar electromagnetic features and either similar or equal technical parameters and dimensions with the parameters of the genuine coin, shall be prohibited.
2. Reproductions shall be considered as unmistakable by the general public for genuine coins, if complying with the following criteria:
 - a) the dimensions of the reproduction are less or greater than 25 % of the genuine coin; and
 - b) reproductions made of a material clearly different from metal, such are: paper, wood or plastic, etc.

Article 7
Exemptions

1. Where a reproduction of Lek banknotes/coins does not comply with the criteria laid down in Article 5 or Article 6 of this Regulation, the Bank of Albania may grant authorisation on the use of these reproductions if the Bank of Albania considers that the reproduction cannot be mistaken by the general public for a genuine Lek banknote/coin.
2. The entity shall address a request to the Bank of Albania to receive the authorization. The request shall contain:
 - a) name of natural person or legal person;
 - b) NIPT of the entity;
 - c) type of activity;
 - d) type and characteristics of the material being used;
 - e) reasons for the realisation of the reproduction;
 - f) a sample/specimen;
 - g) other data (telephone number, mail address; electronic address, etc), of the contact person at the entity.
3. The request, pursuant to paragraph 2 in this Article, should be signed by the natural person or the senior executive authority of the legal person, and contain the stamp of the relevant entity.
4. Where the Bank of Albania deems that the request submitted by the entity is complete, and has sufficient reasons to believe that the criteria in paragraph 1 are met, the Bank of Albania shall grant the relevant authorisation. The Director of Issue Department, based on the report prepared by the National Centre of Analysis at the Issue Department of the Bank of Albania, shall sign the authorisation.

5. Where the reproduction of euro banknotes does not comply with the criteria set out in Article 5 of this Regulation, the Bank of Albania may allow the use of these reproductions in the Republic of Albania, if the entity submits a notarial copy of the authorisation issued by the European Central Bank, or one of the relevant central banks of Euro system for the consent of the relevant reproduction.

Article 8
Implementation of regulatory requirements

1. The entities shall take the necessary measures for the implementation of the requirements set out in this Regulation no later than 6 months after its entry into force.
2. Where the Bank of Albania concludes or is informed on any infringement of the requirements set out in this Regulation, it shall require to entities take corrective measures within a specified time.
3. In event of failure to implement the corrective measures by the entity, within the specified deadline, the Bank of Albania shall refer the case to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

Article 9
Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

Chair of the Supervisory Council

GENT SEJKO