

The FinCrime Brief

A sourced monthly intelligence feed on global financial crime compliance



THE MONTH EVERY DEADLINE LANDED AT ONCE.

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SG Analytics

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01

Regulatory Tracker

The paperwork caught up with the promises.

United States

FinCEN · OFAC · NYDFS

FinCEN · June 12, 2026

The wider safe harbor is no longer draft guidance – it's the fact sheet.

FinCEN issued a formal Section 314(b) fact sheet making June's clarification official: Fraud is now explicitly a specified unlawful activity, institutions no longer need to trace laundered proceeds before sharing, and coverage extends to cyber-indicators – IP addresses, device identifiers, transaction alerts – even between institutions with no pre-existing customer relationship.

- *So what? Last month's opportunity is this month's expectation. If your data-sharing agreements still assume proceeds-proof or a pre-existing relationship, they are already behind the guidance FinCEN just published.*

OFAC · June 18, 2026

Venezuela sanctions became a license-management exercise, not a screening list.

OFAC issued three new Venezuela-related general licenses and amended FAQ 595, adjusting what remains permissible: GL 59 authorizes maintenance, parts, and support for Conviasa, Venezuela's state airline; GL 24A expands common-carrier mail and parcel exceptions; GL 5X postpones the PdVSA 2020 bond authorization deadline, with FAQ 595 clarifying bondholder collateral restrictions tied to Executive Order 13835.

- *So what? Country screening tells you Venezuela is high-risk; it won't tell you which general license covers your transaction. You need license-aware payment logic and documented exception handling, not a flat block.*

OFAC · July 23, 2026

A Turkish underground bank funded Hamas and a Swedish crime syndicate from the same rails.

Treasury designated senior Muslim Brotherhood official Mahmoud al-Abyari and the Turkey-based El-Kahira for General Trading network – controlled by Zaid Issam Ahmed Al-Jebouri and two associates – for moving fiat and crypto to Hamas. Seven TRON wallet addresses were embedded directly into the SDN entry, and El-Kahira's underground-banking service turns out to have a second client: Sweden's Foxtrot Network organized-crime syndicate.

- ***So what? The same settlement rails served a US-designated terrorist financier and a European organized-crime group at once – proof that typology-based screening can miss shared infrastructure. Run the historical lookback across all seven addresses and screen at the entity and beneficial-ownership level, not just by wallet match.***

NYDFS · Consent order Jul 15, 2026

Swedbank's \$50mn penalty wasn't for the AML failure. It was for hiding it.

New York fined Swedbank AB and its NY branch \$50mn after a two-year investigation into the bank's Baltic-subsidary exposure to the Panama Papers network – not for the underlying control gaps, but for withholding information, failing to disclose parallel European inquiries, and creating a false impression of cooperation.

- ***So what? NYDFS is now pricing regulatory candor as its own risk category. A transparent disclosure of a control failure and a concealed one are no longer the same conversation – concealment carries the larger fine.***

FinCEN · Comment period extended Jul 22, 2026

FinCEN is closing the rebrand loophole – one designated launderer at a time.

FinCEN proposed amending its 2025 special measure against Huione Group to add H-Pay Service PLC as a covered successor entity and to formally define 'successor entity' as a standing legal category, not just for this case. The original designation, tied to more than \$4bn in laundered proceeds, severed Huione from the US financial system in October 2025; the rule followed a June 2026 enforcement action against Huione's successors. A six-day portal outage pushed the comment deadline to August 2, 2026.

- ***So what? This is bigger than one Cambodian marketplace. FinCEN is building a durable legal tool against the standard laundering-network move – dissolve, rebrand, reopen – and the definition it adopts here will likely get reused against the next network that tries the same trick.***

FinCEN · Alerts Jun 30 & Jul 24, 2026

Two alerts, two typologies: fiscal fuel theft and ghost students.

FinCEN's June 30 supplemental alert flagged fuel-smuggling and tax-evasion schemes run by CJNG, Sinaloa, and Gulf Cartel networks moving fuel across the US–Mexico border – issued alongside a coordinated OFAC sanctions action against two Mexican nationals and nine entities, a separate track from the broader CJNG sanctions round covered elsewhere in this issue. A May 2025 alert on the same typology had already generated over 160 SARs describing \$7bn in suspicious activity. Its July 24 alert flagged fraud rings using stolen identities and AI-generated documents to claim federal student aid – 'ghost students', 'straw students' who sell their own identities, and school-staff-enabled schemes draining a \$120bn-a-year program.

- ***So what? Neither typology looks like classic money laundering on a transaction screen. Update red-flag training for both: fuel-terminal and border-adjacent account activity on one side, high-volume small-dollar aid disbursements to newly enrolled, rapidly withdrawn accounts on the other.***

Global Standard Setter

FATF

FATF · Presidency began Jul 1, 2026

The UK took the FATF chair and opened with a fraud roadmap.

Giles Thomson succeeded Mexico's Elisa de Anda Madrazo as FATF President for the 2026–2028 term, launching the Roadmap 26–28 on Combatting Fraud; India's Vivek Aggarwal was named incoming Vice President for the same term. FATF's own evaluations found fraud to be a major proceeds-generating offense in nearly 90% of countries reviewed in its latest round, with global scam losses estimated at nearly \$500bn across 2024–2025 combined.

- ***So what? A new presidency plus a named fraud roadmap is a signal, not a formality – expect the next mutual-evaluation round to weigh fraud outcomes more heavily than rulebook compliance.***

FATF · Plenary · Jun 19, 2026

The grey list churns again – Iraq and Bosnia and Herzegovina in, Algeria and Namibia out.

The June plenary added Iraq and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring, while removing Algeria and Namibia after successful remediation. The list now stands at 22 jurisdictions; the blacklist – Iran, North Korea, Myanmar – is unchanged.

- ***So what? Re-screen exposure to Iraq and Bosnia and Herzegovina now and revisit the enhanced diligence you apply to Algeria and Namibia – FATF has repeatedly warned against blanket de-risking in either direction.***

FATF · Consultation opened Jun 24, 2026

A new consultation will decide how the Travel Rule actually gets built.

FATF opened a public consultation on draft guidance to implement the strengthened Recommendation 16 cross-border payment-transparency standard agreed at last year's plenary. Comments close August 21, 2026.

- ***So what? The standard was agreed in 2025; this guidance is where the operational detail – and your build requirements – actually get decided. Read the draft before the window closes.***

European Union

AMLA & AMLR

AMLA · Jul 3 & 6, 2026

The EU's FIU-sharing machinery is being assembled in public.

AMLA finalized common formats for FIU-to-FIU and FIU-to-EPPO information exchange on July 3, then opened a consultation on cross-border FIU information-exchange rules on July 6 – the technical plumbing behind the harmonized supervisory model the Authority has been building since 2025.

- ***So what? If you operate across member states, the interpretive flexibility you've relied on locally is shrinking fast. Start treating your FIU-facing processes as pan-EU, not per-country.***

AMLA · Jul 8, 2026

Brussels wants the same AML breach to cost the same fine everywhere.

AMLA introduced a common EU approach to AML/CFT enforcement – a harmonized, four-tier gravity classification for supervisory outcomes across both financial and nonfinancial sectors, pending formal Commission adoption.

- ***So what? National enforcement variance – long a feature of EU compliance planning – is being designed out. Don't assume your softest-touch regulator stays that way.***

AMLA & EDPB · Announced Jul 1, 2026

The transatlantic data-sharing gap just got its own working group.

AMLA and the European Data Protection Board announced on July 1 that they will jointly draft Guidelines on the Partnership for Information Sharing – the EU's attempt to close the gap between its own information-sharing rules and the far more permissive model FinCEN just formalized in the US. Public consultation on the draft guidelines is planned for the first half of 2027.

- ***So what? Running both a US and an EU information-sharing program? Don't assume one is a template for the other – see***

this issue's Spotlight for exactly where the two frameworks diverge.

AMLA · Jul 21, 2026

The direct-supervision rulebook just got its operating manual.

AMLA published its final report on the technical standards governing how it will cooperate with national supervisors once it begins directly supervising major cross-border groups: National supervisors gather and quality-check the data, AMLA runs the risk assessment and makes the selection, and the results are published on AMLA's own site.

- ***So what? The 'July 1, 2027, selection' date already in this issue's Next 90 Days just gained its rulebook. If you run a pan-EU group, this is the mechanism, not just the deadline, you need to map your own risk data against.***

United Kingdom

FCA & PSR

FCA · Jul 22, 2026

A fifth of asset managers still can't produce a firm-wide risk assessment.

The FCA's review of 242 asset-management and alternative-investment firms found roughly 20% with an incomplete or absent business-wide money-laundering risk assessment, 18% with no formal customer risk-rating methodology, and over a quarter lacking formal transaction monitoring. More than 75% of the FCA's enforcement caseload remains financial-crime-related.

- ***So what? This is a checklist, not a warning shot. If your firm-wide risk assessment, customer risk methodology, or transaction monitoring has a documented gap, assume it is now a supervisory priority, not a future one.***

PSR · Jul 1, 2026

Mandatory reimbursement is starting to do the job June's numbers said it wasn't.

An independent evaluation found APP fraud losses down £73mn a year (≈21%) since mandatory reimbursement began, with 35,000 fewer scams reported and the reimbursement rate up from 66% to 88%. Of the in-scope claims, 97% were paid within 35 days, with no evidence of payment-service-provider market exit, and an estimated £17–29mn net benefit overall. The PSR will consult on reimbursement-consistency improvements before the end of 2026.

- ***So what? Last month's story was that reimbursement shifted cost without deterring crime. This month's data shows deterrence catching up – worth checking your own APP-loss trend against the national one before assuming June's verdict still holds.***

Asia-Pacific

MAS · AUSTRAC · Japan FSA

AUSTRAC · Live since Jul 1, 2026

Tranche 2 is now law – and most of the target population still isn't enrolled.

AML/CTF obligations for lawyers, accountants, real-estate professionals, and precious-metals dealers commenced on schedule on July 1. AUSTRAC's own enrollment counter shows only around 35,000 businesses enrolled against an estimated 80,000–90,000 in scope, with a hard enrollment deadline of July 29 for anyone providing the newly designated services. The penalty unit also reset higher on July 1 – to \$364 – lifting the maximum penalty to \$7.28mn for individuals and \$36.4mn for body corporates.

- *So what? If you serve these sectors, expect a wave of clients who are legally regulated but operationally unready. The enrollment shortfall is the story – the commencement date held.*

MAS · Q2 published Jul 1, 2026

Singapore keeps naming names.

MAS's Q2 2026 enforcement roundup included a \$300,000 AML/CFT penalty against Padang Trust Singapore, alongside license revocations and criminal convictions. July added a criminal prosecution of moneychanger Samlit and its compliance manager, and prohibition orders against two individuals for fraud and REIT price manipulation.

- *So what? Individual accountability keeps showing up in MAS's enforcement mix, not just corporate penalties. Compliance officers and money-changing licensees are both in the direct line of fire.*

Japan FSA · Jul 3 & 7, 2026

Japan widened its crypto travel-rule net and published its AML scorecard.

The FSA released its annual review of AML/CFT initiatives on July 3, then finalized an amendment adding five jurisdictions to the countries requiring travel-rule notification for crypto-asset transfers, effective August 3.

- *So what? If you clear virtual-asset transfers into or through Japan, check the expanded country list before August 3 – a transfer that was travel-rule-exempt last month may not be after that date.*

Brazil · Mexico

Banco Central do Brasil · Mexico

Banco Central do Brasil · Jul 1, 2026

Brazil folded crypto firms into bank-grade prudential

supervision.

Resolução BCB 580 reclassifies virtual-asset service providers as 'Type 3' institutions under the Central Bank's existing prudential framework, following February's licensing regime. Capital, risk-management, and disclosure requirements apply from January 1, 2027, with a transition window to June 30, 2028.

- *So what? Brazil isn't just licensing crypto firms anymore – it's holding them to bank-style prudential standards. Budget for a capital and governance uplift, not just a registration filing.*

Mexico · Missed deadline Jul 16, 2026

Mexico's own AML reform missed its own deadline.

Hacienda failed to publish the general rules required under last year's LFPIORPI reform by its own July 16 statutory deadline, leaving businesses newly captured as 'vulnerable activities' without final operative definitions for their obligations.

- *So what? A missed rulemaking deadline is not the same as relief – the underlying obligations are already in force. Firms exposed to Mexican vulnerable-activity rules should keep building to the draft standard, not wait for the final text.*

India · Canada

RBI · FIU-IND & FINTRAC

RBI · Deadline passed Jun 30, 2026

India's KYC relief window closed without a reported extension.

The RBI's periodic-KYC relief for low-risk customers ended as scheduled on June 30, with no extension reported as of this writing.

- *So what? Confirm your own re-KYC backlog is actually clear – not just that the deadline passed quietly for the market as a whole.*

RBI · Consultation closed Jul 24, 2026

The AI kill-switch consultation has closed. The final rules haven't landed.

Public comments on the RBI's draft Guidance on Regulatory Principles for Model Risk Management closed on July 24, with no final guidance published yet. The draft's core mandate – a tested, technically enforced kill switch for any misbehaving AI/ML model, with mandatory human review before high-stakes decisions – remains the framework to plan against.

- *So what? Don't wait for the final text to start building. If you don't have a tested kill switch or a model inventory today, the consultation period was your head start, not your deadline.*

FINTRAC · Penalty imposed May 29, published Jul 9, 2026

A lottery corporation, not a crypto exchange, is Canada's latest AML penalty.

FINTRAC fined Atlantic Lottery Corporation C\$212,025 for failing to file a suspicious transaction report, failing to maintain approved compliance policies, and failing to properly document its risk assessment. Separately, FINTRAC issued a July 15 advisory translating FATF's June grey- and black-list changes into concrete reporting-entity obligations.

- *So what? FINTRAC's enforcement reach clearly extends well beyond crypto and banking – gaming and lottery operators carry the same STR and policy-documentation obligations, and are being tested on them.*

Multiple Jurisdictions

OFAC · UK · South Korea

Jul 2026, Running total

A month of designations, one after another.

OFAC ran four separate sanctions rounds this month – a network tied to Iran's Mojtaba Khamenei (July 10), an expanded shipping network linked to Mohammad Hossein Shamkhani now covering 200-plus designees (July 14), IRGC weapons-procurement entities (July 15), and more than 50 individuals and entities tied to Mexico's CJNG cartel (July 23). The UK added a vessel to its Libya sanctions list over illicit petroleum exports (July 24), and South Korea detained a cargo ship over suspected North Korea sanctions violations (July 22). OFAC also kept pruning its own list, removing 84 outdated SDN entries on July 27 through the new online delisting-request portal it launched in June.

- *So what? Sanctions lists are not just growing – they're being actively maintained and pruned, too. Screen against the current list on a real cadence; a name sanctioned last quarter may already be gone, and one that wasn't then may be new this week.*

Spotlight – Rotating Each Issue

The Transatlantic Data Divide

Two regulators, one goal, opposite instincts. Worth holding side by side.

WIDE OPEN – UNITED STATES

FinCEN's safe harbor asks for speed first.

FinCEN's June fact sheet requires only an automated online notice to begin 314(b) information sharing – no prior supervisory approval, virtually no restriction on data type or format, and coverage that now explicitly reaches cyber indicators such as IP addresses and device identifiers. Institutions can share even without a pre-existing relationship with the recipient.

GUARDED – EUROPEAN UNION

The AMLR asks for oversight first.

Under AMLR Article 75(2), an EU institution must formally notify its supervisory authority – a process that pulls in data-protection authorities – before a sharing partnership can even begin. Article 75(3) then confines the shareable data to a closed, exhaustive statutory list. AMLA and the EDPB's newly announced joint guidelines, due for consultation in H1 2027, are the EU's attempt to make this workable without abandoning the caution.



02

Enforcement

What the fines are really telling you.

\$50mn

NYDFS penalty against Swedbank – for withholding information, not the underlying AML gaps

\$36.4mn

AUSTRAC's new maximum body-corporate penalty ceiling, reindexed July 1

~\$5000bn

FATF's own estimate of global fraud losses, combined for 2024–2025

Enforcement League Table

Action	Amount
NYDFS – Swedbank AB (United States · Candor failure)	\$50mn
Sweden FSA – Ikano Bank (Sweden · AML framework deficiencies)	SEK140mn
Nevada Gaming Control Board – The Venetian Resort (United States · AML/CDD failures)	\$7.2mn
NSW Independent Casino Commission – The Star Sydney (Australia · AML failures, plus AUD5mn tech-investment mandate)	AUD10mn
MAS – Padang Trust Singapore (Singapore · AML/CFT composition penalty)	S\$300,000
FINTRAC – Atlantic Lottery (Canada · STR and policy failures)	C\$212,025

The read. The largest fine this month wasn't for an AML control gap at all – Swedbank's \$50mn cost was regulatory candor, not detection failure, and that's now its own enforcement category. Gaming and lottery operators in Nevada, New South Wales, and Canada are absorbing a growing share of AML enforcement outside banking. Not every action carried

a dollar figure either – the OCC's cease-and-desist order against United Texas Bank, issued as a condition of its June conversion to a national charter, is a reminder that supervisory transitions come with their own AML strings attached. And the ceiling itself is rising: AUSTRAC's reindexed penalty units alone can now exceed most of this month's actual fines.

Figures approximate, from public announcements.



03

Crypto-AML Watch

The transition ended. The register is still catching up.

MICA · THE DEADLINE THAT HELD

Binance pulled its Greek license bid – and MiCA's grace period ended on schedule anyway.

MiCA's EU-wide transitional arrangements expired July 1 as planned, with no extension. Binance withdrew its Greek CASP application on June 24, reportedly over AML-control concerns, and halted parts of its EU service from July 1 while pursuing authorization elsewhere. Standard Chartered joined the CASP register the same week – a bank, not a crypto-native firm, adding institutional weight to the newly authorized list.

One practical note: Treat any precise 'total CASPs authorized' figure you see quoted online with caution. ESMA's own register is a raw, weekly-updated data file with no official statistical breakdown, and third-party trackers publish different totals days apart, sometimes by several dozen. If a number matters to a decision, pull it from the register directly rather than from a secondary summary.

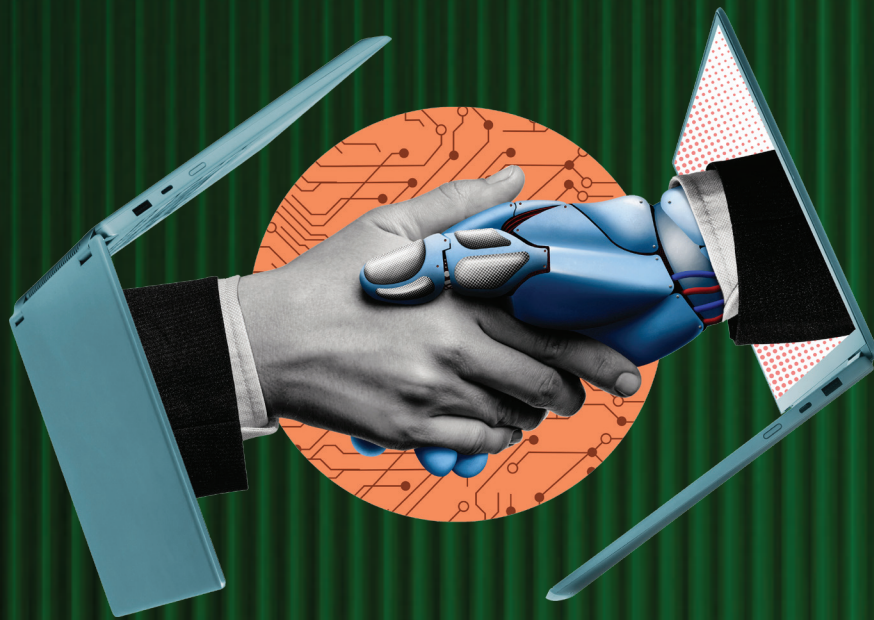
► ***So what? Re-verify every EU crypto counterparty's authorization status directly against the register, not against a number someone quoted last week. Authorization status is now a fast-moving fact, and the aggregated statistics floating around are not reliable enough to substitute for a direct check.***

TRAVEL RULE · WIDENING

Japan added five countries to its travel-rule net; FATF is rewriting the rulebook underneath it.

FATF's new consultation on Recommendation 16 implementation guidance, closing August 21, will decide how the 2025 cross-border-payment-transparency standard actually gets built. Japan didn't wait – its FSA finalized an amendment on July 7 adding five jurisdictions to the list requiring travel-rule notification for crypto-asset transfers, effective August 3.

► ***So what? The travel-rule perimeter is still being drawn jurisdiction by jurisdiction even as the global standard gets rewritten. Check Japan's expanded country list before August 3, and watch the R.16 consultation for where your own build requirements are heading next.***



04

Agentic AI & Tech

The kill-switch consultation just closed. Watch this space.

FOLLOW-THROUGH · INDIA

The rules aren't final – but the clock on building toward them has already started.

Public comments on the RBI's draft AI model-risk guidance – the one mandating a tested kill switch and human-in-the-loop review for high-stakes models – closed July 24, with no final rules published yet. Nothing else moved publicly on agentic AI governance this month; the conversation stayed regulatory, not commercial.

- *So what? A quiet month on the vendor side is not a quiet month on the governance side. If you haven't started building toward the RBI's kill-switch bar – model inventory, override mechanism, human-review checkpoints – the absence of a final rule isn't a reason to wait.*

CONTEXT · GLOBAL

Effectiveness, not existence, is becoming the standard for models, too.

The same shift FATF is driving in mutual evaluations – judging outcomes rather than the mere existence of a rulebook – is showing up in AI governance as well. The RBI's draft explicitly requires demonstrated human-in-the-loop control and explainability, not just a written policy. FATF is judging national AML systems by whether they work, not whether the rulebook exists. RBI's AI-governance draft applies the identical test to algorithms: demonstrated human-in-the-loop control and real explainability, not a policy binder that's never been tested.

- *So what? Documented AI governance that has never been tested against a live override scenario is the model-risk equivalent of a policy that exists only on paper – exactly the gap regulators elsewhere are now penalizing.*



05

The Next 90 Days

The dates that won't wait.

IMMINENT – THROUGH AUGUST

Jul 29 – Australia. AUSTRAC's hard enrollment deadline for Tranche 2 stragglers – most of the target population is still not enrolled.

Aug 2 – United States. FinCEN's extended comment deadline on the Huione Group successor-entity rule closes.

Aug 3 – Japan. The FSA's expanded crypto travel-rule country list takes effect.

Aug 21 – Global. FATF's consultation on Recommendation 16 implementation guidance closes.

ON THE HORIZON – H2 2026

Oct 6 – European Union. AMLA's consultation on cross-border FIU information-exchange rules closes.

Sep–Oct – Global. FATF publishes the Canada and Turkey mutual evaluation reports.

H2 2026 – European Union. AMLA's harmonized enforcement-gravity framework awaits formal Commission adoption.

End-2026 – United Kingdom. PSR consults on reimbursement-consistency improvements.

DON'T LOSE SIGHT – 2027 AND BEYOND

Jan 1, 2027 – Brazil. New prudential capital, risk-management, and disclosure requirements apply to reclassified VASPs.

Jul 1, 2027 – EU. AMLA selects the entities it will directly supervise.

Jul 10, 2027 – EU. The AMLR single rulebook applies, including the Article 75 information-sharing framework.

2028 – EU. AMLA begins direct supervision of major cross-border groups under the cooperation standards finalized this month.



06

Act On This

Eight moves worth making now.

Coming out of this month's developments – most with a deadline already on the calendar.

01

Update your 314(b) data-sharing agreements to match FinCEN's June fact sheet – cyber indicators and no-prior-relationship sharing are now explicit, not implied.

02

Re-paper Venezuela-related payment logic against General Licenses 5X, 24A, and 59 – screening alone can't tell you which license covers your transaction.

03

Run a historical lookback across all seven TRON addresses tied to the Al-Jebouri network, and screen at the entity and beneficial-ownership level – a wallet match alone will miss related exposure.

04

Screen for Huione-style successor-entity evasion – check whether any counterparty that went quiet after a designation has resurfaced under a new legal name.

05

Verify EU crypto counterparties directly against the ESMA CASP register, not a secondary tracker – Binance's withdrawal shows authorization status can change within weeks.

06

Australian business? Confirm your Tranche 2 enrollment before July 29 – most of the target population isn't enrolled yet, and the penalty ceiling just rose to \$36.4mn.

07

If you touch federal student aid disbursements, update red-flag training for ghost-student and straw-student typologies – AI-generated identity documents are now an explicit warning sign.

08

Start building toward the RBI's AI kill-switch bar now – model inventory, override mechanism, human-review checkpoints – regardless of when the final guidance lands.



07

From the SGA Desk

More jurisdictions, the same test.

Read together, July's story is that the perimeter didn't just widen – it went live, simultaneously, almost everywhere. FinCEN's safe harbor became a published fact sheet, and its rulemaking against Huione's rebrand attempt showed the same regulator closing the loopholes underneath it. MiCA's transition period actually ended, with a major exchange pulling out days before. AUSTRAC's Tranche 2 became law for tens of thousands of businesses still not enrolled. A new FATF presidency opened with a named fraud roadmap, echoed in typology alerts on ghost-student aid fraud and cartel fuel smuggling. New York proved, at \$50mn, that the cost of concealment now outweighs the cost of the underlying failure.

This is the environment SG Analytics was built to operate in. We don't hand you a deck of jurisdiction summaries; we operationalize the work – certified practitioners running AML, KYC, sanctions, and assurance programs across every geography in this issue, paired with AI that executes inside the workflow under human-in-the-loop governance. The wider 314(b) safe harbor maps to a converged FRAML model we already run. AUSTRAC's enrollment gap maps to onboarding-readiness programs for newly regulated sectors. The AI kill-switch bar maps to model validation and human-in-the-loop assurance we build for today, not for a future deadline. One partner, vendor-neutral, alongside the stack you run.

500+
certified FCC experts

40–60%
fewer false positives

3–5×
faster investigations

ISO 27001
/ SOC 2 Type II

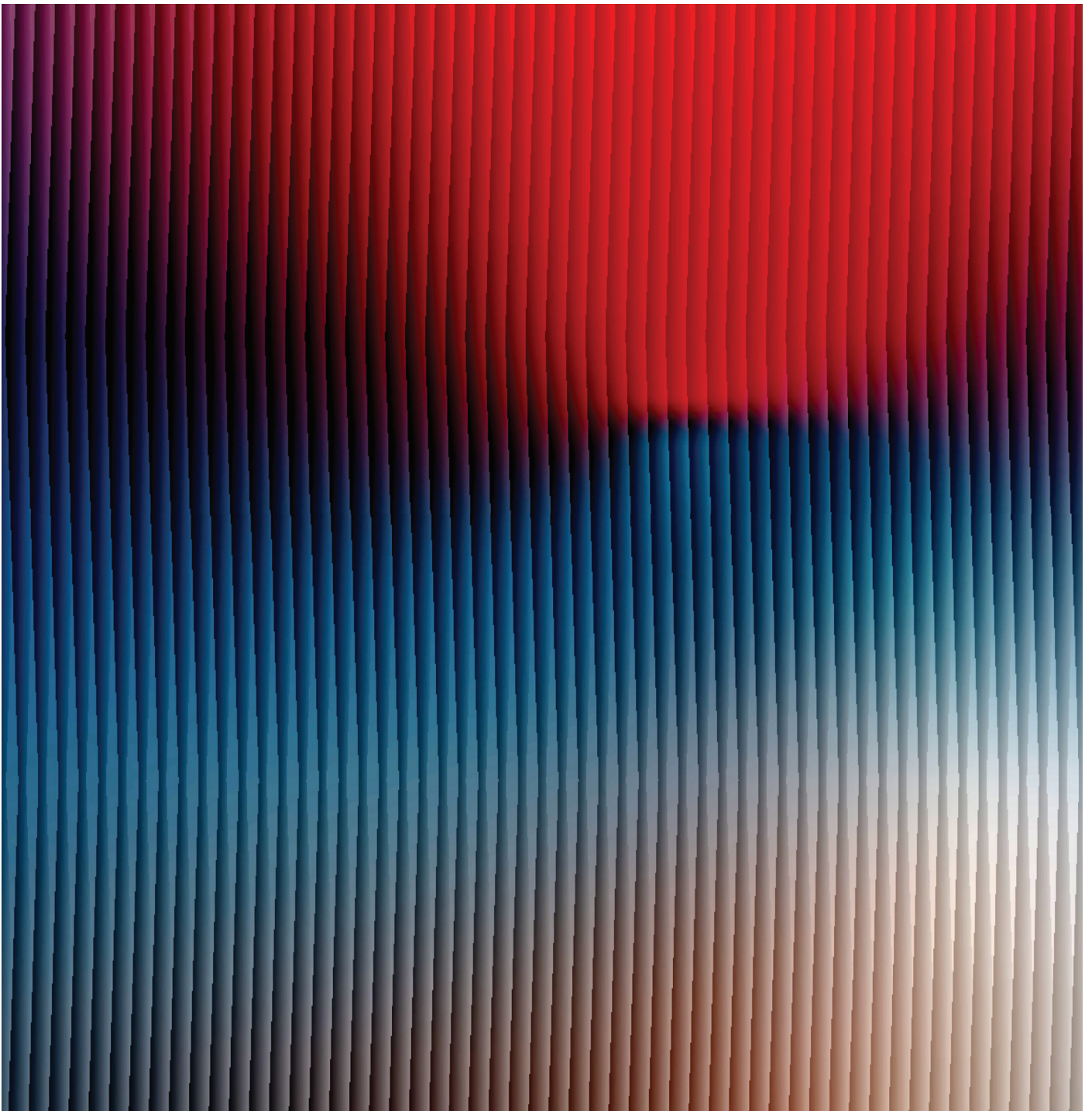
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- SG Analytics – FCC Services – sganalytics.com/financial-crime-compliance-services/

Compiled from public regulatory sources and independently verified against primary-source publications where available. Several items – particularly EU statistical registers and rapidly evolving sanctions lists – change quickly; confirm against the primary source before relying on them for a compliance decision. Enforcement figures and currency conversions are approximate. Intelligence and commentary, not legal advice.



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