



Regulatory horizon scanning Q3 2026

DFSA issues notice of amendments to legislation

On July 2, 2026, the Dubai Financial Services Authority (“DFSA”) announced amendments to the Prudential – Investment, Insurance Intermediation, and Banking Business (“PIB”) module and Conduct of Business (“COB”) module following consultation on Consultation Paper No. 171 (Miscellaneous Changes). Key changes include allowing certain capital requirement calculations (PIB rules 3.8C.4 and 3.8C.5) to be based on monthly rather than daily figures and providing additional clarity regarding client money reconciliations. These amendments are intended to reduce operational burden while maintaining appropriate prudential safeguards and client asset protection standards.

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DFSA prudential amendments (CP161)

Further amendments to the PIB module following Consultation Paper No. 161 (Enhancing Proportionality in Prudential Regulation) came into force on July 1, 2026. The amendments include the re-categorisation of firms and revised capital and liquidity requirements, including the introduction of the Activity Based Capital Requirement (“ABCR”).

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Conduct Principles and Authorised Individual requirements

From July 1, 2026, the DFSA’s Principles for Authorised Individuals were renamed the Conduct Principles and apply to relevant employees, as well as Authorised Individuals (GEN Chapter 4). A new Principle 7 introduces an independent disclosure obligation for Authorised Individuals. Authorised Firms should ensure that fitness and propriety reviews, record-keeping, and Conduct Principles training reflect the amended requirements.

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DIFC enacts Prescribed Company Regulations 2026

The DIFC Prescribed Company Regulations 2026 came into force on July 24, 2026. The regulations remove the previous qualifying requirements for Prescribed Companies and require non-exempt Prescribed Companies to appoint a Corporate Service Provider. A non-exempt Prescribed Company incorporated before July 24, 2026 must appoint a Corporate Service Provider by January 24, 2027, unless the Registrar of Companies approves a longer period. The regulations also provide that a Prescribed Company may not be used to establish a fund in the DIFC without DFSA authorisation. This is a DIFC Authority measure and not an amendment to the DFSA Rulebook.

Click [here](#) for more

Consultation papers

DFSA proposes significant updates to the Collective Investment Fund framework (CP173)

On July 7, 2026, the DFSA issued Consultation Paper No. 173 seeking industry feedback on proposed enhancements to the DIFC Collective Investment Fund framework. The proposals are intended to update and simplify the existing funds regime and enhance flexibility for fund managers and professional investor funds. The paper also seeks initial feedback on tokenisation to inform possible future policy changes. The consultation reflects the DFSA's ongoing focus on maintaining a competitive and efficient investment funds framework while ensuring appropriate investor protection and regulatory oversight. The consultation closed on September 7, 2026. Among other proposals, the DFSA proposes to abolish the External Fund Manager regime. A three-month transition period is proposed following finalisation.

Click [here](#) for more

DFSA consults on miscellaneous Rulebook changes (CP174)

On July 9, 2026, the DFSA issued Consultation Paper No. 174 (Miscellaneous Changes), proposing amendments to the definitions of Fiat Crypto Token, Privacy Token, Privacy Device and Investment Token, requirements for Credit Rating Agencies, and certain regulatory reporting requirements. The consultation closed on August 24, 2026. The DFSA subsequently concluded the credit rating agency and prudential reporting amendments, with PIB changes taking effect on October 2, 2026 and COB changes coming into force on January 1, 2027. The Crypto and Investment Token proposals will be considered at a later stage.

Click [here](#) for more

Matters of clarification / regulatory alerts

DFSA-authorised firm impersonated – Menhir Capital Management Limited

On August 17, 2026, the DFSA issued an alert regarding fraudsters impersonating DFSA-authorised firm Menhir Capital Management Limited through a fraudulent website and email address. The alert reminds investors and market participants to verify firms via the DFSA Public Register before engaging with them.

Click [here](#) for more

DFSA impersonated in blockchain settlement scam

On September 8, 2026, the DFSA warned the public about a scam in which fraudsters falsely claimed to represent the DFSA in connection with blockchain settlement activities. The alert highlights the importance of exercising caution when dealing with unsolicited communications purporting to originate from regulators.

Click [here](#) for more

DIFC-registered firm impersonated in employment scam

On September 29, 2026, the DFSA issued an alert concerning an employment scam involving the impersonation of a DIFC-registered firm. Fraudsters circulated fake job offers and requested payments for a training certificate. The DFSA confirmed that the firm's details had been used without its knowledge or permission and warned individuals against communicating with or sending money to anyone connected with the scam.

Click [here](#) for more

Key updates / media updates

DIFC Family Wealth Centre graduates first NextGen Leadership Programme cohort

On July 1, 2026, the DIFC announced the graduation of the first cohort of its NextGen Leadership Programme, designed to support future leaders of family businesses through training on governance, succession planning, wealth management, and leadership responsibilities. The initiative reflects the DIFC's continued focus on strengthening family enterprise governance and long-term wealth preservation frameworks. The update is informational in nature and does not introduce any new regulatory requirements for DFSA-authorised firms.

Click [here](#) for more

DFSA publishes 9th Audit Monitoring Report

On July 9, 2026, the DFSA published its 9th Audit Monitoring Report, summarising the results of audit inspections conducted across DFSA-registered audit firms in the DIFC during 2024–2025. The report noted improvements in overall audit quality, a higher proportion of satisfactory audit engagements, enhanced transparency reporting by auditors of Public Listed Companies, and continued regulatory focus on audit governance, professional scepticism, revenue recognition, valuation assessments, and related-party transactions. The findings provide useful insight

into the DFSA's expectations regarding audit quality, governance, oversight, and financial reporting standards within the DIFC.

Click [here](#) for more

DFSA and HKMA announce third Climate Finance Conference

On August 10, 2026, the DFSA announced that it would co-host the third Climate Finance Conference with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA"). The conference was designed to focus on climate finance developments, sustainable finance opportunities, and transition strategies.

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This update is provided for general information only and does not constitute legal or regulatory advice. Readers should refer to the primary DFSA and DIFC sources and seek advice on their specific circumstances.



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