

ENHANCED COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK on Operational Risk Management (ECF-ORM)

Certified Operational Risk Management Professional

(recognised under the QF at Level 5, QR Registration No: 21/001160/L5)
(validity period from 01/11/2021 to 31/07/2030)



Associate Operational Risk Management Professional

(recognised under the QF at Level 4, QR Registration No: 21/001159/L4)
(validity period from 01/11/2021 to 31/07/2030)



Enhanced Competency Framework for Banking Practitioners

With the aim of supporting capacity building and talent development for banking professionals, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) has been working together with the banking industry to introduce an industry-wide competency framework – “Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) for Banking Practitioners” in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) is the programme and qualification provider for the ECF on Operational Risk Management (ORM), with the following objectives:

- To develop a sustainable pool of ORM practitioners for the banking industry; AND
- To raise and maintain the professional competence of ORM practitioners in the banking industry.

Overview of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers

HKIB has been serving the local banking community in the provision of professional training and certification services since 1963. HKIB is the first not-for-profit institution in Hong Kong to issue banking qualifications up to QF Level 6 under the HKQF and was appointed by the Education Bureau as a Professional Qualifications Assessment Agency in August 2020. With an objective to maintain and further develop the territory’s status as an international financial centre, the Institute works with the support of banks, regulators, financial institutions, academic institutions, and various professional bodies to provide local banking practitioners with professional training and development opportunities.

In view of the changing landscape of the banking and financial services industry in Hong Kong and mainland China, as well as on a global scale, the importance of continuing to enhance the standards of professional development has gained increased attention. The HKIB endeavours to provide and enhance its training and development products in order to equip its members with essential knowledge and skills that meet the industry’s needs.

Since the implementation of ECF in 2018, various programmes for different job functions in banking industry have been developed and integrated into HKIB’s flagship Certified Banker (CB) Programme which offer generalist, specialist, and strategic topics. The rationale for putting all programmes under one professional banking qualification is to promote an industry-based common qualifications benchmark. While ECF programmes offer “role-based” knowledge and certification to relevant practitioners, CB is offering a vocational qualification pathway for further career advancement, being continuously enhanced to nurture more holistic banking professionals and ultimately, supporting the industry to develop a continuous learning culture and a sustainable talent pool so as to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

Qualifications Framework

The following Professional Qualification is recognised under the QF at Level 4:

Associate Operational Risk Management Professional (AORP)¹

The following Professional Qualification is recognised under the QF at Level 5:

Certified Operational Risk Management Professional (CORP)²

Becoming an Associate Operational Risk Management Professional (AORP) / Certified Operational Risk Management Professional (CORP)

Certification	Certified as Associate Operational Risk Management Professional at QF Level 4 AORP	Certified as Certified Operational Risk Management Professional at QF Level 5 CORP
Experience	Relevant Practitioners ³	Relevant Practitioners ³ with at least 5 years of relevant work experience
Award	Obtain Advanced Certificate for ECF on Operational Risk Management	Obtain Professional Certificate for ECF on Operational Risk Management
Training + Examination	Complete ECF on Operational Risk Management (Core Level) Module 1 – 3 ⁴ + Pass the examinations in Module 1 – 3	Complete ECF on Operational Risk Management (Professional Level) Module 4 + Pass the examination in Module 4
Target Participants	Entry-level and junior-level staff in the operational risk management and business function risk and control with 0 - 5 years of experience	Staff taking up middle-level or senior positions in the operational risk management and business function risk and control with 5+ years of experience

¹ QR Registration No: 21/001159/L4, Validity Period from 01/11/2021 to 31/07/2030

² QR Registration No: 21/001160/L5, Validity Period from 01/11/2021 to 31/07/2030

³ Relevant Practitioners are persons engaged by AIs undertaking operational risk management and business function risk and control function for corporations ranging from large corporates to small and medium-sized enterprises in a variety of industry sectors including financial institutions.

⁴ Module 1 and Module 2 are identical for both ECF on Operational Risk Management and ECF on Compliance. Hence, a learner who has completed Module 1 and/or Module 2 under either of these ECF streams will not be required to complete the same module(s) under the other ECF stream.

Certified Individual (CI)

AORP / CORP holders will be registered as CI and included in a public register on HKIB website. The Registers of Certified Individuals posted on HKIB website enables the public recognition of AORP / CORP holders. To ensure your Professional Qualification reflected in the Registers of Certified Individuals, you are required to comply with the stated professional qualification requirements annually.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

All AORP/CORP holders are required to comply with the following annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements in order to maintain the Professional Qualifications.

1. A minimum of 12 CPD hours is required for each calendar year (ending 31 December)
2. At least 6 hours should be on topics related to topics of compliance, legal and regulatory requirement, risk management and ethics

For more details, please refer to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme on HKIB Website.
(Home > Membership > Individual Members > HKIB CPD Requirements)

ECF on Operational Risk Management (Core Level)

Module 1 – Ethics and Corporate Governance in Banking Industry

<i>Intended Outcomes</i>	<i>Outline</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon completion of this module, candidates should be able to:• Identify and apply the principles, requirements, and management of business ethical situations in the second line of defence in the context of broader risk environment encountered in the banking industry• Explain the organizational structures and exercise the requirement under the regulatory landscape in building an effective risk management framework to effective compliance• Identify different roles associated in building a culture for effective management of governance, risk, and compliance in financial institution• Apply regulatory requirement and effective compliance control on daily duties by demonstrating an understanding of and adopting the requirement related to corporate governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Ethics• Ethics and the Corporation• Risk Management: Principles and Concepts• The Regulators, Law and Regulation• Corporate Governance in Banks• Remuneration and Appointment of Board Members, Chief Executive and Managers• Internal Control and Compliance in Banking

Module 2 – Regulatory Framework and Compliance in Banking Industry

Intended Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, candidates should be able to:

- Understand and explain the role and function of financial regulatory framework specifically the role of the HKMA and various other regulators including SFC and IA in regulating the banking industry
- Describe and apply the Banking Ordinance and other relevant laws applicable to banks, as well as the HKMA statutory guidelines and guidance notes, in the day to day running of various businesses of a bank
- Design and implement systems and controls for banks to ensure all legal and regulatory requirements are satisfied
- Assess compliance related operational risk indicators, assessment of the risks and based on the legal and regulatory requirement, develop strategies to mitigate the risks maintaining compliance position of the bank at the tolerance level
- Monitor and identify problems and issues in various banking businesses and making informed judgement and propose solutions in compliance with all the legal and regulatory requirements

Outline

- Overview of Regulatory Regime for Bank in Hong Kong
- Banking Supervision, Internal Policies, Standards and Guidelines
- Bank Culture Reform
- Major Statutory Requirements for Bank in Hong Kong
- Regulatory Objectives and Relevant Mandates
- Introduction to International Regulation
- Registration and Licensing Requirements
- Regulatory Breach and Operational Risk Incident Management
- Future Development in Banking and the Relevant Regulatory Requirements
- Case Studies – Compliance Challenge

Module 3 – Fundamentals of Operational Risk Management and Risk Governance

Intended Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, candidates should be able to:

- Understand the objectives and the types of Operational Risk Management
- Establish solid operational risk governance, define clear roles and responsibilities and support risk culture in the organization
- Apply and practice the operational risk principles and define the operational risk appetite
- Execute the operational risk assessment, measurement and reporting
- Understand and integrate with technology, resiliency and enterprise risk assessment

Outline

- Overview of Operational Risk
- Operational Risk Framework and Governance
- Operational Risk Principles and Appetite
- Operational Risk Assessment, Measurement and Reporting
- Technology, Resiliency and Enterprise Risk Assessment
- Integrated Case Studies and Best Practices

Entry Requirements

The programme is open to both members and non-members of HKIB. Candidates must fulfil the stipulated minimum entry requirements with:

- Students of Associate Degree (AD) / Higher Diploma (HD) in any disciplines (QF L4); OR
- Equivalent qualifications or above; OR
- Mature applicants⁵ with either at least three years of work experience in banking and finance or equivalent with a recommendation from the employer.

Medium of Instruction

- Training is delivered in classroom setting in either Cantonese or English supplemented with English materials.
- All the examination questions are set in English only.

⁵ Mature applicants (aged 21 or above) who do not possess the above academic qualifications but with relevant banking experience and recommendation from their employers will be considered on individual merit.

ECF on Operational Risk Management (Professional Level)

Module 4 – Advanced Operational Risk Management

Intended Outcomes

Upon completion of this module, candidates should be able to:

- Develop and establish operational risk management frameworks and associated policies and procedures
- Evaluate the operational risks encountered by different business units of the AI and establish effective mitigating controls
- Manage operational risks by using risk management control tools, e.g. risk control self-assessment (RCSA) and key risk indicators (KRIs)
- Develop risk control measures by using scenario analysis and stress testing to identify potential operational risk events and assess their potential impact
- Review the risk profile of the AI/business function and apply operational risk modelling to quantify and predict operational risks
- Compile the dashboards and metrics to measure and analyse operational risks within different business units
- Develop business continuity plan and recovery strategy
- Build and promote a risk focused culture within the AI/within the business function
- Propose strategic operational risk advice and remediation actions to senior management on findings of operational risk events
- Design and deliver operational risk training to business units

Outline

- Operational Risk Assessment Methodology and New Products Risk Assessment
- Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing
- Key Risk Indicators
- Capital Requirements for Operational Risk
- Risk Control Self-Assessment
- Operational Risk Events
- Regulatory and Supervisory Frameworks
- Contingency, Business Continuity and Recovery Planning
- Risk Culture, Awareness and Key Components of Successful Operational Risk Management Implementation
- Operational Risks Related to the Key Areas for Future Banking
- The Future and Challenges of Operational Risk Management
- Integrated Case Studies and Best Practices

Entry Requirements

The Programme is open to both members and non-members of HKIB. Candidates must fulfil the stipulated minimum entry requirements with:

- Advanced Certificate for ECF on Operational Risk Management (ORM) awarded by HKIB; OR
- Grandfathered for ECF on Operational Risk Management (Core Level) by HKIB.

Medium of Instruction

- Training is delivered in classroom setting in either Cantonese or English supplemented with English materials
- All the examination questions are set in English only.

Application

Applicants can submit their application via [MyHKIB](#).

General Enquiry / Feedback

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Integration of ECF in Certified Banker (CB)

Certified Banker (CB) is a professional banking qualification programme developed and offered by HKIB. This common qualification benchmark is intended to raise the professional competency of banking and financial practitioners in Hong Kong to meet modern demands, while providing a transparent standard with international recognition.

The ECF-ORM (Core and Professional Levels) have already been incorporated in CB (Stage I) and CB (Stage II) respectively. You may refer to the CB Programme structure as below to plan for your learning path.

CB Pathway	CB Certified Banker (CB Stage) <QF Level 6> ¹				
	With 3 years banking or finance related working experience				
	↑				
	Postgraduate Diploma for Certified Banker (Stream-Specific)				
	Final Case Study Assessment and Oral Assessment				
	Core Module: Strategic Management and Leadership (Credit: 15)				
CB Stage CORE+ELECTIVE SPECIALIST STREAM	Credit Management	Treasury Management	Operations Management	GBA and Cross-boundary Banking Management	Fintech Management
	✧ ECF-CRM (Professional Level) – Commercial Lending ⁷ (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-CRM (Professional Level) – Credit Portfolio Management ⁷ (Credit: 30)	✧ Bank Asset and Liability Management (Credit: 30) ✧ Treasury Markets and Operations (Credit: 30)	✧ Banking Law and Practice (Credit: 30) ✧ Operational Risk Management (Credit: 30)	✧ GBA Banking Compliance and Cross-boundary Wealth Management (Credit: 30) ✧ Cross-boundary Banking Strategy and Management (Credit: 30)	✧ ECF-Fintech (Professional Level) ¹⁴ (Credit: 60)
	↑				
	Professional Diploma for Certified Banker CB (Stage II)				
	Obtain 60 credits from any TWO modules				
	✧ Green Finance and Sustainability (Credit: 30) ✧ Corporate Finance Services (Credit: 30) ✧ Finance of International Trade (Credit: 30) ✧ Essential Fintech in Next-gen Banking (Credit:30)		✧ ECF-RWM (Professional Level) ¹ (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level) ² (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-CRM (Core Level) ⁶ (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-ORM (Professional Level) ⁹ (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-Fintech (Core Level) ¹¹ (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-Compliance (Professional Level) ¹² (Credit: 30) ✧ ECF-GSF (Professional Level) ¹⁵ (Credit: 30)		
CB (Stage II)	↑				
	Advanced Diploma for Certified Banker CB (Stage I)				
	Obtain 20 credits from Core and 40 credits from Elective modules				
	Core Module ✧ Future Banking and ESG (FBESG) (Credit: 10) ✧ Professional Ethics and Compliance (Credit: 10)		Elective Module ✧ Fundamentals of Accounting (Credit: 10) ✧ Introduction to Banking Law (Credit: 10) ✧ Introduction to People Management Skills (Credit: 10) ✧ Risk Management (Credit: 10) ✧ Qualification Certificate of Banking Professional (QCBP) ⁸ (Credit 10) ✧ ECF-Treasury Management (Core Level) ³ (Credit: 10) ✧ ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level) ⁴ (Credit: 20) ✧ ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level) ⁵ (Credit: 20) ✧ ECF-ORM (Core Level) ¹⁰ (Credit 20) ✧ ECF-Compliance (Core Level) ¹³ (Credit: 20) ✧ ECF-GSF (Core Level) ¹⁶ (Credit: 30)		
(with 2 years banking or finance related working experience)					
CB (Stage I) CORE+ELECTIVE					
(with 1 year banking or finance related working experience)					

Notes:

1. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-RWM or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-RWM (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-RWM**" for details.
2. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-AML/CFT or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-AML/CFT (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-AML/CFT**" for details.
3. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-Treasury Management (Core Level) offered by LiPACE of HKMU are eligible to apply for ECF-Treasury Management (Core Level) modular exemption.
4. For exemption only. Holders of the Advanced Certificate for ECF-AML/CFT or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-AML/CFT (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-AML/CFT**" for details.
5. For exemption only. Holders of the Advanced Certificate for ECF-Cybersecurity offered by HKIB are eligible to apply for ECF-Cybersecurity (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-Cybersecurity**" for details.
6. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-CRM or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-CRM (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-CRM**" for details.
7. For exemption only. Holders of the respective Postgraduate Certificate for ECF-CRM are eligible to apply for ECF-CRM (Professional Level) – Advanced Commercial Lending (M4) and/or ECF-CRM (Professional Level) Advanced Credit Risk Management and Regulatory Requirements (M5) modular exemption. Holders of the respective grandfathered certificate of ECF-CRM are eligible to apply for ECF-CRM (Professional Level) – Advanced Commercial Lending (M4) and/or ECF-CRM (Professional Level) Advanced Credit Risk Management and Regulatory Requirements (M5) modular exemption after passing the written assessment developed by the HKIB. Please refer to "**ECF-CRM**" for details.
8. Holders of Qualification Certificate of Banking Professional (QCBP) who have passed the QCBP exam are eligible to apply for QCBP modular exemption.
9. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-ORM or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-ORM (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-ORM**" for details.
10. For exemption only. Holders of the Advanced Certificate for ECF-ORM or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-ORM (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-ORM**" for details.
11. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-Fintech or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-Fintech (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-Fintech**" for details.
12. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-Compliance or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-Compliance (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-Compliance**" for details.
13. For exemption only. Holders of the Advanced Certificate for ECF-Compliance or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-Compliance (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-Compliance**" for details.
14. For exemption only. Holders of the Postgraduate Certificate for ECF-Fintech or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-Fintech (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF- Fintech**" for details.
15. For exemption only. Holders of the Professional Certificate for ECF-GSF or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-GSF (Professional Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-GSF**" for details.
16. For exemption only. Holders of the Advanced Certificate for ECF-GSF or respective grandfathered certificate are eligible to apply for ECF-GSF (Core Level) modular exemption. Please refer to "**ECF-GSF**" for details.

* For CB, the Professional Qualification of CB is recognised under the QF at Level 6. (QR Registration No.: 20/000543/L6) Validity period: 1/8/2020 – 31/7/2030