

The following SPECIAL ALERT has been received from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), USA.

Summary: *Faxed messages to foreign institutions and citizens fraudulently claim to be from the FDIC. These messages falsely claim that the FDIC is soliciting mandatory customer information as part of money laundering and anti-terrorism measures. These messages may include a fraudulent form (Form F 91-11.01, “Report of Foreign Bank and Securities Accounts”). The FDIC does not solicit customer information from foreign institutions and citizens.*

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has received inquiries from foreign financial institutions, foreign offices of domestic financial institutions, and citizens of other countries who have received a faxed message claiming to be sent by the FDIC. The fraudulent message sent with Form F 91-11.01 indicates that the “FDIC money laundering and anti-terrorism joint Task Force Security” is requesting financial account and investment information regarding accounts maintained in financial institutions and investment banks in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union member countries. The faxed message states that failure to comply may result in civil and criminal penalties, including the freezing of accounts, cancellation of visas, forfeiture of assets, or fines. The message alleges to be from Robert Smith of the FDIC. The fraudulent form, F 91-11.01, “Report of Foreign Bank and Securities Accounts,” is not an official FDIC form.

The FDIC does not solicit customer information from foreign financial institutions and citizens. The form is an attempt to obtain access to foreign financial institution accounts. Therefore, financial institutions and citizens of other countries should NOT, under any circumstance, provide account information to these unknown sources.