

Banque Du Liban (BDL) issued on June 08, 2021, its Basic Circular number 158 (BDL 158) to set the exceptional measures for the gradual withdrawal of deposits in foreign currencies.

### **Who are the clients eligible to benefit from BDL 158?**

Individuals only (resident and non-resident) including minors.

### **Who are the clients not eligible to benefit from BDL 158?**

- ✓ All types of entities including sole proprietorships
- ✓ Associations
- ✓ Public Sector Entities
- ✓ Banks and Financial Institutions (resident and non-resident)
- ✓ Clients who did not comply with the requirement of returning funds from abroad as per BDL Basic Circular 154
- ✓ Holders of accounts opened after 31/10/2019.

### **How do I know that I am eligible to benefit from BDL 158?**

Eligible clients shall be informed by the bank that they are eligible to benefit from BDL 158 whereby they will be invited to visit the bank and sign necessary documents. Kindly contact your Relationship Manager for more details on your eligibility to benefit from BDL 158.

**N.B.** Eligible client is free to accept or refuse benefitting from BDL 158.

### **When is the deadline to apply to BDL 158?**

The deadline to apply to BDL 158 and benefit from retroactive effect (to benefit from eligible amounts not previously withdrawn during the period spanning between 01/07/2021 and the date of opening of the Special Sub-Account) is 31/10/2021. Retroactive effect applies only for the months during which you did not benefit from BDL Basic Circular 151 (BDL 151).

You may also apply to benefit from BDL 158 after 31/10/2021 at any time, however no retroactive effect will apply and you shall benefit from BDL 158 starting the coming month following the date of opening of the Special Sub Account in case you benefited from BDL 151 in the period during which said Special Sub Account was opened.

### **Which type of accounts are considered to be eligible accounts?**

Deposit accounts in Foreign Currency (FCY) held as at 31/10/2019 and still active (current account, fixed term deposit account, joint account, collective account etc.).

You may also benefit from BDL 158 on your accounts which are considered as a continuity to your accounts opened before 31/10/2019 within the same bank. However, only the holder of the principal account shall benefit from this continuity. Below are some examples:

- ✓ Joint account which became an individual account
- ✓ Individual account which became a joint account
- ✓ Account transferred to heirs or legatees

### **What is the maximum eligible amount?**

The maximum eligible amount is set at USD 50,000.00

You are also free to transfer the amount of 10,000\$ only, for one year, and may transfer, at the end of such year, additional amounts within the permitted ceiling.

### Can I benefit from BDL 158 if I hold accounts in different Banks?

You can benefit from BDL 158 from different banks within the limits set by BDL 158.

### What documents should I sign if I decided to benefit from BDL 158?

A set of documentation should be signed including:

- ✓ A Request Letter for benefiting from BDL 158
- ✓ Bank Secrecy Revelation Proxy Form for the Special Deposit Sub Account

Kindly contact your Relationship Manager for more information about the documents to be signed.

### On which accounts will I waive the Banking secrecy and in favor of whom?

The banking secrecy is lifted solely in favor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and the Banking Control Commission on the Special Sub Account ONLY.

### Can I opt out of BDL 158?

You have the right to opt-out of BDL 158 at any time. In this case, the balance of the Special Sub Account shall be transferred to the account(s) of your choice and will no longer be subject to the conditions and restrictions of BDL 158.

In addition, once you opt-out of BDL 158, you can no longer benefit again from BDL 158.

### What are the type of accounts to be opened once I agree to benefit from BDL 158 and related monthly transfers?

- ✓ **A Special Sub Account** to which the maximum eligible amount or the amount of 10,000 USD (for the first year) will be transferred.
- ✓ **A fresh USD account** to which 400\$ or less (see joint accounts below) will be automatically transferred on monthly basis (First week of every month).
- ✓ **An LBP current account** to which the equivalent in LBP of 200\$ or less (see joint accounts below) at the fixed rate of 1\$= 12,000 LBP will be automatically transferred on monthly basis (First week of every month), and can be withdrawn at the bank's counters.
- ✓ **An LBP card account** to which the equivalent in LBP of 200\$ or less (see joint accounts below) at the fixed rate of 1\$= 12,000 LBP will be automatically transferred on monthly basis (First week of every month), to be used by the client via the Visa LBP Prefunded Card at Points Of Sale only.

### What are the terms and conditions applied on my Special Sub Account?

- ✓ This account could not be a joint account, only an **Individual** account.
- ✓ No fees, commissions or interests are applied on this account.
- ✓ Even if you hold accounts in Foreign Currencies other than USD, the eligible amount will be converted into USD at the prevailing market rate and then transferred to the Special Sub Account.
- ✓ No additional deposits or transfers can be made to the Special Sub Account after the opening of said account **except** in the case where you opt to benefit from 10,000\$ for a year whereby you are entitled at the end of such year to transfer additional amounts to your Special Sub Account and within the limits of the eligible amount .



### **What are the terms and conditions applied on the Visa Prefunded Card?**

The Visa Prefunded LBP card is free of charge. For more information on the Prefunded Card, kindly refer to the related Key Facts Statement published on the Bank's website [www.bemobank.com](http://www.bemobank.com) under "Client Platform" section.

### **Can I partially withdraw the amount available in my Special Sub Account?**

You have the right to withdraw **Part** or **All** of the amounts resulting from the Special Sub Account which were transferred to the accounts opened for this purpose. Monthly amounts not previously withdrawn are cumulated and can be withdrawn at any time.

### **How can I benefit from BDL 158 if I hold a joint account?**

- ✓ Joint Accounts means the accounts held by more than one individual (joint "OR" or collective "AND").
- ✓ Maximum eligible amount per joint account for all co-holders: 50,000\$.
- ✓ Joint account balance may be split between co-holders (percentage to be determined by co-holders) and added to each eligible client balance.
- ✓ All co-holders shall sign the request letter for benefiting from BDL 158.
- ✓ Each co-holder will hold a separate Special Sub Account.
- ✓ Each co-holder will have the right to withdraw the maximum monthly amount from his/her Special Sub Account on **Pro Rata basis** according to the percentages agreed between co-holders.
- ✓ In case one of the co-holders decided not benefit from BDL 158, other co-holders still have the right to benefit from BDL 158 up to the maximum eligible amount.
- ✓ In case one of the co-holders has a personal account, he can use this account's eligible amount to add it up to his Special Sub Account to reach the maximum amount of 50,000\$.

### **Can I still benefit from BDL Basic Circular 151 (BDL 151) if I agree to benefit from BDL 158?**

- ✓ If you benefit from BDL 158 in a chosen bank, you can no longer benefit from BDL 151 at this chosen bank, however you may still benefit from BDL 151 at another bank.
- ✓ If the co-holder of a joint account benefits fully from the joint account as per BDL 158, the other co-holders (who have not benefited from BDL 158 on such joint account or any other account) have the right to benefit from BDL 151 from **another** account.
- ✓ EXCEPTION - Case of salaries in USD: Employees who receive their salaries from their employers in local dollars will still be allowed to benefit from BDL 151 on their account (up to the amount of their salary) alongside BDL 158.

### **How can I submit a complaint related to BDL 158?**

In case of any complaint related to BDL 158, please submit it to [qualitymanagement@bemobank.com](mailto:qualitymanagement@bemobank.com) or refer to the complaints handling process under the "Quality Management" section on the Bank's website [www.bemobank.com](http://www.bemobank.com)

\*\*\*\*\*