

PRESS RELEASE

Banknote Ethics Initiative Launches Enhanced BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard to Strengthen Industry Compliance

The Banknote Ethics Initiative (BnEI) is proud to launch the BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard, a significant advancement in the organization's commitment to promoting ethical practices and compliance across the global banknote industry. Effective 25th February 2026, all BnEI members will be audited and accredited under the newly developed BnEI 2.0 framework.

Established in 2013, BnEI has played a pivotal role in promoting and upholding integrity, transparency and ethical conduct in the banknote industry. The original BnEI 1.0 Audit Standard provided a robust foundation and structured approach to evaluating anti-bribery and anti-trust compliance, setting a benchmark for ethical conduct in the banknote industry.

Recognizing the evolving landscape of global risks and the emergence of new international frameworks, such as the ISO 37001 standard on Anti-Bribery Management Systems, BnEI has developed the enhanced BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard to modernize and strengthen its approach and audit methodology.

The newly introduced BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard, which has received unanimous support from its members, builds upon the foundation of its predecessor, and now incorporates a more rigorous, risk-based approach that aligns with international best practice. Key enhancements include:

- **A structured baseline Compliance Management System (CMS):** broader in scope than the now well-established ISO37001 standard on Anti Bribery Management Systems, BnEI covers the measures addressed by ISO37001 but goes much further by addressing not only anti-bribery and corruption, but also banknote industry specific risks such as antitrust, interactions with Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), lobbying activities, and conflict of interest management.
- **Enhanced due diligence and intermediary risk assessments:** A more rigorous, structured and consistent methodology and approach to risk assessment and mitigation of risks associated with sales intermediaries, featuring refined scoring mechanisms and higher minimum compliance standards and thresholds.

These improvements are designed to address the unique anti-corruption and anti-trust risks inherent in the currency production and distribution sectors, areas only partially covered by existing ISO standards.

The new BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard represents a major step forward in our mission to uphold and promote the highest ethical standards in the banknote industry. This enhanced, internationally recognized standard provides greater accountability, consistency and credibility, reinforcing trust and assurance among manufacturers, suppliers, and central banks.

Over the next year, BnEI will actively engage with industry stakeholders across the banknote and related industries, governmental and intergovernmental institutions as well as central banks, to introduce the BnEI 2.0 Audit Standard and encourage broader adoption. The initiative aims to expand its membership base and strengthen its leadership role in ethical governance within the currency sector.

About BnEI

The Banknote Ethics Initiative is a global organization dedicated to promoting and upholding ethical business conduct, transparency and compliance in the banknote industry.

For more information about BnEI 2.0 and how to become a member, please contact Deon Rossouw, (Chairperson of BnEI), at deon.rossouw@tei.org.za. A list of existing members and supporters can be found here [Membership | BnEI](#)