

Press Release on issuance of Circular No. 53/2026/TT-NHNN

Hanoi, September 30, 2026 – The Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) has issued Circular No. 53/2026/TT-NHNN regulating safety, risk management, and implementation requirements for the application of artificial intelligence (AI) systems in the banking sector.

The Circular aims to concretize the provisions of the Law on Artificial Intelligence and relevant guiding documents, while establishing a unified framework for ensuring safety, managing risks, and governing the deployment and operations of AI systems in the banking sector.

The Circular provides for the following key provisions:

- Classification of AI systems based on risk levels and human oversight and intervention: AI systems are classified according to their risk levels, with appropriate mechanisms established for human oversight and intervention. AI systems shall not replace human responsibility and authority in banking operations.
- Identification of high-risk AI systems in the banking sector: In accordance with Decision No. 33/2026/QĐ-TTg issued by the Prime Minister promulgating the List of High-Risk Artificial Intelligence Systems, AI systems that automatically execute payment transactions are classified as high-risk if they automatically execute transactions valued at more than VND 10 million per transaction or with a total daily value exceeding VND 20 million for individual customers; or more than VND 50 million per transaction or with a total daily value exceeding VND 100 million for institutional customers. AI systems that automatically make credit-granting decisions are classified as high-risk if they process credit facilities of VND 50 million or more.
- Strengthening cybersecurity and data safety: AI systems must undergo cybersecurity testing and assessment prior to official deployment, periodically thereafter, and whenever significant changes are made. They must also comply with requirements concerning data safety, change management, incident response, logging, and the management and control of risks specific to AI systems.
- Establishment of a risk management framework for AI applications: The Circular sets out requirements for risk management and impact assessments applicable to high-risk AI systems, with risk management to be implemented in accordance with the three lines of guardrails. It also addresses risks associated with AI models, ethics, outsourcing, and supply chains.
- Requirements for the deployment of AI systems: Prior to the official deployment of an AI system, relevant units are required to prepare the prescribed documentation, assess the system's compliance with applicable deployment requirements, and submit the system to the competent authority for consideration and approval.

Subjects of application: The Circular applies to credit institutions, foreign bank branches, payment intermediary service providers, Mobile Money service providers, credit information companies, the Vietnam Asset Management Company (VAMC), the National Banknote Printing Plant, and the Vietnam Deposit Insurance.

The Circular shall enter into force on November 15, 2026.

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