



BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA
CENTRAL BANK OF MALAYSIA

Guidelines on Reproduction of Malaysian Currency Image

Applicable to:
Members of the public
Revised on:
1 September 2022

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Key Takeaways from the Guidelines on Reproduction of Malaysian Currency Image (The Guidelines)



1. The Guidelines is intended to inform the public on the circumstances in which reproduction of the Malaysian currency notes or currency coins is allowed and the conditions for the reproduction. Any reproduction that does not fulfil the conditions stated in the Guidelines requires Bank Negara Malaysia's approval.



2. Reproduction includes:
 - a. using full or partial photograph, drawing or design resembling any currency note or currency coin;
 - b. importing, manufacturing, selling, circulating or distributing any merchandise or product that contains such photograph, drawing or design.



3. Reproduced currency images **MUST** also, among others, maintain original design, differ in size from actual currency note, do not distort the Ruler's image or any of the design and fulfil other conditions as stated in the Guidelines.



4. Any reproduction **MUST** maintain the currency's dignity and integrity. It must not be deemed inappropriate, offensive, losing integrity or appear on commonly discarded products (e.g. tissues, face masks, etc.)



5. Any non-compliance may subject the person to legal action under section 19(1) of the Currency Act 2020 which carries penalty of a fine of up to RM50,000.

Disclaimer: This summary is intended for ease of understanding by the public. Please refer to the official guidelines for the complete information.

Enquiries and correspondences on these Guidelines shall be directed to:

Director
Currency Management and Operations Department
Bank Negara Malaysia
Jalan Dato' Onn, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
Email: currency@bnm.gov.my

Part A Overview



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Based on section 19(1) of the Currency Act 2020 (CA), no person shall do any of the following (hereinafter referred to as “reproduce” or “reproduction”, as the case may be), unless approved by Bank Negara Malaysia (the Bank):
 - (a) use any photograph of or any drawing or design resembling a currency note or currency coin or any part thereof, in any publication in any size, scale or colour; or
 - (b) import, manufacture, sell, circulate or otherwise distribute any merchandise or product containing a photograph, drawing or design resembling a currency note or currency coin or any part thereof in any size, scale or colour.
- 1.2 Any person who contravenes section 19(1) commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding RM50,000.
- 1.3 Pursuant to section 63(3) of the CA, the Bank grants general approval for any reproduction that complies with the conditions stated in these Guidelines.
- 1.4 Any reproduction that does not comply with the conditions stated in these Guidelines requires the Bank’s approval and failure to do so may subject the person to legal action under the CA.

2. Applicability

- 2.1 These Guidelines are applicable to any reproduction of currency note or currency coin, whether in whole or in part, in different medium, i.e. printed media, electronic media and merchandise.

3. Legal provision

- 3.1 These Guidelines are issued pursuant to sections 19(1), 62 and 63(3) of the CA.

4. Effective date

- 4.1 These Guidelines come into effect on 1 September 2022.

5. Interpretation

- 5.1 “Currency coin” means a coin issued by the Bank including a commemorative coin.
- 5.2 “Currency note” means a note issued by the Bank including a commemorative note.

6. Guidelines superseded

- 6.1 These Guidelines supersede the previous “Guideline on the Reproduction of Malaysian Currency”.

7. Enquiry and correspondence

- 7.1 Enquiries and correspondences on these Guidelines shall be directed to:

Director
Currency Management and Operations Department
Bank Negara Malaysia
Jalan Dato’ Onn
50480 Kuala Lumpur.
Email: currency@bnm.gov.my

Part B
Conditions on
Reproduction



8. Conditions on reproduction for printed media, electronic media and merchandise

8.1 The reproduction shall be in a manner that maintains the dignity and integrity of the currency.

Currency note

8.2 In the case of **printed media** -

- (a) the reproduction shall not be the same size as the actual currency note-
 - (i) if smaller, it shall not be more than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) in length and width as the original size of the currency note; and
 - (ii) if larger, it shall be at least one and a half (1.5) times as long and as wide as the original size of the currency note;
- (b) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original design without alteration unless otherwise specified in these Guidelines;
- (c) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original colour or in black and white;
- (d) the reproduction shall not distort the Ruler's image or any image in the currency note (apart from enlargement, reduction or slanting);
- (e) the reproduction shall be printed single sided to avoid giving the impression that it is a genuine currency note;
- (f) the reproduction shall include the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' which must be boldly printed from the bottom left corner to the top right corner across the face of a single currency note reproduced. The length of the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' shall not be less than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the length of the reproduction and the width of such word shall not be less than one-eighth ($\frac{1}{8}$) of the width of the reproduction;
- (g) the reproduction of overlapping currency note is allowed provided that the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' shall be printed on the uppermost or on the most prominent currency note in the manner specified in paragraph (f) above;
- (h) the reproduction shall not be printed on watermark paper or other substrate which is similar to a genuine currency note; and
- (i) the reproduction shall be on a material which can be clearly and easily distinguished from paper or other substrate which is similar to a genuine currency note.

8.3 In the case of **electronic media** -

- (a) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original design without alteration unless otherwise specified in these Guidelines;
- (b) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original colour or in black and white; and
- (c) the reproduction shall not distort the Ruler's image or any image in the currency note (apart from enlargement, reduction or slanting).

8.4 In the case of any **merchandise or product** -

- (a) the reproduction shall not be the same size as the actual currency note-
 - (i) if smaller, it shall not be more than two-thirds ($2/3$) in length and width as the original size of the currency note; and
 - (ii) if larger, it shall be at least one and a half (1.5) times as long and as wide as the original size of the currency note;
- (b) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original design without alteration unless otherwise specified in these Guidelines;
- (c) the reproduction shall show the currency note in its original colour or in black and white;
- (d) the reproduction shall not distort the Ruler's image or any image in the currency note (apart from enlargement, reduction or slanting);
- (e) the reproduction shall be printed single sided to avoid giving the impression that it is a genuine currency note;
- (f) the reproduction shall include the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' which must be boldly printed from the bottom left corner to the top right corner across the face of a single currency note reproduced. The length of the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' shall not be less than one-third ($1/3$) of the length of the reproduction and the width of such word shall not be less than one-eighth ($1/8$) of the width of the reproduction;
- (g) the reproduction of overlapping currency note is allowed provided that the word 'SPECIMEN' or 'CONTOH' shall be printed on the uppermost or on the most prominent currency note in the manner specified in paragraph (f) above;
- (h) the reproduction shall not be printed on watermark paper or other substrate which is similar to a genuine currency note;
- (i) the reproduction shall not cause any confusion with genuine currency note including where the reproduction is for purposes of creating promotional coupons or vouchers; and
- (j) the reproduction shall be on a material which can be clearly and easily distinguished from paper or other substrate which is similar to a genuine currency note, and it shall not be mistakenly accepted as genuine currency note.

Currency coin

8.5 Reproduction in any **printed or electronic media** or on any **merchandise or product** shall meet the following conditions:

- (a) may be reproduced in its actual size or otherwise;
- (b) the reproduction shall be printed single sided to avoid giving the impression that it is a genuine currency coin;
- (c) the reproduction shall show the currency coin in its original design without alteration unless otherwise specified in these Guidelines;
- (d) the reproduction shall show the currency coin in its original colour or in black and white;
- (e) the reproduction shall not distort any image in the currency coin (apart from enlargement, reduction or slanting); and
- (f) the reproduction shall be on a material which can be clearly and easily distinguished from genuine currency coin, and it shall not be mistakenly accepted as genuine currency coin.

9. Inappropriate or offensive reproduction

9.1 The general approval is not applicable to –

- (a) reproduction which in the opinion of the Bank:
 - (i) appears in an inappropriate or offensive context (e.g. gambling, pornography, violence, etc.); or
 - (ii) would undermine the integrity of the currency note or currency coin including any modification, distortion and mutilation of such currency i.e. unfit/ defaced or worn/ tampered currency; and
- (b) reproduction on products that are commonly discarded (e.g. tissues, face mask, etc.).

10. Other conditions

10.1 The Bank reserves the right to revoke the general approval or to amend the conditions in these Guidelines from time to time.