

Ordinance No 39*

of the BNB

of 28 March 2019

on the Nominal Value, Coverage, Form and Design of Banknotes and Coins Put into Circulation

(Published in the Darjaven Vestnik, issue 29 of 8 April 2019;
amended, issue 9 of 2021)

Chapter One

General Provisions

Article 1. This Ordinance shall establish the nominal value, coverage, form and design of banknotes and coins put into circulation by the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB).

Article 2. (1) The Bulgarian National Bank shall put into circulation banknotes, including commemorative banknotes, circulating and commemorative coins which are legal tender under Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Law on the BNB.

(2) Banknotes and coins shall contain texts in Bulgarian language.

(3) The Bulgarian National Bank shall put into circulation up to five commemorative coins annually.

Article 3. Banknotes and coins may be grouped into series having a common theme, design and basic features.

Article 4. Banknotes shall be printed on a banknote paper made of cotton. Banknotes can carry a coating to extend their lifespan.

Article 5. (1) Coins shall be minted on metal blanks.

(2) Circulating coins shall be made of a steel core coated by other metal or one or more metal alloys.

(3) Commemorative coins shall be made of gold, platinum, silver, copper, base metal alloy, or a combination of those listed under Article 7, paragraph 3. Commemorative coins may be gold-plated, patinated, oxidised, with holograms, medallions and made using other elements and techniques.

Chapter Two

Nominal Value of Banknotes and Coins

Article 6. (1) (amended; Darjaven Vestnik, issue 9 of 2021) Banknotes of 5 levs, 10 levs, 20 levs, 50 levs and 100 levs nominal value are in circulation.

* Unofficial translation provided for information purposes only. The Bulgarian National Bank bears no responsibility whatsoever as to the accuracy of the translation and is not bound by its contents.

(2) The Bulgarian National Bank may put into circulation commemorative banknotes with a nominal value under paragraph 1.

Article 7. (1) Circulating coins of 1 stotinka, 2 stotinkas, 5 stotinkas, 10 stotinkas, 20 stotinkas, 50 stotinkas, 1 lev and 2 levs nominal value are in circulation.

(2) The Bulgarian National Bank may put into circulation commemorative coins with a nominal value of 1 lev, 2 levs, 5 levs, 10 levs, 20 levs, 50 levs and 100 levs.

(3) Depending on their nominal value, commemorative coins shall be made of the following metals:

(a) base metals: coins with a nominal value of 1 lev;

(b) copper: coins with a nominal value of 2 levs;

(c) silver: coins with a nominal value of 5 and 10 levs;

(d) gold, platinum or a combination of metals: coins with a nominal value of 1 lev, 2 levs, 5 levs, 10 levs, 20 levs, 50 levs and 100 levs.

Chapter Three

Coverage and Form of Banknotes and Coins

Section I

Coverage and Form of Banknotes

Article 8. (1) Banknotes shall have obverse and reverse sides.

(2) Banknotes shall have a rectangular shape.

(3) A commemorative banknote may differ from other banknotes of the same nominal value in terms of images, colour and/or size.

Article 9. (1) Each banknote shall have at least the following specifications and requisites:

1. the currency name and the nominal value written in words and figures;

2. the year of issue;

3. the text 'Bulgarian National Bank';

4. the serial number;

5. dimensions: the length and width;

6. security features:

7. the background colour;

8. the theme and images;

9. texts 'Governor' and 'Chief Cashier' and their signatures;

10. marks for visually impaired people (one or more);

11. the warning text 'Forgery is punished by law'.

(2) Specifications and requisites under paragraph 1, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 shall be on the obverse of the banknote.

(3) Specifications and requisites under paragraph 1, items 1, 3, 7, 8 and 11 shall be on the reverse of the banknote.

(4) Specifications and requisites under paragraph 1, items 1, 5, 7 and 8 of banknotes in circulation are set out in Appendix No 1.

(5) Security features under paragraph 1, item 6 may be depicted on the obverse and reverse of the banknote.

Section II

Coverage and Form of Coins

Article 10. (1) Coins shall have obverse, reverse and edge.

(2) Coins of various issues may have common obverse and different reverse.

(3) Coins shall have a round shape.

(4) Coins with a different nominal value shall have a different diameter and weight.

(5) Commemorative coins shall differ from circulating coins of the same nominal value in terms of metal/alloy, diameter and/or weight and thickness.

Article 11. (1) Each coin shall have at least the following specifications and requisites:

1. the currency name and the nominal value written in figures;
2. the year of issue;
3. dimensions: diameter and weight;
4. the type of the edge;
5. components – one-component, bi-component or other;
6. colour (one or more);
7. the type of metal/alloy (one or more) and fineness of the precious metal;
8. mint quality (BU, proof or other);
9. security features;
10. the theme and images.

(2) Specifications and requisites under paragraph 1, items 1 and 2 shall be on the obverse of the coin.

(3) Specifications and requisites under paragraph 1, items 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of coins in circulation shall be set out in Appendix No 2.

(4) Security features under paragraph 1, item 9 may be on the obverse, reverse, the edge or incorporated in the coin.

Article 12. The edge of the coin may be flat, serrated, with alternating flat and serrated sectors, with concaved or convexed inscriptions, figures or other decorative elements.

Chapter Four

Design of Banknotes and Coins

Article 13. The design of a banknote or coin shall be the aggregate of images, specifications and requisites in one banknote or coin and their position on the banknote or coin.

Article 14. (1) With the exception of commemorative banknotes, the design of each banknote shall include a portrait (image) of a noble Bulgarian person.

(2) The design of commemorative banknotes may differ from that of other banknotes of the same nominal value in terms of background colour and/or images.

Article 15. (1) The design of commemorative coins may differ from that of circulating coins of the same nominal value in terms of images.

(2) The obverse of the coin shall feature the inscription ‘Българска народна банка’ (Bulgarian National Bank) and the Bulgarian National Bank logo.

Additional Provision

§ 1. Within the meaning of this Ordinance:

1. ‘Banknote’ shall mean a legal tender currency, printed on paper, with particular specifications and requisites, and issued by the Bulgarian National Bank.

2. ‘Commemorative banknote’ shall mean a legal tender banknote, issued by the Bulgarian National Bank to commemorate a particular event or anniversary.

3. ‘Coin’ shall mean a legal tender currency, made of metal, with particular specifications and requisites, and issued by the Bulgarian National Bank.

4. ‘Circulating coin’ shall mean a coin, issued by the Bulgarian National Bank, which is intended for circulation as legal tender.

5. ‘Commemorative coin’ shall mean a legal tender coin, minted by the Bulgarian National Bank to commemorate a particular event or anniversary, and usually used for numismatic or investment purposes.

6. ‘Banknote issue’ shall mean all banknotes of the same nominal value, having the same specifications, requisites, images and security features. The individual issues of banknotes shall be designated for recognition at least by the ‘year of issue’ requisite, printed on each banknote.

7. ‘Coin issue’ shall mean all coins of the same nominal value, having the same specifications, requisites, images and security features. The individual issues of coins shall be designated for recognition at least by the ‘year of issue’ requisite, minted on each coin.

8. ‘Edge’ shall mean the side rim of a coin.

Final Provision

§ 2. This Ordinance is issued on the grounds of Article 25, paragraph 7 of the Law on the Bulgarian National Bank and adopted by Resolution No 117 of the BNB Governing Council of 28 March 2019.

Appendix No 1
to Article 9, paragraph 4
(amended; Darjaven Vestnik, issue 9 of 2021)

Specifications and Requisites of Banknotes in Circulation			
Nominal value (levs)	Dimensions: the length and width	Background colour	Theme
5	121 x 67	bordeau	Ivan Milev
10	126 x 70	green	Petar Beron
20	131 x 73	blue	Stefan Stambolov
20	134 x 74	violet	Composition of stylised elements of the BNB building
50	136 x 76	brown	Pencho Slaveikov
100	141 x 79	green	Aleko Konstantinov

Appendix No 2
to Article 11, paragraph 3

Specifications and Requisites of Coins in Circulation					
Nominal value	Diameter (mm)	Weight (g)	Metal or alloy	Colour	Edge
1 stotinka	16	1.8	CuAlNi or a steel core in a galvanic layer	golden	flat
2 stotinkas	18	2.5	CuAlNi or a steel core in a galvanic layer	golden	flat
5 stotinkas	20	3.5	CuAlNi or a steel core in a galvanic layer	golden	flat
10 stotinkas	18.5	3	CuZnNi	silvery	serrated
20 stotinkas	20.5	4	CuZnNi	silvery	serrated
50 stotinkas	22.5	5	CuZnNi	silvery	serrated
1 lev	24.5	7	CuNiZn and CuNi	golden ring and silvery circle	alternating serrated and flat sectors
2 levs	26.5	9	CuNi and CuNiZn	silvery ring and golden circle	alternating serrated and flat sectors

**Ordinance on Amendment of Ordinance No 39
of the BNB of 28 March 2019 on the Nominal Value, Coverage,
Form and Design of Banknotes and Coins Put into Circulation**

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Final Provision

§ 3. This Ordinance is issued on the grounds of Article 25, paragraph 7 of the Law on the Bulgarian National Bank and is adopted by Resolution No 3 of 15 January 2021 of the Governing Council of the Bulgarian National Bank.

