

General information on the Financial Services Act (FinSA)

Introduction

The purpose of this information sheet provided by Banque Cantonale de Genève (hereinafter the "Bank") is to outline the main features of the Financial Services Act (FinSA).

1. Purpose of FinSA and deadlines

The purpose of FinSA is to:

- protect the interests of clients,
- create comparable conditions for providing financial services,
- strengthen the reputation and competitiveness of the Swiss financial centre.

Since 1 January 2020, all financial service providers must comply with FinSA. Transitional periods of up to two years are provided for certain obligations.

2. Financial services and instruments

The FinSA applies when the Bank provides the following services on the financial instruments below.

2.1 Financial services - following services provided to clients

- Buying or selling financial instruments,
- Receiving and passing orders on financial instruments,
- Asset management,
- Investment advice,
- Granting loans to execute transactions in financial instruments.

2.2 Main financial instruments

- Equity securities (in particular shares, participation certificates, non-voting equity securities),
- Debt securities and bonds,
- Units in collective investment schemes,
- Derivatives and structured products.

3. Client classification

- To ensure that you are adequately protected, the Bank must classify you among the following 3 categories: private client, professional client or institutional client (the private client benefits from the highest level of protection). The rules of conduct to be applied by the Bank vary according to this classification (refer to "4. Rules of conduct").

Category	Definition
Private client	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clients deemed to be non-professional or institutional
Professional client	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporations under public law with professional treasury facilities• Pension funds or institutions for occupational pensions with professional treasury facilities• Companies with professional treasury facilities• Large companies i.e. companies exceeding two of the following values: total assets (CHF 20 million), sales (CHF 40 million), equity (CHF 2 million)• Private investment structures with professional treasury facilities set up for high net worth clients
Institutional client	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial intermediaries within the meaning of the Banking Act (LB), the Financial Institutions Act (FinIA) and the CISA• Insurance companies subject to the Insurance Supervision Act (LSA)• Central Banks• National and supranational corporations under public law with professional treasury facilities

It is possible to change classification as illustrated in the following examples:

- Based on certain eligibility criteria, a high net worth private client may declare that he wishes to be considered as a professional client (opting-out) and thus benefit from a lower level of protection,
- an institutional client may declare that it wishes to be considered as a professional client (opting-in) and thus benefit from a higher level of protection.

4. Rules of conduct applied by the Bank*

4.1 Duty to provide information

In order to comply with the duty to provide information, the Bank provides you with the following documents:
An information brochure containing the following information:

- the name and address of the Bank, its field of activity and the supervisory regime to which it is subject
- the nature, characteristics, operation, costs and economic relations with third parties concerning the financial services offered
- the procedures for providing information documents on financial instruments,
- the market offer taken into consideration for the selection of financial instruments
- the possibility of initiating a mediation procedure

This document is available by clicking on the link <https://www.bcge.ch/en/standards-conformite>

An information brochure on the general risks associated with financial instruments.

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4.2 Appropriateness and suitability check

Asset management and investment advice that takes into account your entire portfolio: the Bank will only recommend a transaction if it considers that you have sufficient experience and knowledge to understand the characteristics and risks of the transaction and that it is appropriate to your financial situation and investment objectives.

Investment advice on one-off transactions: the Bank will verify the appropriateness of the transaction in terms of your knowledge and experience.

Order execution - Receiving and passing orders: the Bank draws your attention to the fact that no checks are carried out by the Bank.

4.3 Documentation and reporting

The Bank is required to document the agreed financial services and the information collected about you.

In the case of investment advice, the Bank also documents your needs and the reasons for each individual recommendation.

4.4 Transparency and due diligence for client orders

When processing your orders, the Bank applies the principles of good faith and equal treatment.

When executing or receiving and transmitting your orders, the Bank guarantees you the best possible result in terms of price, costs and the speed and probability of execution and settlement.

*Comments:

The rules of conduct do not apply to transactions with institutional clients.

Clients classified as professional clients may expressly waive the Bank's duty to provide information, documentation and reporting.