

23 June 2021

Re-Issuance of Investment Services Licences

In view of the recent changes brought forward by the publication of the new Investment Firms Regulation and Directive, the MFSA has opted to depart from the current categorisation applicable to Investment Services Licence Holders¹ ("ISLHs"). In this regard, the MFSA will be collecting the Investment Services Licence Certificates for cancellation and re-issuance, and the reference made to the Category of Licence shall be replaced by the regulated service/s that the respective ISLH is authorized to provide. The Financial Services Register will also be updated to reflect the said changes.

All ISLHs are required to submit the original licence certificate to the MFSA as follows²:

| Licence category | Submission Timeframe* |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Category 1 | 30 June – 13 August 2021 |
| Category 2 – excluding fund managers | 30 June – 13 August 2021 |
| Category 2 – fund managers | 23 August – 30 September 2021 |
| Category 3 | 30 June – 13 August 2021 |
| Category 4 | 23 August – 30 September 2021 |
| * ISLHs which fall within more than one Category are required to abide by the earliest timeframe applicable. | |

Licences received by 13 August 2021, will be revised and sent to the respective licence holder by 30 September 2021, on a first-in, first-out basis. Similarly, licences received by 30 September 2021, will be re-issued by 5 November 2021.

The new licences will continue to highlight:

- The investment activities and services that can be provided by the ISLH; *and*
- The products in relation to which these activities and services can be provided; *and*
- The nature of the clients these services and activities can be provided to.

Together with the original licence for cancellation and re-issuance, ISLHs are requested to complete and submit [Annex I](#) enclosed herein, within the timeframe indicated above. Annex I should be submitted through the 'File Uploads' section on the Licence Holder Portal, by choosing the project titled 'Licence Review Process'. This data is being requested as part of the Authority's push towards full digitisation of information, including the maintenance of accurate and up-to-date data on your entity's information including that of the licensable activity(ies).

¹ Holders of a Category 1, 2, 3, and/ or 4 investment services licence granted under the Investment Services Act, 1994.

² Licence certificates are required to be accompanied by a cover letter indicating that the submission is in relation to the 'Licence Review Process'.

It is pertinent to note that the MFSA has updated all the application forms to reflect the removal of the Licence Categories. The MFSA is also working on revisions to the applicable Subsidiary Legislations and Rulebooks, to align the Regulations with the above-mentioned revised approach. The MFSA will be consulting with the industry in this regard.

Any queries in relation to this Circular should be directed to smslicensing@mfsa.mt.