

# **Compilation of VFA Service Providers' Return**

**Guidance Notes** 

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# **REVISIONS LOG**

VERSION	DATE ISSUED	DETAILS
1.00	01 July 2021	Issuance of document.
		- Introduced List of Abbreviations
0.00	44 1 0000	<ul><li>Updated Section 2</li></ul>
2.00	11 January 2022	<ul> <li>Updated Section 4 to provide additional clarity on Generally Applicable Guides and the definitions of data points required</li> </ul>
3.00	30 March 2022	– Introduced guidance on: IP-A1, IP-A1c, OF-032a, VT-002a
		Revamp of all Validations and merge of Index Sheet with Validations Sheet
		<ul> <li>Introduction of a Yellow/ "Check" validation</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Guidance on the reporting of paid and proposed dividends (IP-M1a, IP-M1b)</li> </ul>
4.00	28 June 2022	<ul> <li>Removal and restructuring of sections within General</li> <li>VFA Services, Operations, and the Conduct Sheets</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Amendments undertaken in OwnFundsCalc, VFA Services, and the Client Sheets</li> </ul>
		- Annex 2
		General enhancements and bug fixes

# **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AT1 Additional Tier 1

AVR Annual VFASP Return

AAVR Audited Annual VFASP Return

CET1 Common Equity Tier 1

CRR Capital Requirements Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 575/2013)

FOR Fixed Overheads Requirement

IAS International Accounting Standards

IVR Interim VFASP Return

LH Licence Holder

MFSA Malta Financial Services Authority

NCA National Competent Authority

VFA Virtual Financial Asset

VFASPs Virtual Financial Asset Service Providers

#### 1. Introduction

As the single regulator for financial services in Malta, the Malta Financial Services Authority ("MFSA" or "the Authority") is responsible for the authorisation and supervision of entities operating within the Virtual Financial Assets ("VFA") industry, which are in turn governed by, inter alia, the VFA Rulebook ("the Rules"), where each chapter sets out the rules applicable to VFA Agents, VFA Issuers and VFA Service Providers ("VFASPs"), respectively.

On 25 June 2021, the MFSA has issued a VFASP Return ("**the Return**") applicable to VFASPs in order to collect the data necessary for its supervisory engagements. In this respect, these Guidance Notes are intended to provide the relevant stakeholders with guidance on the compilation of the VFASP Return.

## 2. Access & Compatibility of the Return

For each submission, the Licence Holder ("**LH**") is required to compile and submit the <u>latest version</u> of the Return. In this respect, prior to every submission, the VFASP is required to download the latest version of the Return from the <u>MFSA Website</u>. This is because the MFSA may, from time to time, update or amend the Return. The version control convention follows this pattern "v:22-01-a", where "22" stands for the year, "01" the version number within that year, "a" immaterial change. When considering the version, the final letter can be ignored.

The Return is supported by Microsoft Office 2013 suit onwards. Note that although certain programme applications may still access Microsoft Excel, they may jeopardise the integrity of the contents within the Return. In this regard, where programme applications other than Microsoft Excel are utilised, the Licence Holders are to ensure that the integrity and protection of the downloadable document is maintained at all times.

It is reiterated that **the sheets' and workbook's protection should at no point be broken.** Should a LH encounter technical difficulties please contact the Authority on <a href="mailto:vfa@mfsa.mt">vfa@mfsa.mt</a> or contact the relationship manager with whom you usually correspond with. Returns which structure and/or protection is compromised may be rendered invalid, in which case the LH would be deemed to have failed to comply with the Rules.

## 3. Submission of the VFASP Return

Licence Holders are required to submit the Return as follows:

- The Interim VFASP Return ("IVR") covering three-month, six-month and nine-month period from the accounting reference date, within <u>one month</u> from the end of such period.
- 2. The **Annual VFASP Return** ("**AVR**") covering a twelve-month period, on a yearly basis and within <u>one month</u> of the accounting reference date; and

3. The **Audited Annual VFASP Return** ("**AAVR**") submitted within <u>six months</u> of the accounting reference date, together with the Audit Pack as indicated by R3-3.5.4.2.1 of Chapter 3 of the VFA Rulebook ("the Rules").

Kindly refer to the VFASP Regulatory Documentation Submissions Guide, which provides guidance on the expected VFASPs submission dates and methods. For ease of reference, the document can be found through this <u>link</u>.

Licence Holders are reminded that, during the same financial year, the Return is to be compiled on a cumulative basis. All Returns are to be uploaded through the LH Portal. In addition, Licence Holders are also required to submit the Representations Sheet, of the respective Return, in original and signed by at least two Directors, or any other person authorised to sign by way of a Board Resolution. Furthermore, the AAVR's Representations Sheet is to be also signed by the External Auditor.

While these guidelines are not exhaustive, submissions which do not follow this guidance document may be rendered invalid in which case the Licence Holder would be deemed to have failed to comply with the Rules.

# 4. Compilation of the Return

This Section provides detailed explanations with respect to the compilation of several sheets within the Return, which is divided into four sections as follows:

- 4.1: Generally Applicable Guides
- 4.2: Standard Templates
- 4.3: Capital Requirements
- 4.4: Operations

## 4.1. Generally Applicable Guides

A few quick checks to undertake and keep in mind before and while compiling the return:

- i. Ensure you have the latest version available;
- ii. Ensure the application you are using is fully compatible with the MS Excel and that the file integrity is maintained at all times;
- iii. If the file shows signs of corruption, please start a-fresh or contact the MFSA; and
- iv. If you encounter technical difficulties, contact the MFSA.

The compilation of the Return should start from the first worksheet (Cover Sheet) and details should be inserted as and where appropriate, starting from the top and moving to the end of each sheet.

To select a sheet, the user may go to the 'Index' Sheet and click on the arrow button next to the respective sheet. Please note that all sheets are password protected and all cells are locked, with the exception of cells highlighted in grey, which allow for manual inputting and other amendments by the user.

Unless instructed otherwise or the corresponding validation is Green, all grey cells are to be filled. If the data point is not applicable for the LH's use case, fill "0".

v:22-04-a introduces a concept of a *Yellow*, "*Check*", validation. This validation flags instances where either, regulatory requirements are not being met, or the nature of data reported appears to be contradictory or does not follow the norm and thus VFASPs are required to double check that the data entry is accurate or provide more information. Should no corrections be required, the Return can still be submitted with *Yellow* validations.

#### 4.2. Standard Templates

#### (1) Cover Sheet

Code	Data Entry	Comment
CS-1	Document Type	The Document type is selected from the dropdown menu, which distinguishes between the three types of returns mentioned in Section 3 of this Guidance. The document type should reflect the respective period type for which the Return is being compiled.  Failing to select the appropriate document type may invalidate certain validations.
CS-2	Name of Licence Holder	The user is required to select the name of the Entity.
CS-6a	Reporting period (From)	The IVRs are cumulative in nature, thereby reflected by these entries. The period must start from the first day of the financial year being reported.  Insert dates using "/" as a delimiter (ex: 01/01/2022). The delimiter "." is NOT compatible with the formatting restrictions in place for the datapoints.
CS-6b	Reporting period (To)	This date is to be filled in after CS – 6a to ensure successful loading of the Return.  Insert dates using "/" as a delimiter (ex: 31/12/2021).  Note that sometimes the file may return an error when any of the dates are deleted. In such case, please click "End" on the pop window and re-populate the date, after which the file

		should work well. Should you encounter further errors in this regard, please close and re-open the file. If the error persists, please contact <a href="mailto:vfa@mfsa.mt">vfa@mfsa.mt</a> or the relationship manager with whom you usually correspond with.
CS-8	Reporting Currency	The Return is to be prepared in the same currency being used in the Audited Financial Statements <sup>1</sup> .
CS-9	Exchange Rate	With respect to the exchange rate, please ensure that this is quoted from the <u>ECB's website</u> , as at the end of reporting period.  The reporting currency shall be the base currency.  If the reporting currency is EUR, please fill-in "1".
CS-10	Accounting Framework	The user is required to specify the accounting framework used to prepare the Return, where the accounting policies shall be consistent with those adopted in the audited financial statements.

#### (2) Input Sheet

The Sheet is used as the foundation of the automation for a number of sheets within the Return, and is divided into eight sections:

- 1. Income
- 2. Expenditure
- 3. Movements effected through the statement of changes in Equity
- 4. Statement of Other Comprehensive Income
- 5. Assets
- 6. Liabilities
- 7. Capital & Reserves
- 8. Others

All amounts should have a positive value, unless a loss has been incurred by the respective entity in relation to the data point in question. It should be noted that, figures representing expenditures and liabilities should also be positive in value. While data entries are self-explanatory, please note below additional comments.

Code	Data Entry	Comment
IP-I1	Dealing Profit (or Loss) - Trading	Gains or Loss made on spreads when dealing on own account.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the event that the Licence Holder deems it feasible to change its reporting currency, it is required to submit a formal request for the Authority's consideration. The formal request should include, *inter alia*, the proposed currency and the value of the company's shareholding following a change in currency.

Commissions received on transactions	Commissions received from third parties when offering the VFA services of Receiving a Transmitting or Executing client trade orders.
Management Fees	Applicable for Discretionary Portfolio Management.
Investment Advisory Fees	Applicable for Investment Advice.
Transaction Fees	Fees related to Execution of orders by the VFA Exchange service or Brokerage services.
Listing Fees	Fees received by issuers of VFA to list the VFA on the VFA Exchange.
Other Exchange fees	Other revenue generated through the VFA Exchange service which is not captured in other data points.
Other VFA-related revenue	Any other revenue generated in relation to VFA services which is not captured by the above revenue categories.  The user is required to input the relevant details for the said data entries in the adjacent grey cells as prompted in the Sheet upon inserting this amount.  The details will be then reflected in the 'Financials' Sheet under the 'Income Statement & Items through Statement of Changes in Equity' Section.
Non-VFA-related revenue	The user is required to input the relevant details for the said data entries in the adjacent grey cells as prompted in the Sheet upon inserting this amount.  The details will be then reflected in the 'Financials' Sheet under the 'Income Statement & Items through Statement of Changes in Equity' Section.
Commissions and Fees	These data entries refer to commissions and fees that are directly related to the acquisition of gross revenue (derived from VFA activities), as defined in the Virtual Financial Assets Regulations (L.N. 357 of 2018).
Custody Fee	Fees payable to third party custody providers
Non-recurrent expenses	Expenditure incurred that is not part of the company's ordinary day-to-day operations.
	received on transactions  Management Fees  Investment Advisory Fees  Transaction Fees  Listing Fees  Other Exchange fees  Other VFA-related revenue  Non-VFA-related revenue  Commissions and Fees  Custody Fee  Non-recurrent

IP-E33	Taxation for the year	Besides providing for taxation in the Annual Income Statement included in the AVR, Licence Holders are required to provide for taxation in the interim Income Statement in the IVR.
IP-M1a	Paid Dividends	Paid dividends are to be reported here. Remaining fields in the input sheet should be populated net after dividends (i.e. assets credited and equity – Retained Earnings – debited).  Note that for the purposes of Own Funds, since Equity will already be deducted by the paid dividends, Own Funds will inherently be already deducted.
IP-M1b	Proposed Dividends	Proposed dividends are to be reported here. Since the dividends payment would not have yet been signed off, equity (retained earnings) should be reported in full (i.e. not net of proposed dividends).  Note that for the purposes of Own Funds, proposed dividends are deductible. Thereby, since Equity will not be deducted by the proposed dividends amount, Own Funds will be deducted by the proposed dividends amount in OF-017.
IP-A1	Intangible Assets	Licence Holders are to report Intangible Assets under the 3 categories available in the VFASP Return.
IP-A1c	(ii) Prudently valued software assets, the value of which is not negatively affected by resolution, insolvency or liquidation of the company (as stipulated by REGULATION (EU) 2019/876).	Software intangible assets can be assessed for their qualification as "prudently value software assets, the value of which is not negatively affected by resolution, insolvency, or liquidation of the company. For this assessment Licence holders are to refer to REGULATION (EU) 2019/876.  Note that, as also stipulated in REGULATION (EU) 2019/876, such software assets have a different prudential treatment to other forms of intangible assets. Please refer to Amending notice (2020/2176) to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 241/2014. The respective applicable deduction to Own Funds is to be calculated by the Licence Holder and inserted in OF-032a on the OwnFundsCalc sheet.
IP-A7	Unsettled VFA Transactions	The user is required to fill in the aggregate amounts in the respective threshold.  In addition, the user is also required to provide the respective amounts relating to Trading & Non-Trading book in the adjacent grey cells which appear upon inserting this amount.

		Trading Book refers to VFAs positions held either with trading intent or in order to hedge other elements of the trading book and which are either free of any restrictive covenants on their tradability or able to be hedged.  Non-Trading Book refers to Positions, exposures, assets and liabilities that are not in the trading book.
IP-A8	Group Debtors	Details in relation to any amounts due from group companies or connected persons are to be filled in the adjacent grey cell. These details will be then reflected in the 'Balance Sheet'.  The relevant definition of 'Group' is that defined in the Companies Act (Chapter 386 of the Laws of Malta).
IP-A15	VFAs (assets side)	Value of proprietary VFAs in reporting currency, as at the end of reporting period, held on the Company's books.
IP-L1a, IP-L1b, IP-L1c	Loans	Subordinated Loan refers to instruments which qualify as Own Funds and are governed by the criteria stipulated in the Part Two of the Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 ("CRR"). Note that any Subordinated Loan qualifying as Tier 2 Capital for the purposes of Own Funds, is to be approved by the Authority.  The user is to insert the [1] Loan date; and [2] Maturity date, of Fixed term Subordinated Loans, in the adjacent grey cells which appear upon inserting the loan amount.  Note that the amortisation of Tier 2 Subordinated Loan instruments, as per Article 64 of the CRR, is automatically calculated and reflected in Own Funds: Calculation sheet.
IP-L2, IP-L6	Group Creditors	Details in relation to any amounts due to group companies or connected persons are to be filled in the adjacent grey cell. These details will be then reflected in the 'Balance Sheet'.
IP-L13	VFAs - Short Position	The user shall input the value of VFAs, in reporting currency, which the Company has in short positions.
IP-R4	Retained Earnings	These figures are to be reported net of Other Comprehensive Income
IP-07	Verified profits	This refers to any interim profits the LH may wish to qualify as Own Funds as per Article 26 (2) of the CRR.

		If marked "Yes", the VFASP is required to submit a confirmation, signed by the external auditor which states that the amount of verified profits, have been verified, and thereby can qualify as CET 1 instruments as part of the VFASP's Own Funds.
IP-08	Verified profits	The amount reported here must match that stated in the External Auditor's Confirmation, which subject to the Authority's approval will qualify as CET 1 Capital.

In terms of International Accounting Standards ("IAS") 1(88), an entity shall recognise all items of income and expenses in a period in profit or loss unless the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") requires or permits otherwise. Some IFRSs require or permit some components to be excluded from profit or loss and instead to be included in other comprehensive income. The components of other comprehensive income include:

- 1. Fair value movements on Intangible Assets;
- 2. Gains and losses on re-measuring available-for-sale financial assets (IAS 39);
- 3. Gains and losses on revaluation of property;
- 4. Other items of income and expense included in other comprehensive income; and
- 5. The amount of income tax relating to each item included in other comprehensive income.

#### (3) Income Statement and Balance Sheet

These Sheets are fully automated and provide a snapshot of the financials of the VFASP as at reporting period. Its scope is to ease review for the LH's senior officials and Directors.

The Balance Sheet does however flag instances of imbalances, which would need to be fixed through the reporting on the Input Sheet.

#### (4) Supervisory Fee Calculator

The Supervisory Fee Calculator Sheet must be filled when providing data within the Audited Annual VFASP Return. The user is required to input: (i) the respective gross revenue, as indicated in the Audited Financial Statements, that is derived from activities to which the VFA Licence was issued; and (ii) commissions directly related to the acquisition of the said gross revenue. The figures need to be inputted in the reporting currency, which are then automatically converted to Euro.

Validations checks are in place to flag discrepancies in figures inputted in this sheet and those reported in the input sheet. Please ensure to reconcile any discrepancies or provide clarity.

SF-006 automatically calculates the Annual Supervisory Fee, in Euro, that should be payable by the respective Licence Holder. The calculation of the fee is defined in the Legal Notice 357 of 2018 of the Virtual Financial Assets Act, Chapter 590 of the Laws of Malta.

#### (5) Representations Sheet

This is the Return's signature sheet which the LH's Directors or any other person authorised to sign by way of a Board Resolution, are required to sign upon review of the compiled Return, confirming all declarations listed within this sheet. In this regard, pursuant to the Rules R3-3.5.4.2.2, R3-3.5.4.3.2 and R3-3.5.4.4.3 the Representations Sheet is to be submitted in a manner wherein signatures are original/ authentic. With respect to the submission of the AAVR, the Representations sheet must be also signed by the Auditor of the Licence Holder.

The user is required to fill in the Sheet and reply to all statements accordingly. The said statements should be answered in relation to the relevant period. Reference is made to statement (i), reading "The Licence Holder did not register shortfall on any of the capital requirements as applicable to it under the respective rules and regulations". In the event where the Licence Holder reports a shortfall in the capital requirements, for example in the beginning of the year, which is then rectified during the second half of the financial year, the reply to this statement should be in the negative, as the shortfall was still recorded during the period ending on the accounting reference date.

REP-014 offers a free text space for LHs to include any general comments regarding the submission of the Return.

Licence Holders are reminded that, ultimately, it is the Directors' responsibility to submit the Return by the respective deadline outlined in the Rules and ensure that the nature and content reported are accurate and not misleading as a result of misrepresentation, omission or miscalculation of any material item, irrespective of the LH's official(s) who are assigned to populate the said Return.

#### (6) Index Sheet & Validations

Prior to submitting the Return to the MFSA, the Licence Holder must ensure that all validations are marked "OK" / green. Where the validation is marked "Check" / yellow, the user should check and ensure that the data reported is accurate. Where the "Check"/yellow validation is due to a requirement shortfall, the LH is required is to provide clarity on the shortfall and a remediation plan. Validations marked as "Error" / red are to be revised in the relevant sheet accordingly, prior to submission.

Submissions showing an "Error"/red validation may be rendered invalid and non-compliant. To avoid non-compliance, should you not manage to trace what is triggering the error, contact the Authority prior to the submission deadline for guidance. Where the MFSA confirms that the validation(s) is flagging a possible false negative (error), a comment to this effect can be included in REP-014 within the Representations sheet.

### 4.3. Capital Requirements

#### (1) Own Funds Calculation

This Sheet is partially automated and may require manual intervention as applicable. The Licence Holder is reminded that, as per R3-3.3.4.1 of the Rules, it is required to maintain Own Funds equal to or in excess of the Capital Requirement, which is the higher of: (i) the permanent minimum requirement; or (ii) the fixed overheads requirement.

Reference should be made to Annex 1 for a breakdown of Own Funds including legal references and instructions. For further details regarding the Own Funds, and its calculation, Licence Holders are to make reference to Part Two of the CRR and the Regulatory and Implementing Technical Standards on Own Funds.

The user is required to fill in all respective grey cells accordingly. Data points which are not applicable to the entity, the user is required to input "0".

#### (2) Fixed Overheads Requirement ("FOR")

Pursuant to R3-3.3.6.1 of the Rules, the FOR shall amount to at least one quarter of the fixed overheads of the preceding year.

Users are required to input the items of expenditure as per the latest Audited Financial Statement, and the applicable deductions, if any. Further reference should be made to Article 97 of the CRR and the Regulatory Technical Standards on Fixed Overheads.

For newly licenced entities, the LH should input the forecasted figures prepared at authorisation stage for the indicated data points.

#### (3) Regulatory Requirements

This Sheet is fully automated except for data point RR-011, in relation to the liquidity requirement.

The Regulatory Requirements Sheet provides a summary of the capital and liquidity regulatory requirements as at reporting date. The Licence Holder is reminded of its obligations to notify the Authority once a shortfall is identified and provide a detailed plan on the remediation thereof including envisaged milestones and timelines. In this regard, note that such obligation to notify the Authority is on an ongoing basis upon identification of any shortfall, and is thus not solely required in conjunction with the submission a VFASP Return.

Kindly note that should any one of the regulatory requirements indicate a shortfall, this will be highlighted by the respective validation checks in orange to signify the Shortfall.

## 4.4. Operations

#### (4) General VFA Services

The user is required to fill in all respective grey cells accordingly, unless instructed otherwise.

The Sheet is divided into the following sub-sections:

- (i) Clients' Money (FIAT) while this section is not applicable to Class 1 VFA Licence Holders, such users are required to populate 'CM-001' as 'No'; and
- (ii) VFA Settlements; and

Code	Data Entry	Comment
VT-002a	Accepting transaction to/ from unidentifiable wallets	For this instance, <i>unidentifiable</i> refers to the ability of the licence holder to identify the beneficial owner of such wallets. Thus, this question asks whether in instance where the licence holder is not able to do so, does it still accept transactions to/from such wallets.
VT-004	Wallet Address Form	The user is required to mark if it needs to submit the Wallet Address Form, containing a list of wallet addresses controlled by the LH which interact/ed with third party wallets. Note that following the first submission, Licence Holders would be required to submit the Wallet Address Form in instances where additional wallet addresses where not provided to the Authority in previous submissions.  The Wallet Address Form can be downloaded from the MFSA Website.

#### (5) VFA Services

This Sheet covers all services listed under Schedule II of the Act, except for custody and/ or nominee services, data of which is found on a separate sheet. Therefore, the *VFA Services* Sheet is divided as follows:

- (i) Investment Advice
- (ii) Reception and Transmission of Orders
- (iii) Execution of Orders
- (iv) Portfolio Management
- (v) Placing of VFAs
- (vi) Dealing on Own Account
- (vii) Operation of VFA Exchange
- (viii) Transfer of VFAs

The user is requested to indicate the licensable services provided by the Licence Holder, via the respective dropdown menu. Through this operation, the user is able to fill in only the sections of the licensable activities applicable to the respective Licence Holder. The validation checks within the sheet enables the user to identify the required data to be inputted.

Note that data on Custody services are captured in a dedicated sheet.

Code	Data Entry	Comment
EO-001, EO-002	Orders executed on behalf of clients	Client orders which are executed on an executing venue, excluding those orders executed by means of Dealing on Own Account from the Licence Holder.
EO-004	Nature of Venue	The user is required to determine whether the executing venue is either: [1] Regulated Exchange; [2] Unregulated Exchange; [3] Regulated Broker; [4] Unregulated Broker; or [5] DeFi Protocol. By regulated exchange and regulated broker it is meant that the said execution venue is actively supervised by a National Competent Authority ("NCA").
DA-002, DA-003	Trades on own account	All trades to which the Licence Holder was a counterparty to (i.e. including matched principle and hedge trades).
DA-005	Top 3 Liquidity Provider Counterparties	The counterparties and/ or executing venues with whom the licence holder trades to obtain liquidity from or hedge trades in the course of executing client orders.  Please report the full official or trade name of the entity.
TF-001	VFAs Transferred	Transfers refer to the service of conducting a transaction on behalf of a third party that allows the users to transfer ownership or control of a VFA to another user, or to transfer VFAs between VFA addresses or accounts held by the same user.
TF-006, TF-011	Top 3 VFAs Transferred In & Out	The option of "Other" is introduced in case one of the top three VFAs transferred is not on the list.

## (6) Custody Details

This Sheet is applicable to Licence Holders providing Custody and/ or Nominee Services, and all cells marked in grey need to be filled, as necessary. Validations checks are in place that ensure the complete compilation of the said sheet. Should the entity not provide such a service, no validation errors will be applicable.

Code	Data Entry	Comment
CT-006	Top 3 outsourced third parties holding client VFAs	Please report the full official or trade name of the entity.
CT-015	Hot / Cold Wallet ratio	This refers to the respective ratio of Hot to Cold wallets for the top 5 VFAs held within the LH's custodial perimeter. Ex: 5 and 1 (meaning for every 5 VFAs held in HOT wallets, 1 is kept in Cold)

#### (7) Custody Annual Form

The user is required to fill in this sheet on an annual basis when compiling the AAVR.

#### (8) Operations

This Sheet captures information in relation to:

- (i) Systems Performance & Resilience
- (ii) Cybersecurity

#### (9) Conduct of Business and Market Abuse

This Sheet captures information in relation to:

- (i) Market Abuse
- (ii) Complaints

#### (10) Clients' Details

The user is requested to fill in all cells highlighted in grey as applicable to the respective Licence Holder. In the event that data points are not applicable, the user is expected to input "0".

Code	Data Entry	Comment
CD-007	Clients per Region	Annex 2 provides an indicative list of jurisdictions falling within each region.
		Note that <i>Russian Federation</i> and <i>Belarus</i> are to be reported separately.

CD-015	Clients' relationship terminated	Clients' relationship terminated due to concerns and other decisions taken by the Company.
	terrimatea	

## 5. Concluding Remarks

Licence Holders are reminded that as per R3-2.3.4.4.1(x), they are required to notify the Authority of any breach of the requirements emanating from the Rules, the Act or the VFA Regulations as soon as they become aware of the breach.

For further information regarding the deadlines of the VFASP Return submission and other regulatory reporting requirements, Licence Holders are requested to make reference to the Rules, as well as, the *VFASP Documentation Table*, which is found on the <u>MFSA Website</u>. Finally, for any queries in relation to the VFASP Return, do not hesitate to contact the <u>VFA Function</u> on <u>vfa@mfsa.mt</u>.

# **Annex 1: Breakdown of Own Funds**

Code	Data Entry	Comment
OF-001	Own Funds	Articles 4(1)(118) and 72 of CRR
		The Own Funds of a Licence Holder shall consist of the sum of its Tier 1 capital and Tier 2 capital.
OF-002	Tier 1 Capital	Article 25 of CRR
		The Tier 1 Capital is the sum of Common Equity Tier 1 ("CET1") Capital and Additional Tier 1 ("AT1") Capital.
OF-003	CET1 Capital	Article 50 of CRR
OF-005	Paid up capital	Articles 26(1) point (a) and 27 to 31 of CRR
	instrument	The share premium related to the instruments shall not be included.
OF-006	Memorandum	Article 28(1) points (b), (l) and (m) of CRR
	Items	Conditions in those points reflect different situations of the capital which are reversible, and thus the amount reported here can be eligible in subsequent periods. The amount reported shall not include the share premium related to the instruments.
OF-007	Share Premium	Articles 4(1)(124), 26(1) point (b) of CRR
		Share premium has the same meaning as under the applicable accounting standard. The amount to be reported in this item shall be the part related to the "Paid up capital instruments".
OF-008	Own CET1	Articles 36(1) point (f) and 42 of CRR
	Instruments	Own CET 1 held by the reporting Licence Holder subject to exceptions in Article 42 of CRR. Holdings on shares included as "Capital instruments not eligible" shall not be reported in this row.
		The amount to be reported shall include the share premium related to the own shares.
OF-009	Direct Holdings of CET1 Instruments	Articles 36(1) point (t) and 42 of CRR

		The amount to be reported shall include holdings in the trading book calculated on the basis of the net long position, as stated in Article 42 point (a) of CRR.
OF-010	Indirect Holdings of CET1 Instruments	Articles 4(1)(114), 36(1) point (t) and 42 of CRR
OF-011	Synthetic holdings of CET1 instruments	Articles 4(1)(126), 36(1) point (f) and 42 of CRR
OF-012	Actual or contingent obligations	Articles 36(1) point (f) and 42 of CRR
OF-013	Retained Earnings	Articles 26(1) point (c) and 26(2) of CRR  Retained earnings includes the previous year retained earnings plus the eligible interim or year-end profits. The eligible interim profits are profits verified by the Financial Auditor prior to the end of the accounting period.
OF-014	Previous yeas retained earnings	Articles 4(1)(123) and 26(1) point (c) of CRR  CRR defines retained earnings as "Profit and losses brought forward as a result of the financial application of profit or loss under applicable accounting standards".
OF-015	Profit or loss eligible	Articles 4(1)(123), 26(2) and 36(1) point (a) of CRR  Article 26(2) of CRR allows including as retained earnings interim or year-end profits, with the prior consent of the competent authorities, if some conditions are met.  On the other hand, losses shall be deducted from CET1, as stated in Article 36(1) point (a) of CRR.
OF-016	Profit or loss attributable to owners of the parent	Articles 26(2) and 36(1) point (a) of CRR  The amount to be reported shall be the profit or loss reported in the accounting income statement.
OF-017	Part interim or year-end profit not eligible	Article 26(2) of CRR  This row shall not present any figure if, for the reference period, the LH has reported losses. This is because the losses shall be completely deducted from CET1.

		If the LH reports profits, it shall report the part which is not eligible according to Article 26(2) of CRR, i.e. profits not audited and foreseeable charges or dividends.
		Note that, in case of profits, the amount to be deducted shall be, at least, the interim dividends.
OF-018	Accumulated Other	Articles 4(1)(100) and 26(1) point (d) of CRR
	Comprehensive Income	The amount to be reported shall be net of any tax charge foreseeable at the moment of the calculation, and prior to the application of prudential filters. The amount to be reported shall be determined in accordance with Article 13(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 241/2014.
OF-019	Other Reserves	Article 4(1)(117) and 26(1) point (e) of CRR
		Other reserves are defined in CRR as "Reserves within the meaning of the applicable accounting standard that are required to be disclosed under that applicable accounting standard, excluding any amounts already included in accumulated other comprehensive income or retained earnings".
		The amount to be reported shall be net of any tax charge foreseeable at the moment of the calculation.
OF-020	Funds for general	Articles 4(1)(112) and 26(1) point (f) of CRR
	banking risk	Funds for general banking risk are defined in Article 38 of Directive 86/635/EEC as "Amounts which a credit institution decides to put aside to cover such risks where that is required by the particular risks associated with banking".
		The amount to be reported shall be net of any tax charge foreseeable at the moment of the calculation.
OF-021	Minority interest	Article 4(120) and 84 of CRR
	given recognition in CET1 capital	Sum of all the amounts of minority interests of subsidiaries that is included in consolidated CET1.
OF-022	Adjustment to CET1 due to prudential filters	Articles 32 to 35 of CRR
OF-023	Increases in equity resulting	Article 32(1) of CRR

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	from securitised assets	The amount to be reported is the increase in the equity of the institution resulting from securitised assets, according to the applicable accounting standard.
		For example, this item includes the future margin income that results in a gain on sale for the institution, or for originators, the net gains that arise from the capitalisation of future income from the securitised assets, that provide credit enhancement to positions in the securitisation.
OF-024	Cash flow hedge	Article 33(1) point (a) of CRR
	reserve	The amount the be reported could either be positive or negative. It shall be positive if cash flow hedges result in a loss (i.e. if it reduces accounting equity) and vice versa. Thus, the sign shall be contrary to the one used in accounting statements.
		The amount shall be net of any tax charge foreseeable at the moment of the calculation.
OF-025	Cumulative gains	Article 33(1) point (b) of CRR
	and losses due to changes in own credit risk on fair valued liabilities	The amount to be reported could either be positive or negative, it shall be positive if there is a loss due to changes in own credit risk (i.e. if it reduces accounting equity) and vice versa. Thus the sign shall be contrary to the one used in accounting statements.
		Unaudited profits shall not be included in this item.
OF-026	Fair value gains	Article 33(1) point (c) and 33(2) of CRR
	and losses arising from the entity's own credit risk related to derivative	The amount to be reported could either be positive or negative. It shall be positive if there is a loss due to changes in own credit risk and vice versa. Thus, the sign shall be contrary to the one used in accounting statements.
	liabilities	Unaudited profit shall not be included in this item.
OF-027	Value	Articles 34 and 105 of CRR
	adjustments due to the requirements for prudent valuation	Adjustments to the fair value of exposures included in the trading book, or non-trading book due to stricter standards for prudent valuations set in Article 105 of CRR.
OF-028	Goodwill	Articles 4(1)(113), 36(1) point (b) and 37 of CRR
OF-029	Goodwill accounted for as	Articles 4(1)(113), 36(1) point (b), 37 point (b) and 43 of CRR

	intangible asset/ included in the valuation of significant investments	Goodwill has the same meaning as under the applicable accounting standard.  The amount to be reported here shall be the same that is reported in the balance sheet, in relation to intangible asset, in addition to the valuation of significant investments.
OF-030	Deferred tax liabilities associated to goodwill	Article 37 point (a) of CRR  Amount of deferred tax liabilities that would be extinguished if the goodwill became impaired or was derecognised under the relevant accounting standard.
OF-031	Other intangible assets	Articles 4(1)(115), 36(1) point (b) and 37 point (a) of CRR  Other intangible assets are the intangible assets under the applicable accounting standard, minus the goodwill (also under the applicable accounting standard).
OF-032a	(-) Prudently valued software assets, the value of which is not negatively affected by resolution, insolvency or liquidation of the company (as stipulated by REGULATION (EU) 2019/876).	Article 13(a) of Amending notice (2020/2176) to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 241/2014.  Software intangible assets can be assessed for their qualification as "prudently value software assets, the value of which is not negatively affected by resolution, insolvency, or liquidation of the company. For this assessment Licence holders are to refer to REGULATION (EU) 2019/876).  The respective applicable deduction to Own Funds is to be calculated by the Licence Holder and reported here.
OF-032	Other intangible assets gross amount	Articles 4(1)(115) and 36(1) point (b) of CRR  The amount to be reported here shall correspond to the amount reported in the balance sheet of intangible assets other than goodwill.
OF-033	Deferred tax liabilities associated to other intangible assets	Article 37 point (a) of CRR  Amount of deferred tax liabilities that would be extinguished if the intangible assets other than goodwill became impaired or was derecognised under the relevant accounting standard.
OF-034	Deferred tax assets that rely on future	Articles 36(1) point (c)and 38 of CRR

	profitability & do not arise from temporary differences	
OF-035	IRB Shortfall of credit risk adjustments to expected losses	Articles 36(1) point (d), 40, 158 and 159 of CRR  The amount to be reported shall not be reduced by a rise in the level of deferred tax assets that rely on future profitability, or other additional tax effect, that could occur if provisions were to rise to the level of expected losses.
OF-036	Defined benefit pension fund assets	Articles 4(1)(109), 36(1) point (e) and 41 of CRR
OF-037	Defined benefit pension fund assets gross amount	Articles 4(1)(109), 36(1) point (e) of CRR  Defined benefit pension fund assets are defined as "the assets of a defined pension fund or plan, as applicable, calculated after they have been reduced by the amount of obligations under the same fund or plan".  The amount to be reported here shall correspond to the amount reported in the balance sheet (if reported separately).
OF-038	Defined tax liabilities association to defined benefit pension fund assets	Articles 4(1)(108) and (109), and 41(1) point (a) of CRR  Amount of deferred tax liabilities that would be extinguished if the defined benefit pension fund assets became impaired or were derecognised under the relevant accounting standard.
OF-039	Defined benefit pension fund assets that the entity has an unrestricted ability to use	Articles 4(1)(109) and 41(1) point (b) of CRR  This item shall only present any amount if there is the prior consent of the National Competent Authority to reduce the amount of defined benefit pension fund assets to be deducted.  The assets included in this row shall receive a risk weight for credit risk requirements.
OF-040	Reciprocal cross holdings in CET 1 Capital	Articles 4(1)(122), 36(1) point (g) and 44 of CRR  Holdings in CET1 instruments of financial sector entities (as defined in Article 4(27) of CRR) where there is a reciprocal cross holding that the National Competent Authority

		considers to have been designed to inflate artificially the own funds of the Licence Holder.
		The amount to be reported shall be calculated on the basis of the gross long positions, and shall include Tier 1 ownfund insurance items.
OF-041	Excess of deduction from AT1 items over	Article 36(1) point (j) of CRR  The amount to be reported is directly taken from the indirect
	ATT items over	holdings of AT1 Instruments. The amount has to be deducted from CET1 Capital.
OF-042	Qualifying holdings outside the financial sector	Articles 4(1)(36), 36(1) point (k)(i) and 89 to 91 of CRR  Qualifying holdings are defined as "direct or indirect holding in an undertaking which represents 10% or more of the capital or of the voting rights, or which makes it possible to exercise a significant influence over the management of that undertaking".
		According to Article 36(1) point (k)(i) of CRR, they can, alternatively, be deducted from CET1 (using this item) or subject to a risk weight of 1250%.
OF-043	Securitisation positions	Articles 36(1) point (k)(ii), 243(1) point (b), 244(1) point (b), 258 and 266(3) of CRR  Securitisation positions which are subject to a 1250% risk weight, but alternatively, are allowed to be deducted from
		CET1 (Article 36(1) point (k)(ii) of CRR). In the latter case, they shall be reported in this item.
OF-044	Positions in a basket for which risk weight under IRB approach cannot be determined	Articles 36(1) point (k)(iv) and 153(8) of CRR  According to Article 36(1) point (k)(iv) of CRR they can, alternatively, be deducted from CET1 (using this item) or subject to a risk weighting of 1250%.
OF-045	Equity exposures under an internal model approach	Articles $36(1)$ point $(k)(v)$ and $155(4)$ of CRR According to Article $36(1)$ point $(k)(v)$ of CRR, they can, alternatively, be deducted from CET1 (using this item), or subject to a risk weight of $1250\%$ .
OF-046	CET1 capital elements or deductions – Others	This row has been introduced to provide flexibility solely for reporting purposes. It shall only be populated in the rare cases that there is no final decision on the reporting of specific capital items/ deductions in the current template.

		As a consequence, this row shall only be populated if a CET1 element cannot be assigned to one of the rows mentioned above.
OF-047	Additional Tier 1 (AT1) Capital	Article 61 of CRR
OF-048	Capital instruments eligible as AT1 Capital	Articles 51 point (a), 52 to 54, 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR
OF-049	Paid up capital instruments	Articles 51 point (a) and 52 to 54 of CRR  The amount to be reported shall not include the share premium related to the instruments.
OF-050	Memorandum Item: Capital Instruments not eligible	Article 52(1) points (c), (e) and (f) of CRR  Conditions in these points reflect different situations of the capital which are reversible and thus the amount reported here can be eligible in subsequent periods.  The amount to be reported shall not include the share premium related to the instruments.
OF-051	Share Premium	Article 51 point (b) of CRR  Share premium has the same meaning as under the applicable accounting standard.  The amount to be reported in this item shall be the part related to the "Paid up capital instruments".
OF-052	Own AT1 Instruments	Articles 52(1) point (b), 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR  Own AT1 instruments held by the Licence Holder or group at the reporting date. Subject to exceptions outlined in Article 57 of CRR.  Holdings of shares included as "Capital instruments not eligible" shall not be reported in this row.  The amount to be reported shall include the share premium related to the own shares. The user should note that actual or contingent obligations to purchase own AT1 instruments are reported separately in OF-056.
OF-053	Direct Holdings of AT1 Instruments	Articles 4(1)(114), 52(1) point (b), 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR

OF-054	Indirect Holdings of AT1 Instruments	Articles 52(1) point (b)(ii), 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR
OF-055	Synthetic Holdings of AT1 Instruments	Articles 4(1)(126), 52(1) point (b), 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR
OF-056	Actual or contingent obligations to purchase own AT1 instruments	Articles 56 point (a) and 57 of CRR  According to Article 56 point (a) of CRR, "own AT1 instruments that an institution could be obliged to purchase as a result of existing contractual obligations" shall be deducted.
OF-057	Instruments issued by subsidiaries that are given recognition in AT1 Capital	Articles 83, 85 and 86 of CRR  Sum of all the amounts of qualifying AT1 capital of subsidiaries that are included in consolidated AT1, if any.  Qualifying AT1 capital issued by a special purpose entity (Article 83 of CRR) shall be included.
OF-058	Reciprocal cross holdings in AT1 Capital	Articles 4(1)(122), 56 point (b) and 58 of CRR  Holdings in AT1 instruments of financial sector entities (as defined in Article 4(1)(27) of CRR) where there is a reciprocal cross holding that the competent authority considered to have been designed to artificially inflate the own funds of the Licence Holder.  The amount to be reported shall be calculated on the basis of the gross long positions, and shall include AT1 own-fund insurance items.
OF-059	Excess of deduction from T2 items over T2 Capital	Article 56 point (e) of CRR  The amount to be reported is directly taken from OF-076.
OF-060	Excess of deduction from AT1 items over AT1 Capital	Article 36(1) point (j) of CRR  Additional Tier 1 cannot be negative, but it is possible that AT1 deductions are greater than AT1 Capital plus related share premium. When this happens, AT1 has to be equal to zero, and the excess of AT1 deductions has to be deducted from CET1.

		With this item, it is ensured that the sum of OF-48 to OF-061 is never lower than zero. If OF-060 shows a positive figure, item OF-041 shall have the inverse of that figure.
OF-061	AT1 Capital elements or deductions – Other	This row has been included to provide flexibility solely for reporting purposes. It shall only be populated in the rare cases that there is no final decision on the reporting of specific capital items/ deductions in the current template. As a consequence, this row shall only be populated if an AT1 element cannot be assigned to one of the rows mentioned above.
OF-062	Tier 2 Capital	Article 71 of CRR
OF-063	Capital instruments and subordinated loans eligible as T2 Capital	Articles 62 point (a), 63 to 65, 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR
OF-064	Paid up capital	Articles 62 point (a), 63 and 65 of CRR
	instruments and subordinated loans	The amount to be reported shall not include the share premium related to the instruments.
OF-065	Memorandum item: Capital instruments and subordinated loans not eligible	Article 63 points (c), (e) and (g) and 64 of CRR  Conditions in those points reflect different situations of the capital which are reversible and thus the amount reported here can be eligible in subsequent periods.  The amount to be reported shall not include the share premium related to the instruments.
OF-066	Share premium	Articles 62 point (b) and 65 of CRR
		Share premium has the same meaning as under the applicable accounting standard.  The amount to be reported in this item shall be the part related to the "Paid up capital instruments".
OF-067	Own T2 instruments	Articles 63 point (b)(i), 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR  Own T2 instruments held by the Licence Holder or group at the reporting date. Subject to exceptions in Article 67 of CRR. Holdings on shares included as "Capital instruments not eligible" shall not be reported in this row. The amount to

		be reported shall include the share premium related to the own shares.
		OF-067 to OF-070 do not include actual or contingent obligations to purchase own T2 instruments. Actual or contingent obligations to purchase own T2 instruments are reported separately in OF-071.
OF-068	Direct holdings of T2 instruments	Articles 63 point (b), 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR
OF-069	Indirect holdings of T2 instruments	Articles 4(1)(114), 63 point (b), 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR
OF-070	Synthetic holdings of T2 instruments	Articles 4(1)(126), 63 point (b), 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR
OF-071	Actual or contingent obligations to purchase own T2 instruments	Articles 66 point (a) and 67 of CRR  According to Article 66 point (a) of CRR, "own T2 instruments that an institution could be obliged to purchase as a result of existing contractual obligations" shall be deducted.
OF-072	Instruments issued by subsidiaries given recognition in T2 capital	Articles 83, 87 and 88 of CRR  Qualifying Tier 2 capital issued by a special purpose entity shall be included.
OF-073	IRB Excess of provisions over expected losses eligible	Article 62 point (d) of CRR  For Licence Holders calculating risk-weighted exposure amounts in accordance with the IRB approach, this item contains the positive amounts resulting from comparing the provisions and expected losses which are eligible as T2 capital.
OF-074	SA General credit risk adjustments	Article 62 point (c) of CRR  For Licence Holders calculating risk-weighted exposure amounts in accordance with the standard approach this item contains the general credit risk adjustments eligible as T2 capital.
OF-075	Reciprocal cross holdings in T2 capital	Articles 4(1)(122), 66 point (b) and 68 of CRR  Holdings in T2 instruments of financial sector entities (as defined in Article 4(1)(27) of CRR) where there is a

		reciprocal cross holding that the National Competent Authority considers to have been designed to inflate artificially the own funds of the licence holder.  The amount to be reported shall be calculated on the basis of the gross long positions, and shall include Tier 2 ownfunds insurance items.
OF-076	Excess of deductions from T2 items over T2 capital	Article 56 point (e) of CRR  Tier 2 cannot be negative, but it is possible that T2 deductions are greater than T2 capital plus related share premium. When this happens, T2 shall be equal to zero, and the excess of T2 deductions shall be deducted from AT1. With this item, the sum of OF-063 to OF-077 is never lower than zero. If this item shows a positive figure, item OF-072 shall be the inverse of that figure.
OF-077	T2 capital elements or deductions – Other	This row has been included to provide flexibility solely for reporting purposes. It shall only be populated in the rare cases that there is no final decision on the reporting of specific capital items/ deductions in the current template. As a consequence, this row shall only be populated if a T2 element cannot be assigned to one of the rows mentioned above.

# **Annex 2: Regions and Jurisdictions (CD-007)**

EU/EEA	non-EU/EEA
Austria	Albania
Belgium	Andorra
Bulgaria	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia	Channel Islands
Cyprus	Faroe Islands
Czech Republic	Gibraltar
Denmark	Isle of Man
Estonia	Jersey
Finland	Kosovo
France	Moldova
Germany	Monaco
Greece	Montenegro
Hungary	Overseas France
Iceland	Republic of Moldova
Ireland	Republic of North Macedonia
Italy	San Marino
Latvia	Serbia
Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Lithuania	Ukraine
Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Malta	Vatican City
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	
Portugal	
Réunion	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden	

Asia	Southeast Asia	Pacific Islands
Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Cook Islands
Armenia	Cambodia	Fiji
Azerbaijan	East Timor	French Polynesia
Bangladesh	Hong Kong	Kiribati
Bhutan	Indonesia	Marshall Islands
China	Laos	Micronesia
Georgia	Malaysia	Nauru

India	Myanmar	New Caledonia
Japan	Philippines	New Guinea
Kazakhstan	Singapore	New Zealand
Kyrgyzstan	Thailand	Palau
Maldives	Vietnam	Papa New Guinea
Mongolia		Samoa
Nepal		Solomon
North Korea		Tonga
Northern Mariana Islands		Tuvalu
Pakistan		Vanuatu
South Korea		
Sri Lanka		
Taiwan		

Tajikstan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

North America	Central America	South America
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda	Cayman Islands	Bolivia
Bahamas	Costa Rica	Brazil
Barbados	Cuba	Chile
Bermuda	El Salvador	Columbia
Bonaire	Guatemala	Curacao
British Virgin Islands	Haiti	Ecuador
Canada	Honduras	Falkland Islands
Dominica	Mexico	French Guiana
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua	Guyana
Greenland	Panama	Paraguay
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago	Peru
Guadeloupe		Suriname
Jamaica		United States Virgin Islands
Martinique		Uruguay
Puerto Rico		Venezuela
Saba		
Saint Pierre and Miquelon		
Sint Eustatius		
Sint Maarten		
St Kitts and Nevis		
St Lucia		
St Vincent and the Grenadines		
Turks and Caicos Islands		
United States of America		

Middle East	North Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa
Bahrain	Algeria	Angola
Iran	Egypt	Benin
Iraq	Libya	Botswana
Israel	Morocco	Burkina Faso
Jordan	Sudan	Burundi
Kuwait	Tunisia	Cameroon
Lebanon		Cape Verde
Oman		Central African Republic
Palestine		Chad
Qatar		Comoros
Saudi Arabia		Cote d'Ivoire
Syrian Arab Republic		Democratic Republic of Congo
Turkey		Djibouti
United Arab Emirates		Equitorial Guinea
Yemen		Eritrea
		Eswatini
		Ethiopia
		Gabon
		Ghana
		Guinea
		Guinea-Bissau
		Kenya
		Lesotho
		Liberia
		Madagascar
		Malawi
		Mali
		Mauritania
		Mauritius
		Mozambique
		Namibia
		Niger
		Nigeria
		Republic of Cabo Verde
		Republic of the Congo
		Rwanda
		Sao Tome and Principe
		Senegal
		Seychelles
		Sierre Leone
		Somalia
		South Africa
		South Sudan
		South Sudan

Tanzania
The Gambia
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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