

5 May 2026

# Launch of Revised Capital Markets Rules applicable to the Institutional Financial Securities Market

## 1. Context

The Institutional Financial Securities Market (“IFSM”) is a regulated market operated by the Malta Stock Exchange, allowing for listings of wholesale securities with a minimum denomination of at least €100,000 per security. Applications for admissibility to listing on the IFSM fall within the regulatory remit of the Malta Financial Services Authority (“MFSA” or “Authority”) and have been governed by *inter alia* the Capital Markets Rules for Wholesale Securities Markets.

In alignment with its ongoing regulatory development initiatives, the MFSA has conducted a comprehensive review of the rulebook and has today launched the revised Capital Markets Rules applicable to the IFSM. The revisions seek to modernise and streamline the rules from a practical aspect .

The launch of the revised rulebook follows an extensive public [consultation](#) process, during which the MFSA carefully considered [feedback](#) received from various stakeholders to ensure a robust regulatory framework. The Authority notes that feedback in relation to specific provisions on sukuk remains under review, and such provisions should be introduced at a future date once alignment with the wider strategic objectives is duly concluded.

Whilst further detail on the key revisions is provided in the subsequent sections of this circular, the full version of the revised rulebook is available on the MFSA’s website.

## 2. Modernising and Streamlining the IFSM Capital Markets Rules

The primary objective of these revisions is to modernise and streamline the rulebook, with the aim of ensuring greater operational efficiency and clarity. An overview of the most pertinent updates in this respect is provided hereunder:

### ***I. Clearly defining the Scope and Application of the Rules***

The scope of the Capital Markets Rules has been clarified to refer to the admissibility to listing of professional securities on the IFSM. In turn, a definition for “professional securities” has been introduced to explicitly set out the three characteristics which securities must possess in order to fall within the scope of the IFSM Capital Markets Rules, namely that they [i] must qualify as non-equity securities, [ii] must have a denomination per unit of at least €100,000 and [iii] are only acquired and traded by professionals who possess the experience, knowledge and expertise to make informed investment decisions or investors who are provided with investment advice/portfolio management by such professionals.

### ***II. Deletion of Chapter 2***

Chapter 2 of the Capital Markets Rules for Wholesale Securities Markets titled ‘*Structure and Content of Prospectuses*’, which was originally intended to transpose the relevant provisions of the Prospectus Directive<sup>1</sup>, has been removed in its entirety. This deletion stems from the publication of the Prospectus Regulation<sup>2</sup> in 2019, with this Regulation not only repealing the Prospectus Directive, but also applying directly to prospectuses to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market.

### ***III. Re-evaluating Listing Agents and their Role***

In view of the recent [launch](#) of the MFSA’s initiative to strengthen the Sponsors’ Regime, Listing Agents in terms of the current Capital Markets Rules for Wholesale Securities Markets have been replaced by sponsors who are registered with the MFSA in terms of the relevant provisions of the Financial Markets Act and the regulations and rules issued thereunder. Cognisant of the specificities of the IFSM when compared to the regulated main market, the role of sponsors on the IFSM and the MFSA’s expectations in this regard have been made appropriately proportionate.

## **3. Contact**

Should there be any queries, do not hesitate to contact us on [listings@mfsa.mt](mailto:listings@mfsa.mt).

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2003/71/EC

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/1129