

Guidelines for Operation of Wholesale Banks
(last revised on 11 June 2021)

1. A wholesale bank may transact any banking business with approved financial institutions.
2. A wholesale bank may transact banking business with persons that are not approved financial institutions, subject to the following restrictions -
 - (a) it should not operate savings accounts denominated in Singapore dollars, except with the prior approval of MAS;
 - (b) [Deleted on 31 July 2008]
 - (c) it may accept fixed deposits but in respect of Singapore dollar fixed deposits, the initial deposit should not be less than S\$250,000 and the outstanding deposits (including interest) should not be less than this sum at all times except on termination of the account or the withdrawal of all deposits standing to the credit of the depositor; and
 - (d) it may operate current accounts, but in respect of current accounts denominated in Singapore dollars where the customer is a natural person and a resident in Singapore, the current account should not be interest-bearing, except with the prior approval of MAS.
3. Subject to paragraph 4, a wholesale bank may issue, in Singapore, bonds and negotiable certificates of deposit, provided that -
 - (a) the bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit are to be denominated in foreign currency; or
 - (b) where the bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit are denominated in Singapore dollars, they should -
 - (i) have an original maturity period of not less than 12 months;
 - (ii) be issued in a denomination of not less than S\$200,000; or
 - (iii) be issued to accredited investors or their nominees.
4. Where paragraph 3(b)(iii) applies, and the bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit are issued in circumstances such that the wholesale bank reasonably expects or foresees that the bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit (as the case may be) will not be held at all times by persons who are accredited investors, the wholesale bank

should in any prospectus and any profile statement in respect of its issue or where such documents are not required in respect of its issue, in an information memorandum to be issued, circulated or distributed in respect of its issue, the following additional information -

- (a) a statement that the wholesale bank, as issuer of the bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit, is subject to restrictions on the acceptance of deposits in Singapore dollars;
 - (b) a statement that the bond or negotiable certificate of deposit does not constitute or evidence a debt repayable by the bank on demand to the holder of the bond or negotiable certificate of deposit (as the case may be);
 - (c) a statement of the terms and conditions under which the holder of the bond or negotiable certificate of deposit may recover the principal sum from the bank as issuer; and
 - (d) a statement that the value of the bond or negotiable certificate of deposit, if sold on the secondary market, is subject to market conditions prevailing at the time of the sale.
5. A wholesale bank should maintain only one place of business in Singapore.
6. In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions set out in the Annex should apply.

ANNEX

LIST OF DEFINITIONS

1. "approved financial institution" means a bank, finance company, merchant bank, or insurer licensed, approved or registered in Singapore;
2. "resident of Singapore" means -
 - (a) a person whose main centre of interests is in Singapore or whose main source of income is derived from Singapore or whose period of residence in Singapore exceeds one year;
 - (b) a person who has been granted permanent residency in Singapore;
 - (c) a company or other body whose permanent or registered address is in Singapore (including a branch or subsidiary located within Singapore of overseas registered companies or foreign institutions);
 - (d) a member of the diplomatic, consular or military staff of a Singapore embassy, consulate, official mission or establishment of the Singapore armed forces, stationed outside Singapore; or
 - (e) an agent or agency located abroad acting on behalf of or for the account of a resident of Singapore.

"non-resident of Singapore" means any person who is not a resident of Singapore, and includes, for the avoidance of doubt -

- (a) a person whose permanent or registered address is outside Singapore (including an overseas resident using a bank in Singapore or a Singapore address as an accommodation address, and a tourist, traveller or person exercising employment abroad or gaining his earnings from activities and investments abroad);
- (b) a company or other body whose permanent or registered address is outside Singapore (including an overseas branch or subsidiary of Singapore-registered companies or institutions);
- (c) a member of the diplomatic, consular or military staff of a foreign embassy, consulate, official mission or an establishment of a foreign armed forces, stationed in Singapore;
- (d) an establishment of a foreign government or foreign public authority, stationed in Singapore; and

- (e) an agent or agency located in Singapore not being a permanent establishment acting on behalf of or for the account of a non-resident of Singapore.
3. "sophisticated investor", in relation to a bank issuing bonds or negotiable certificates of deposit, means a person -
- (a) in the case of a natural person, whose total net personal assets, at the time of the issue, exceeds S\$2 million or its equivalent in foreign currency, or whose income in the 12 months preceding the issue, is not less than S\$300,000 or its equivalent in foreign currency;
 - (b) in the case of a corporation, whose total net assets exceeds S\$10 million or its equivalent in foreign currency, as determined by the last audited balance sheet of the corporation; or
 - (c) who is an officer or close relative of an officer of the bank.