

Chapter 7

Suspension of dealings and termination of authorised funds



7.4 Winding up an AUT and terminating a sub-fund of an AUT

Explanation of COLL 7.4

7.4.1

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- (1) This section deals with the circumstances and manner in which an *AUT* is to be wound up or a *sub-fund* of an *AUT* is to be terminated. Under section 256 of the *Act* (Requests for revocation of authorisation order), the *manager* or *trustee* of an *AUT* may request the *FCA* to revoke the *authorisation order* in respect of that *AUT*. Section 257 of the *Act* (Directions) gives the *FCA* the power to make certain directions.
- (2) The termination of a *sub-fund* under this section will be subject to section 251 of the *Act* (Alteration of schemes and changes of manager or trustee). Termination can only commence once the proposed alterations to the *trust deed* and *prospectus* have been notified to the *FCA* in writing and permitted to take effect. On termination, the assets of the *sub-fund* will normally be realised, and the *unitholders* in the *sub-fund* will receive their respective share of the proceeds net of liabilities and the expenses of the termination.
- (3) An *AUT* or a *sub-fund* of an *AUT* may also be wound up or terminated in connection with a *scheme of arrangement*. *unitholders* will become entitled to receive *units* in another *regulated collective investment scheme* in exchange for their *units*.
- (4) ■ COLL 7.4.2A G gives an overview of the main steps in winding up an *AUT* or terminating a *sub-fund* under *FCA rules*, assuming *FCA* approval.

7.4.2

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Special meanings for termination of a sub-fund of an AUT

In this section, where a *sub-fund* of an *AUT* is being terminated, references to:

- (1) *units*, are references to *units* of the *class* or *classes* related to the *sub-fund* to be terminated;
- (2) a resolution or *extraordinary resolution*, are references to such a resolution passed at a meeting of *unitholders* of *units* of the *class* or *classes* referred to in (1);
- (3) *scheme property*, are references to the *scheme property* allocated or attributable to the *sub-fund* to be terminated; and

(4) liabilities, are references to liabilities of the *AUT* allocated or attributable to the *sub-fund* to be terminated.

Guidance on winding up or termination

7.4.2A

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This table belongs to ■ COLL 7.4.1 G (4) (Explanation of COLL 7.4)

Summary of the main steps in winding up an *AUT* or terminating a *sub-fund* under *FCA rules*

Notes: N = Notice to be given to the *FCA* under section 251 of the *Act*.

E = commencement of winding up or termination

W/U = winding up

FAP = final accounting period (COLL 7.4.5 R (4))

Step number	Explanation	When	<i>COLL rule</i> (unless stated otherwise)
1	Receive <i>FCA</i> approval	N + one <i>month</i> On receipt of notice from the <i>FCA</i>	Section 251 of the <i>Act</i>
2	Normal business ceases; notify <i>unitholders</i>	E	7.4.3R
3	<i>Trustee</i> to realise and distribute proceeds	ASAP after E	7.4.4R(1) to (5)
4	Send annual long report of <i>manager</i> and <i>trustee</i> to the <i>FCA</i>	Within 4 <i>months</i> of FAP	7.4.5R(5)
5	Request <i>FCA</i> to revoke relevant <i>authorisation order</i>	On completion of W/U	7.4.4R(6)

When an AUT is to be wound up or a sub-fund terminated

7.4.3

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(1) Upon the happening of any of the events or dates referred to in (2) and not otherwise:

- (a) ■ COLL 6.2 (Dealing), ■ COLL 6.3 (Valuation and pricing), ■ COLL 6.6.20R to ■ COLL 6.6.24G (Assessment of value) and ■ COLL 5 (Investment and borrowing powers) cease to apply to the *AUT* or to the *units* and *scheme property* in the case of a *sub-fund*;
- (b) the *trustee* must cease to *issue* and *cancel units*, except in respect of the final *cancellation* under ■ COLL 7.4.4 R (1) or ■ (2);
- (c) the *manager* must cease to *sell* and *redeem units*;
- (d) the *manager* must cease to arrange the *issue* or *cancellation* of *units* under ■ COLL 6.2.7 R (Issue and cancellation of units through an authorised fund manager), except in respect of the final *cancellation* under ■ COLL 7.4.4 R (1) or ■ (2);
- (dA) no transfer of a *unit* may be registered and no other change to the *register* of *unitholders* may be made without the approval of the *person* responsible for the *register* in accordance with ■ COLL 6.4.4 R (1); and

- (e) the *trustee* must proceed to wind up the *AUT* or terminate the *sub-fund* in accordance with ■ COLL 7.4.4 R.
- (1A) If the *manager* has not previously notified *unitholders* of the proposal to wind up the *AUT* or terminate the *sub-fund*, it must as soon as practicable after winding up or termination has commenced give written notice of the commencement of the winding up or termination to the *unitholders*.
- (2) The events referred to in (1) are:
- (a) the *authorisation order* of the *AUT* is revoked;
 - (b) alterations to the *AUT's trust deed* and *prospectus* that will be required if the *sub-fund* is terminated taking effect in accordance with section 251 of the *Act*;
 - (c) the passing of an *extraordinary resolution* winding up the *AUT* or terminating the *sub-fund*, provided *FCA's* prior consent to the resolution has been obtained by the *manager* or *trustee*;
 - (d) in response to a request to the *FCA* by the *manager* or the *trustee* for the revocation of the *authorisation order*, the *FCA* has agreed, subject to there being no material change in any relevant factor, that, on the conclusion of the winding up of the *AUT*, the *FCA* will agree to that request;
 - (e) the expiration of any period specified in the *trust deed* as the period at the end of which the *AUT* is to be wound up or the *sub-fund* is to terminate;
 - (f) the effective date of a duly approved *scheme of arrangement*, which is to result in the *AUT* or *sub-fund* that is subject to the *scheme of arrangement* being left with no property; or
 - (g) the date on which a *relevant pension scheme* is notified in writing by The Pensions Regulator that the *scheme* is no longer registered under the Welfare and Pensions Reform Act 1999 as a *stakeholder pension scheme*.
- (3) This *rule* is without prejudice to ■ COLL 7.2.1 R(Requirement) and to any order or direction made under section 257 or 258 of the *Act*.

Manner of winding up or termination

7.4.4

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- (1) Where ■ COLL 7.4.3 R (2) (f) applies, the *trustee* must *cancel* all *units* in issue and wind up the *AUT* or terminate the *sub-fund* in accordance with the approved *scheme of arrangement*.
- (2) In any other case falling within ■ COLL 7.4.3 R:
 - (a) once the *AUT* falls to be wound up or *sub-fund* terminated, the *trustee* must realise the *scheme property*;
 - (b) after paying out or retaining adequate provision for all liabilities payable and for the costs of the winding up or termination, the *trustee* must *cancel* all *units* in issue and distribute the proceeds of that realisation to the *unitholders* and the *manager* proportionately to their respective interests in the *AUT* or *sub-fund* as at the date, or the date of the relevant event referred to in ■ COLL 7.4.3 R; and

- (c) any unclaimed net proceeds or other cash (including unclaimed distribution payments) held by the *trustee* after one year from the date on which they became payable must be paid by the *trustee* into court (or, in Scotland, as the court may direct), subject to the *trustee* having a right to retain any expenses properly incurred by him relating to that payment.
- (3) For an *AUT* which is a *relevant pension scheme*, payments must not be made to *unitholders* in the *AUT*, the realisation proceeds having to be paid by the *trustee* in accordance with the *trust deed*.
- (4) Where the *trustee* and one or more *unitholders* agree, the requirement in (2) to realise the *scheme property* does not apply to that part of the property proportionate to the entitlement of that or those *unitholders*.
- (5) The *trustee* must distribute the part of the *scheme property* referred to in (4) in the form of property, after making adjustments or retaining provisions as appears appropriate to the *trustee* for ensuring that, that or those *unitholders* bear a proportional share of the liabilities and costs.
- (6) On completion of the winding up in respect of the events referred to in ■ COLL 7.4.3 R (2)(c), ■ COLL 7.4.3 R (2)(d), ■ COLL 7.4.3 R (2)(e) or ■ COLL 7.4.3 R (2) (f), the *trustee* must notify the *FCA* in writing and at the same time the *manager* or *trustee* must request the *FCA* to revoke the relevant *authorisation order*.

7.4.4A

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For the purposes of this section, an *AUT* may be treated as having been wound up or a *sub-fund* terminated upon completion, where relevant, of all of the steps in (1) to (3):

- (1) payment or adequate provision being made (by the *trustee* after consulting the *manager*) to cover the expenses relating to the winding up or termination and all liabilities of the *scheme*;
- (2) the *scheme property* being realised or distributed in accordance with ■ COLL 7.4.4 R (5); and
- (3) the net proceeds being distributed to the *unitholders* named in the *register* on the date on which winding up or termination commenced, or provision being made in respect of the final distribution.

Accounting and reports during winding up or termination

7.4.5

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- (1) [deleted]
- (1A) [deleted]
- (2) For any *annual accounting period* or *half-yearly accounting period* which begins after commencement of the winding up or termination, a copy of the long report must be supplied free of charge to any *unitholder* upon request.

- (2A) The *manager* must ensure that it keeps *unitholders* appropriately informed about the winding up or termination, including its likely duration.
- (2B) The *manager* must send a copy of the information required by ■ COLL 7.4.5 R (2A) to each *person* who was a *unitholder* or the first named of joint *unitholders* immediately before the winding up or termination commenced, unless a final distribution has been made in accordance with ■ COLL 7.4.4 R (2)(b).
- (3) [deleted]
- (4) At the conclusion of the winding up or termination, the accounting period then running is regarded as the final *annual accounting period*.
- (5) Within four *months* after the end of the final *annual accounting period* or the termination of the *sub-fund*, the annual reports of the *manager* and *trustee* must be published and sent to the FCA.
- (6) The *manager* must, on publication of the annual long report in (5), write to each *person* who was a *unitholder* or the first named of joint *unitholders* immediately before the commencement of winding up or termination to inform them that the annual long report is available free-of-charge on request.

7.4.6

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- (1) The effect of ■ COLL 7.4.5R is that the *manager* must continue to prepare annual and half-yearly long reports and to make them available to *unitholders* in accordance with ■ COLL 4.5.14 R.
- (2) Where there are outstanding unrealised assets, keeping *unitholders* appropriately informed may, for example, be carried out by providing updates to *unitholders* at six-monthly or more frequent intervals.