

Chapter 5

Identifying client needs and advising



5.3

Advised sales

Suitability

5.3.1

R

A *firm* must take reasonable care to ensure the suitability of its advice for any *customer* who is entitled to rely upon its judgement.

Suitability guidance for protection policies

5.3.2

G

(1) In taking reasonable care to ensure the suitability of advice on a *payment protection contract* or a *pure protection contract* a *firm* should:

(a) establish the *customer's* demands and needs by using information readily available to the *firm* and by obtaining further relevant information from the *customer*, including details of existing insurance cover; it need not consider alternatives to *policies* nor *customer* needs that are not relevant to the type of *policy* in which the *customer* is interested;

(b) take reasonable care to ensure that a *policy* is suitable for the *customer's* demands and needs, taking into account its level of cover and cost, and relevant exclusions, excesses, limitations and conditions; and

(c) inform the *customer* of any demands and needs that are not met.

(2) This *guidance* does not apply to *payment protection contracts* or *pure protection contracts* included in a *packaged bank account*.

Suitability of advice on policies included in a packaged bank account

5.3.2A

R

In taking reasonable care to ensure the suitability of advice on a *policy* included in a *packaged bank account*, a *firm* must:

(1) establish the *customer's* demands and needs by using information readily available to the *firm* and by obtaining further relevant information from the *customer*, including details of existing insurance cover; it need not consider alternatives to *policies* nor *customer* needs that are not relevant to the type of *policy* in which the *customer* is interested;

(2) take reasonable steps to establish whether each *policy* included in the *packaged bank account* is suitable for the *customer's* demands and needs, taking into account its level of cover and cost, and relevant exclusions, excesses, limitations, and conditions;

- (3) inform the *customer* of any demands and needs that are not met; and
- (4) explain to the *customer* its recommendation and the reasons for the recommendation.

5.3.2B **R** A *firm* must make a record of the suitability assessment, the recommendation given and the reasons for the recommendation and, if the *customer* proceeds with the recommendation, retain it for a minimum period of three years from the date on which the recommendation was made.

Advice on the basis of a fair analysis

- 5.3.3** **R** If an *insurance intermediary* informs a *customer* that it gives:
- (1) advice on the basis of a fair analysis, it must give that advice on the basis of an analysis of a sufficiently large number of *contracts of insurance* available on the market to enable it to make a recommendation; or
 - (2) a *personal recommendation* on the basis of a fair and personal analysis, it must give that *personal recommendation* on the basis of an analysis of a sufficiently large number of insurance contracts available on the market to enable it to make a *personal recommendation*;

and in each case, it must be in accordance with professional criteria, regarding which contract of insurance would be adequate to meet the customer’s needs.[Note: article 20(1) third paragraph of the *IDD*]

Personalised explanation

- 5.3.4** **R** Where a *firm* provides a *personal recommendation* (other than in relation to a *connected travel insurance contract*) the *firm* must, in addition to the statement of demands and needs, provide the *customer* with a personalised explanation of why a particular *contract of insurance* would best meet the *customer’s* demands and needs.
- [Note: article 20(1) third paragraph of the *IDD*]

Means of communication

- 5.3.5** **R** A *firm* must provide the information in this section in accordance with **ICOBS 4.1A** (Means of communication to customers).
- [Note: article 23(1) of the *IDD*]