

Principles for Businesses

Chapter 1

Introduction

Non-designated investment business - clients that a firm may treat as an eligible counterparty for the purposes of PRIN

- 1.1 A *firm* may categorise the following types of *client* as an *eligible counterparty* for the purposes of *PRIN*:
- (1) a properly constituted government (including a quasi-governmental body or a government agency) of any country or territory;
 - (2) a central bank or other national monetary authority of any country or territory;
 - (3) a supranational whose members are either countries or central banks or national monetary authorities;
 - (4) a State investment body, or a body charged with, or intervening in, the management of the public debt at national level;
 - (5) another *firm*, or an *overseas financial services institution*;
 - (6) any *associate* of a *firm* (except an *OPS firm*), or of an *overseas financial services institution*, if the *firm* or institution consents;
 - (7) a *client* when he is classified as an *eligible counterparty* in accordance with 1.2; or
 - (8) a *recognised investment exchange*, *EU regulated market* or *clearing house*.
- 1.2 A *firm* may classify a *client* (other than another *firm*, *regulated collective investment scheme*, or an *overseas financial services institution*) as an *eligible counterparty* for the purposes of *PRIN* under 1.1(7) if:
- (1) the *client* at the time he is classified is one of the following:
 - (a) a *body corporate* (including a *limited liability partnership*) which has (or any of whose *holding companies* or *subsidiaries* has) called up share capital of at least £10 million (or its equivalent in any other currency at the relevant time);
 - (b) a *body corporate* that meets (or any of whose holding companies or subsidiaries meets) two of the following tests:
 - (i) a balance sheet total of 12.5 million euros (or its equivalent in any other currency at the relevant time);
 - (ii) a net turnover of 25 million euros (or its equivalent in any other currency at the relevant time);
 - (iii) an average number of employees during the year of 250;
 - (c) [deleted]
 - (d) a *partnership* or unincorporated association which has net assets of at least £10 million (or its equivalent in any other currency at the relevant time) (and calculated, in the case of a *limited partnership*, without deducting loans owing to any of the *partners*);
 - (e) a trustee of a trust (other than an *occupational pension scheme*, *SSAS*, *personal pension scheme* or *stakeholder pension scheme*) with assets of at least £10 million (or its equivalent in any other currency), calculated by aggregating the value of the cash and *designated investments* forming part of the trust's assets, but before deducting its liabilities;
 - (f) a trustee of an *occupational pension scheme* or *SSAS*, or a trustee or operator of a *personal pension scheme* or *stakeholder pension scheme* where the *scheme* has (or has had at any time during the previous two years):

- (i) at least 50 members; and
 - (ii) assets under management of not less than £10 million (or its equivalent in any other currency at the relevant time); and
- (2) the *firm* has, before commencing business with the *client* on an *eligible counterparty* basis:
 - (a) advised the *client* in writing that he is being categorised as an *eligible counterparty* for the purposes of *PRIN*;
 - (b) given a written warning to the *client* that he will lose protections under the *regulatory system*;
 - (c) for a *client* falling under (1)(a) or (b):
 - (i) taken reasonable steps to ensure that the written notices required by (a) and (b) have been delivered to a *person* authorised to take such a decision for the *client*; and
 - (ii) not been notified by the *client* that the *client* objects to being classified as an *eligible counterparty*;
 - (d) for a *client* falling under (1)(c), (d), (e) or (f):
 - (i) taken reasonable steps to ensure that the written notices required by (a) and (b) have been delivered to a *person* authorised to take such a decision for the *client*; and
 - (ii) obtained the *client's* written consent or is otherwise able to demonstrate that consent has been given.