## NON-UCITS RETAIL SCHEMES INVESTING IN ILLIQUID ASSETS INSTRUMENT 2019

### **Powers exercised**

- A. The Financial Conduct Authority ("the FCA") makes this instrument in the exercise of the following powers and related provisions in or under:
  - (1) the following sections of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("the Act"):
    - (a) section 137A (The FCA's general rules);
    - (b) section 137D (FCA general rules: product intervention);
    - (c) section 137R (Financial promotion rules);
    - (d) section 137T (General supplementary powers);
    - (e) section 139A (Power of the FCA to give guidance);
    - (f) section 214 (General);
    - (g) section 247 (Trust scheme rules);
    - (h) section 248 (Scheme particulars rules);
    - (i) section 261I (Contractual scheme rules);
    - (j) section 261J (Contractual scheme particulars rules);
  - (2) regulation 6(1) of the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1228); and
  - (3) the other rule and guidance making powers listed in Schedule 4 (Powers exercised) to the General Provisions of the FCA's Handbook.
- B. The rule-making provisions listed above are specified for the purposes of section 138G(2) (Rule-making instruments) of the Act.

### Commencement

C. This instrument comes into force on 30 September 2020.

#### Amendments to the Handbook

D. The modules of the FCA's Handbook of rules and guidance listed in column (1) below are amended in accordance with the Annexes to this instrument listed in column (2) below.

(1)	(2)
Glossary of definitions	Annex A
Conduct of Business sourcebook (COBS)	Annex B
Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook (COLL)	Annex C

## Citation

E. This instrument may be cited as the Non-UCITS Retail Schemes Investing in Illiquid Assets Instrument 2019.

By order of the Board 26 September 2019

#### Annex A

## Amendments to the Glossary of definitions

In this Annex, underlining indicates new text, unless indicated otherwise.

Insert the following new definitions in the appropriate alphabetical position. The text is not underlined.

**FIIA** 

a fund investing in inherently illiquid assets.

fund investing in inherently illiquid assets

a *non-UCITS retail scheme* which satisfies the conditions in (1), (2) and (3):

- (1) either:
  - (a) the investment objectives and policy published in the *instrument constituting the fund* and the *prospectus* aim to invest at least 50% of the value of the *scheme property* in *inherently illiquid assets*; or
  - (b) at least 50% of the value of the *scheme property* has been invested in *inherently illiquid assets* for at least three continuous *months* in the last twelve *months*; and
- (2) the *instrument constituting the fund* and the *prospectus* do not provide for *limited redemption arrangements* that reflect the time typically needed to sell, liquidate or close out the *inherently illiquid assets* in which the *non-UCITS retail scheme* invests; and
- (3) the *scheme* is not in the process of winding up or termination.

inherently illiquid asset an asset which is:

- (1) an immovable;
- (2) an *investment* in an infrastructure project;
- (3) a *transferable security* (within paragraph (2) of that definition) that is neither:
  - (a) a *government and public security* denominated in the currency of the country of its *issuer*;
  - (b) a *security* which is listed or traded on an *eligible* market: nor

- (c) a newly issued *security* which can reasonably be expected to fall within (b) when it begins to be traded:
- (4) any other *investment* which is not listed or traded on an *eligible* market and satisfies one or more of the following conditions:
  - (a) sale and purchase transactions are typically negotiated on a one-off basis;
  - (b) valuation for the purposes of agreeing a sale price is typically complex and may require the seller and/or buyer to obtain specialist advice;
  - (c) it may take significant time for one party in a proposed transaction to identify another party prior to sale and purchase negotiations commencing;
  - (d) once negotiations have commenced, transactions typically take significant time to complete;
- (5) a *unit* in another *FIIA*;
- (6) a unit in a qualified investor scheme where that qualified investor scheme:
  - (a) would itself meet condition (1) of the definition of a *FIIA* if it were a *non-UCITS retail scheme*;
  - (b) permits redemptions of *units* on timescales which do not reflect the time typically needed to sell, liquidate or close out the assets in which the *qualified investor scheme* invests, those assets being ones which fall within paragraphs (1) to (5) above or (7) below; and
  - (c) is not in the process of winding up or termination;
- (7) a *unit* in an open-ended *unregulated collective investment scheme* where that *unregulated collective investment scheme*:
  - (a) aims to invest at least 50% of the value of the property of the *unregulated collective investment scheme* in assets falling within paragraphs (1) to (6) above;
  - (b) permits redemptions of *units* on timescales which do not reflect the time typically needed to sell, liquidate or close out those assets; and

(c) is not in the process of winding up or termination.

Amend the following definition as shown.

eligible

(in *COLL* and in the definition of *inherently illiquid asset*) (in relation to a *securities* or a *derivatives* market) a market that satisfies the requirements in *COLL* 5.2.10R (Eligible markets: requirements) in relation to schemes falling under *COLL* 5.

## Annex B

## Amendments to the Conduct of Business sourcebook (COBS)

In this Annex, underlining indicates new text.

4	Communicating with clients, including financial promotions						
<b>4.5</b>	Communicating with retail clients (non-MiFID provisions)						
	Fund	s invest	ing in inherently illiquid assets (FIIAs)				
4.5.16	<u>R</u>	<u>(1)</u>	This <i>rule</i> applies to any <i>financial promotion</i> relating to a <i>FIIA</i> except the <i>FIIA</i> 's prospectus.				
		<u>(2)</u>	A firm must ensure that the following risk warning is given:				
			"[Name of fund] invests in assets that may at times be hard to sell. This means that there may be occasions when you experience a delay or receive less than you might otherwise expect when selling your investment. For more information on risks, see the prospectus and key investor information document."				
		<u>(3)</u>	If the financial promotion is a non-real time financial promotion, a firm must ensure that the risk warning is prominently placed in the financial promotion in a font size that is at least equal to the predominant font size used throughout the communication.				
4.5.17	<u>G</u>	docun	ales in COBS 4.5 do not apply to the form or content of a NURS-KII nent (see COBS 4.1.7AR (Modification relating to the KII ation)).				
4.5A			nting with clients (including past, simulated past and future e) (MiFID provisions)				
	Fund	s invest	ing in inherently illiquid assets (FIIAs)				
4.5A.17	<u>R</u>	<u>(1)</u>	This <i>rule</i> applies to any <i>financial promotion</i> relating to a <i>FIIA</i> that is addressed to, or disseminated in such a way that it is likely to be received by, a <i>retail client</i> , except the <i>FIIA</i> 's <i>prospectus</i> .				

(2) A firm must ensure that the following risk warning is given:

"[Name of fund] invests in assets that may at times be hard to sell. This means that there may be occasions when you experience a delay or receive less than you might otherwise expect when selling your investment. For more information on risks, see the prospectus and key investor information document."

- (3) If the financial promotion is a non-real time financial promotion, the risk warning must be prominently placed in the financial promotion in a font size that is at least equal to the predominant font size used throughout the communication.
- 4.5A.18 G The *rules* in *COBS* 4.5A do not apply to the form or content of a *NURS-KII* document (see *COBS* 4.1.7AR (Modification relating to the KII Regulation)).

### Annex C

## Amendments to the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook (COLL)

In this Annex, underlining indicates new text and striking through indicates deleted text.

4 Investor Relations

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4.2 Pre-sale notifications

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Table: contents of the prospectus

4.2.5 R This table belongs to *COLL* 4.2.2R (Publishing the prospectus).

Inves	Investment objectives and policy						
3		llowing partised fund:	ticulars of the investment objectives and policy of the				
	<u>(pa)</u>	following	for a fund investing in inherently illiquid assets at least the following (see FUND 3.2.2R(8) (Prior disclosure of information to investors)):				
		<u>(i)</u>	an explanation of the risks associated with the scheme investing in inherently illiquid assets and how those risks might crystallise;				
		(ii)	a description of the tools and arrangements the authorised fund manager would propose using, including those required by FCA rules, to mitigate the risks referred to in (i); and				
		(iii)	an explanation of the circumstances in which those tools and arrangements would typically be deployed and the likely consequences for investors;				
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Guidance on contents of the prospectus

- 4.2.6 G (1) ...
  - (4A) In relation to *COLL* 4.2.5R(3)(pa)(ii) and (iii), the types of liquidity management tools and arrangements that should typically be described include:
    - (a) suspension of dealing under *COLL* 7.2.-3R, *COLL* 7.2.-2R, *COLL* 7.2.-1R and *COLL* 7.2.1R;
    - (b) fair value price adjustment (see *COLL* 6.3.3ER, and *COLL* 6.3.6G(1)(5) to *COLL* 6.3.6G(1)(7));
    - (c) <u>fair and reasonable valuation of an immovable (see *COLL* 6.3.6G(1)(7A) and *COLL* 6.3.6G(1)(7B)); and</u>
    - (d) measures to prevent dilution, such as applying a dilution levy (see *COLL* 6.3.8R).

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5 Investment and borrowing powers

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5.6 Investment powers and borrowing limits for non-UCITS retail schemes

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Funds investing in inherently illiquid assets (FIIA)

- 5.6.5E G (1) The Glossary definition of a fund investing in inherently illiquid

  assets (or FIIA) includes conditions relating to, amongst other
  things, the investment objectives of such non-UCITS retail schemes
  and the proportion of scheme property which is invested in
  inherently illiquid assets.
  - (2) Examples of such assets include:
    - (a) property and real estate;
    - (b) <u>shares in a special purpose vehicle investing in infrastructure projects;</u>
    - (c) shares issued by a company that are not listed or admitted to trading; and
    - (d) units in a property authorised investment fund.

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Standing independent valuer and valuation

5.6.20 R ...

(3) The following requirements apply in relation to the functions of the *standing independent valuer*:

...

(f) any valuation by the *standing independent valuer* must be undertaken in accordance with <del>UKPS 2.3 of the RICS</del> <del>Valuation Standards (The Red Book) (9th edition published November 2013) UKVPS 3 and 2.3 of UKVPGA of the RICS <u>Valuation – Global Standards 2017, UK national supplement 2018 (the RICS Red Book)</u> or, in the case of overseas immovables, on an appropriate basis but subject to *COLL* 6.3 (Valuation and pricing).</del>

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6 Operating duties and responsibilities

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6.3 Valuation and pricing

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Accounting procedures

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6.3.3D R ...

Valuation of an immovable

6.3.3E R An authorised fund manager may only agree a fair and reasonable price for an immovable to reflect a rapid sale if the prospectus states that it may do so, in accordance with COLL 4.2.5R(3)(pa)(ii).

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## Valuation and pricing guidance

## 6.3.6 G Table: this table belongs to *COLL* 6.3.2G(2)(a) and *COLL* 6.3.3R (Valuation).

Val	Valuation and pricing				
1	The valuation of scheme property				
	(7A)	Where the <i>authorised fund manager</i> , the <i>depositary</i> or the <i>standing independent valuer</i> have reasonable grounds to believe that the most recent valuation of an immovable does not reflect the current value of that immovable, then, unless <i>COLL</i> 6.3.6G(1)(7B) applies, the <i>authorised fund manager</i> should consult and agree with the <i>standing independent valuer</i> a fair and reasonable value for the immovable.			
	(7B)	Where the <i>authorised fund manager</i> decides that an immovable must be sold quickly to meet <i>redemption</i> requests as they fall due, it should consult and agree with the <i>standing independent valuer</i> a fair and reasonable price for the immovable to reflect a rapid sale, to extent that the <i>prospectus</i> states that it may do so.			

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# Powers and duties of the scheme, the authorised fund manager, and the depositary

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Table of application

## 6.6.2 R This table belongs to *COLL* 6.6.1R.

Rule	ICVC	ACD	Any other directors of an ICVC	Deposita ry of an ICVC	Authoris ed fund manager of an AUT or ACS	Deposita ry of an AUT or ACS
6.6.3CR*		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>	

6.6.3DG*		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>		
6.6.3ER*		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>		
6.6.3FR*		<u>X</u>			<u>X</u>		
6.6.4BR*				<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	
6.6.4CR*				<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	
6.6.4DG*				<u>x</u>		<u>X</u>	
Notes:							
	(6)	*COLL 6.6.3CR, COLL 6.6.3DG, COLL 6.6.3ER and COLL 6.6.3FR apply only to the authorised fund manager of a FIIA.					
	<u>(7)</u>	*COLL 6.6.4BR, COLL 6.6.4CR, and COLL 6.6.4DG apply only to the depositary of a FIIA.					

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### Additional functions of an authorised fund manager of a FIIA

- 6.6.3C R The authorised fund manager of a FIIA must establish, implement and maintain an adequate liquidity management contingency plan for exceptional circumstances which sets out:
  - (1) how the *authorised fund manager* will respond to a liquidity risk crystallising;
  - (2) the range of liquidity tools and arrangements which it may deploy in such exceptional circumstances, any operational challenges associated with the use of such tools and the likely consequences for investors;
  - (3) the procedures for working with the *depositary* in the event the *authorised fund manager* must deploy these tools and arrangements;
  - (4) how the *authorised fund manager* will work with its delegates, such as third-party administrators, and other relevant third parties including *intermediate unitholders*, to:
    - (a) deploy the liquidity management tools and arrangements;
    - (b) communicate their use in a timely way to *unitholders*; and

- (c) implement any other part of this contingency plan;
- (5) any operational challenges likely to arise from working with relevant third parties identified at (4); and
- (6) communication arrangements for internal and external concerned parties (including the *FCA*, investors and the media where necessary).
- 6.6.3D G Compliance with COLL 6.6.3CR may enable a full-scope UK AIFM that is an authorised fund manager of a FIIA to meet some of its obligations under article 47(1)(e) of the AIFMD level 2 regulation.
- 6.6.3E R (1) The authorised fund manager of a FIIA must obtain written confirmation from any relevant third party identified in the contingency plan under COLL 6.6.3CR(4) that the third party will be able to undertake the matters specified in (2) as soon as is reasonably practicable.
  - (2) The matters specified for the purpose of (1) are that the relevant third party will, where necessary, be able to:
    - (a) <u>deploy any liquidity management tools and arrangements on</u> <u>which the authorised fund manager plans to rely as part of its contingency plan;</u>
    - (b) in a timely way, communicate the *authorised fund manager's* use of any such tools and arrangements to *unitholders*; and
    - (c) carry out any other part of the contingency plan which the authorised fund manager has identified as requiring action by that third party.
- 6.6.3F R The authorised fund manager of a FIIA must provide the depositary on an ongoing basis with all relevant information it needs to comply with its obligations under COLL 6.6.4BR.

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Specific duties of a depositary: oversight of the liquidity management of a FIIA

#### 6.6.4B R The *depositary* of a *FIIA* must:

- (1) regularly make its own assessment of the liquidity profile of the FIIA and the liquidity risks presented by the scheme property of a FIIA;
- (2) take reasonable care to oversee the *authorised fund manager's* liquidity management systems and procedures on an ongoing basis, using the assessment it has made under (1), to ensure the *FIIA* is managed in accordance with the following *COLL rules* and, in the

case of a FIIA managed by a full-scope UK AIFM, the following FUND rules and provisions in the AIFMD level 2 regulation:

- (a) COLL 4.2.5R(3)(pa);
- (b) *COLL* 6.6.3CR and *COLL* 6.6.3ER;
- (c) *FUND* 3.2.2R(8);
- (d) FUND 3.2.5R;
- (e) *FUND* 3.6.3R;
- (f) article 44(1) and (2)(c) of the AIFMD level 2 regulation;
- (g) articles 46 to 49 of the AIFMD level 2 regulation; and
- (h) article 108 of the AIFMD level 2 regulation; and
- (3) establish an escalation procedure when instances of potential noncompliance with the *rules* and provisions set out in paragraph (2) are identified, the details of which must be made available to the *FCA* upon request.
- 6.6.4C R The depositary of a FIIA managed by a small authorised UK AIFM must not delegate its functions under COLL 6.6.4BR to one or more third parties, except in relation to supporting administrative or technical tasks that are linked to these functions.
- 6.6.4D G Subject to certain specified exceptions, the *depositary* of a *FIIA* managed by a *full-scope UK AIFM* is generally prohibited from delegating its functions (see in particular, *FUND* 3.11.26R (Delegation: general prohibition) and *FUND* 3.11.28R (Delegation: safekeeping)).

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Duty to inform the FCA

6.6.11 G SUP 15.3 (General notification requirements) contains *rules* and *guidance* on matters that should be notified to the FCA. Such matters include, but are not limited to, any circumstance that the *depositary* becomes aware of whilst undertaking its functions or duties in COLL 6.6.4R(1) (General duties of the depositary) and (where applicable) COLL 6.6.4BR (Specific duties of a depositary: oversight of the liquidity management of a FIIA), that the FCA would reasonably view as significant.

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- 7 Suspension of dealings and termination of authorised funds
- 7.1 Introduction

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Table of application

7.1.2 R This table belongs to *COLL* 7.1.1R.

Rule	ICVC	ACD	Any other directors of an ICVC	Deposita ry of an ICVC	Authorise d fund manager of an AUT or ACS	Depositar y of an AUT or ACS
7.23*		<u>x</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	X
7.22*		<u>x</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>
7.21*		<u>x</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>
Notes						
	<u>(4)</u>	COLL 7.23R to 7.21R apply only to the authorised fund manager and depositary of a non-UCITS retail scheme.				

### Purpose

- 7.1.3 G (1) This chapter helps to achieve the *statutory objective* of protecting investors by ensuring they do not buy the *authorised fund manager* does not sell or *redeem units* at a *price* that cannot be calculated accurately. For instance, due to unforeseen circumstances, it may be impossible to value, or to dispose of and obtain payment for, all or some of the *scheme property* of an *authorised fund* or *sub-fund*.

  COLL 7.2.-3R, COLL 7.2.-2R, COLL 7.2.-1R, and COLL 7.2.1R

  (Requirement) sets set out the circumstances in which an *authorised fund manager* must or may suspend dealings dealings in units and the manner in which a suspension takes effect.
  - (2) ...

## 7.2 Suspension and restart of dealings

Requirement

- 7.2.-3 R (1) This rule applies to the authorised fund manager of a non-UCITS retail scheme if at any time:
  - (a) a standing independent valuer has expressed material uncertainty in accordance with VPS 3 paragraph 2.2(o) and the guidance at VPGA10, RICS Valuation Global Standards 2017 (The Red Book) (effective from 1 July 2017), about the value of one or more immovables under management and that material uncertainty applies to at least 20% of the value of the scheme property; or
  - (b) the authorised fund invests at least 20% of the value of the scheme property in units of one or more other authorised funds for which dealings in units have been temporarily suspended under (2).
  - (2) As soon as possible and in any event by the end of the second business day after the day on which this rule starts to apply under (1), the authorised fund manager must temporarily suspend dealings in units in the authorised fund unless (3) applies.
  - (3) <u>Dealings in units in the authorised fund may continue provided</u> that:
    - (a) as soon as possible and in any event by the end of the second business day after the day on which this rule starts to apply under (1), the authorised fund manager and the depositary agree that dealings in units in the authorised fund should continue;
    - (b) the authorised fund manager and the depositary have a reasonable basis for determining that a temporary suspension of dealings in units would not be in the best interests of unitholders in the authorised fund; and
    - (c) the *authorised fund manager* and the *depositary* do not rely solely on a fair value price adjustment when making their determination under (b).
- 7.2.-2 R (1) This rule applies where the authorised fund manager of a non-UCITS retail scheme is required to temporarily suspend dealings in units in the authorised fund under COLL 7.2.-3R(2) or COLL 7.2.-1R(3).
  - (2) The *authorised fund manager* must notify the *depositary* before suspending *dealings* in *units* in the *authorised fund*.

- (3) <u>During the suspension, the authorised fund manager must follow</u> the requirements set out in the following provisions, where applicable:
  - (a) <u>COLL 7.2.1R(2)</u>;
  - (b) COLL 7.2.1R(2A);
  - (c) COLL 7.2.1R(2B);
  - (d) COLL 7.2.1R(2C);
  - (e) *COLL* 7.2.1R(3);
  - (f) *COLL* 7.2.1R(4A);
  - (g) *COLL* 7.2.1R(5); and
  - (h) *COLL* 7.2.1R(6).
- (4) <u>Dealings in units must restart as soon as reasonably practicable after:</u>
  - (a) the standing independent valuer's material uncertainty assessment applies to less than 20% of the value of the scheme property; and
  - (b) the *scheme's depositary* gives its approval for the temporary suspension to be removed.
- (5) If a non-UCITS retail scheme operates limited redemption
  arrangements and a suspension has prevented dealings in units at a
  valuation point, the authorised fund manager must declare an
  additional valuation point as soon as possible after the restart of
  dealings in units.
- (6) This *rule* applies to a *sub-fund* as it applies to an *authorised fund*, and:
  - (a) references to the *units* of the *class* or *classes* relate to that sub-fund and to the scheme property attributable to the sub-fund; and
  - this *rule* can only apply to one or more *classes* of *units* without being applied to other *classes* if the *authorised* fund manager considers that a suspension of dealings in units of some but not all classes of units is in the best interest of all the unitholders of that authorised fund or sub-fund.
- 7.2.-1 R (1) This rule applies where the authorised fund manager and the depositary agree that dealings in units in the authorised fund

- should continue under *COLL* 7.2.-3R(3) and, if relevant, following a review under this *rule*.
- (2) During the period of material uncertainty (see (8) below), the authorised fund manager and the depositary must review their agreement not to suspend dealings in units in the authorised fund at least every 14 days.
- (3) Following such a review the *authorised fund manager* must temporarily suspend *dealings* in *units* in the *authorised fund* unless (4) applies.
- (4) <u>Dealings in units in the authorised fund may continue provided</u> that:
  - (a) the authorised fund manager and the depositary agree that dealings in units in the authorised fund should continue;
  - (b) the authorised fund manager and the depositary have a reasonable basis for determining that a temporary suspension of dealings in units would not be in the best interests of unitholders in the authorised fund; and
  - (c) the *authorised fund manager* and the *depositary* do not rely solely on a fair value price adjustment when making their determination under (b).
- (6) The *authorised fund manager* must inform the *FCA* of the results of each review.
- (7) This *rule* applies to a *sub-fund* as it applies to an *authorised fund*, and:
  - (a) references to the *units* of the *class* or *classes* relate to that sub-fund and to the scheme property attributable to the sub-fund; and
  - (b) this *rule* can only apply to one or more *classes* of *units* without being applied to other *classes* if the *authorised* fund manager considers a suspension of dealings in units of some but not all classes of units is in the best interest of all the unitholders of that authorised fund or sub-fund.
- (8) <u>In this *rule*, a "period of material uncertainty" is any period during which one or both of *COLL* 7.2.-3R(1)(a) and (b) applies.</u>

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#### Guidance

7.2.2 G (-1) The guidance in (1), (1A) and (1B) does not apply in circumstances where an authorised fund manager is required to

- temporarily suspend *dealings* in *units* in an *authorised fund* under *COLL* 7.2.-3R or *COLL* 7.2.-1R.
- (1) Suspension should be allowed only in exceptional cases where circumstances so require and suspension is justified having regard to the interests of the *unitholders*.
- Except in the case of FIIAs (for which see (1B) below), Difficulties difficulties in realising scheme assets or temporary shortfalls in liquidity may not on their own be sufficient justification for suspension. In such circumstances the authorised fund manager and depositary would need to be confident that suspension could be demonstrated genuinely to be in the best interests of the unitholders. Before an authorised fund manager and depositary determines determine that it is in the best interests of unitholders to suspend dealing, it they should ensure that any alternative courses of action have been discounted.
- In the case of *FIIAs*, there may be circumstances where suspension is genuinely in the best interests of *unitholders*; for example, where orders received for *redemptions* of *units* at the next valuation period cannot be executed without significantly depleting the *scheme's* liquidity, and/or without selling *scheme property* at a substantial discount to its open market value.

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**8** Qualified investor schemes

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8.4 Investment and borrowing powers

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Standing independent valuer and valuation

- 8.4.13 R (1) ...
  - (2) ...
    - (f) any valuation by the *standing independent valuer* must be undertaken in accordance with UKPS 2.3 of the RICS

      Valuation Standards (The Red Book) (9th edition published November 2013) UKVPS 3 and 2.3 of UKVPGA 2 of the RICS Valuation Global Standards 2017 UK national supplement 2018 (the RICS Red Book) or, in the case of overseas immovables, on an appropriate basis but subject to any provisions of the *instrument constituting the fund*.

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...