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Federal Act on the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (Financial Market Supervision Act, FINMASA)

of 22 June 2007 (Status as of 1 January 2015)

Please note: this translation does not yet include the amendments of 01.01.2016

*The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,
based on Articles 95 and 98 of the Federal Constitution¹,
and having considered the Federal Council Dispatch dated 1 February 2006²,
decrees:*

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Art. 1 Subject matter

¹ The Confederation shall create an authority for the supervision of the financial markets in accordance with the following acts (the financial market acts):

- a. Mortgage Bond Act of 25 June 1930³;
- b. Federal Act on Contracts of Insurance of 2 April 1908⁴;
- c. Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006⁵;
- d. Banking Act of 8 November 1934⁶;
- e. Stock Market Act of 24 March 1995⁷;
- f. Anti-Money Laundering Act of 10 October 1997⁸;
- g. Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004⁹.

² This Act establishes the organisation and the supervisory instruments of this authority.

AS 2008 5207

- 1 SR 101
- 2 BBl 2006 2829
- 3 SR 211.423.4; BBl 2007 4646
- 4 SR 221.229.1; BBl 2007 4648
- 5 SR 951.31; BBl 2007 4650
- 6 SR 952.0; BBl 2007 4654
- 7 SR 954.1; BBl 2007 4658
- 8 SR 955.0; BBl 2007 4663
- 9 SR 961.0; BBl 2007 4668

Art. 2 Relationship with the financial market acts

¹ This Act applies unless the financial market acts provide otherwise.

² International treaties concluded within the context of international withholding tax and their associated international agreements, specifically in relation to transnational audits and market access, take precedence over this Act and financial market legislation.¹⁰

Art. 3 Supervised persons and entities

The following are subject to financial market supervision:

- a. persons and entities that under the financial market acts require to be licensed recognised, or registered by the Financial Market Supervisory Authority;
- b. collective capital investments; and
- c.¹¹ ...

Art. 4 Legal form, seat and name

¹ The authority that supervises the financial market is a public law institution with its own legal personality and official seat in Bern.

² Its name is the “Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA)”.

³ It organises itself according to the principles of good corporate governance and economic management. It keeps its own accounts.

Art. 5 Objectives of financial market supervision

In accordance with the financial market acts, financial market supervision has the objectives of protecting creditors, investors, and insured persons as well as ensuring the proper functioning of the financial market. It thus contributes to sustaining the reputation and competitiveness of Switzerland’s financial centre.

Art. 6 Tasks

¹ FINMA carries out its supervision according to the financial market acts and this Act.

² It fulfils the international tasks that are related to its supervisory activity.

Art. 7 Principles of regulation

¹ FINMA exercises its regulatory powers by issuing:

¹⁰ Inserted by Art. 46 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on International Withholding Tax, in force since 20 Dec. 2012 (AS **2013** 27; BBl **2012** 4943).

¹¹ Repealed by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), with effect from 1 Jan. 2015 (AS **2014** 4073; BBl **2013** 6857).

- a. ordinances, where so provided in the financial market legislation; and
- b. circulars on the application of the financial market legislation.

² It exercises its regulatory powers only to the extent required by its supervisory objectives. In doing so, it takes account in particular of:

- a. the costs that the supervised persons and entities incur due to regulation;
- b. the effect that regulation has on competition, innovative ability and the international competitiveness of Switzerland's financial centre;
- c. the various business activities and risks incurred by the supervised persons and entities; and
- d. the international minimum standards.

³ It supports self-regulation and may recognise and implement the same as a minimum standard within terms of its supervisory powers.

⁴ It provides for a transparent regulatory process and the appropriate participation of the parties concerned.

⁵ It issues guidelines on the implementation of these principles. In doing so, it acts in agreement with the Federal Department of Finance.

Chapter 2: Organisation

Section 1: Management Bodies and Staff

Art. 8 Management bodies

The management bodies of FINMA are:

- a. the Board of Directors;
- b. the Management Board;
- c. the Auditor.

Art. 9 Board of Directors

¹ The Board of Directors is the strategic management body of FINMA. It has the following tasks:

- a. it determines the strategic objectives of FINMA and submits them to the Federal Council for approval.
- b. it decides on matters of substantial importance.
- c. it issues the ordinances delegated to FINMA and decides on the circulars.
- d. it supervises the Management Board.
- e. it establishes an internal audit unit and provides for internal controls.
- f. it draws up the annual report and submits it to the Federal Council for approval prior to publication.

- g. it appoints the Chief Executive Officer, subject to approval by the Federal Council.
- h. it appoints the members of the Management Board.
- i. it issues the organisational regulations and the guidelines on information activities.
- j. it approves the budget.

² It comprises seven to nine expert members, who are independent of the supervised persons and entities. The Board of Directors is appointed for a term of office of four years; each member may be reappointed twice.

³ The Federal Council appoints the Board of Directors. In doing so, it must ensure the appropriate representation of both genders. It appoints the Chair and the Vice-Chair. It determines the level of remuneration. Article 6a of the Federal Personnel Act of 24 March 2000¹² applies by analogy.

⁴ The Chair may not carry out any other economic activity nor hold any federal or cantonal office unless this is in the interest of the fulfilment of the tasks of FINMA.

⁵ The Federal Council removes members of the Board of Directors and approves the decision of the Board of Directors to terminate the employment of the Chief Executive Officer if the requirements for holding office are no longer fulfilled.

Art. 10 Management Board

¹ The Management Board is the operational management body. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer.

² It has the following tasks in particular:

- a. It issues rulings in accordance with the organisational regulations.
- b. It prepares the files and materials on which the Board of Directors bases its decisions and reports to it regularly, and in the case of special events immediately.
- c. It carries out all the tasks that are not assigned to another management body.

³ The organisational regulations regulate the details.

Art. 11 Supervision areas

¹ ¹ FINMA is divided into supervision areas. The organisational regulations regulate the details.

² The Federal Council and the Board of Directors ensure the appropriate representation of the various supervision areas on the Board of Directors and the Management Board.

¹² SR 172.220.1

Art. 12 Auditor

The Federal Audit Office is the external auditor and provides the Board of Directors and the Federal Council with a report on the result of its audit.

Art. 13¹³ Staff

¹ The employment of FINMA staff is governed by public law.

² Article 6a of the Federal Personnel Act of 24 March 2000¹⁴ applies by analogy.

³ The occupational pension scheme for the staff is governed by the legislation on the Federal Pension Fund.

² The Board of Directors regulates in an ordinance:

- a. the employment of personnel and in particular salaries, additional benefits, working hours, duty of loyalty and termination of employment;
- b. the composition, election and organisation of the Joint Committee for the FINMA Pension Fund.

³ The Board of Directors shall submit the ordinance to the Federal Council for approval.

Art. 14 Official secrecy

¹ The staff and the management bodies must observe secrecy on official matters.

² The duty of secrecy continues to apply after termination of employment or membership of a management body of FINMA.

³ The staff and the individual members of the management bodies of FINMA may not without authorisation from FINMA disclose in evidentiary hearings and in court proceedings as parties, witnesses or expert witnesses matters that have come to their knowledge in the course of their duties and that relate to their official tasks.

⁴ Official secrecy applies to all FINMA agents (audit agents, investigating agents, restructuring agents, liquidators, administrators in bankruptcy).¹⁵

Section 2: Funding and Financial Budget**Art. 15** Funding

¹ FINMA levies fees for supervisory proceedings in individual cases and for services. In addition, it levies an annual supervision charge on the supervised persons

¹³ Amended by Annex No 4 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS 2013 1493; BBl 2011 6703).

¹⁴ SR 172.220.1

¹⁵ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

and entities for each supervision area to cover the costs incurred by FINMA that are not covered by the fees.

² The supervision charge is assessed according to the following criteria:

- a. for supervised persons and entities under the Banking Act of 8 November 1934¹⁶, the Stock Exchange Act of 24 March 1995¹⁷ and the Mortgage Bond Act of 25 June 1930¹⁸, on the basis of the balance sheet total and securities turnover.
- b. for supervised persons and entities under the Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006¹⁹, on the basis of the amount of assets managed, the gross earnings and the size of the undertaking.
- c. for insurance institutions under the Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004²⁰, on the basis of their share of the total premium income for all insurance institutions; for insurance agents under Article 43 paragraph 1 of the Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, on the basis of their number and the size of the undertaking.
- d. for self-regulatory organisations under the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 10 October 1997²¹, on the basis of the gross earnings and number of members; for financial intermediaries directly subordinated to FINMA under Article 2 paragraph 3 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 10 October 1997, on the basis of the gross earnings and size of the undertaking.

e.²² ...

³ The Federal Council may provide for the apportionment of the supervision fee into a fixed basic fee and a variable supplementary fee.

⁴ It regulates the details, and in particular:

- a. the assessment principles;
- b. the supervision areas under paragraph 1; and
- c. the apportionment of the costs to be financed by the supervision charge among the supervision areas.

Art. 16 Reserves

FINMA shall within a reasonable time form reserves for the exercise of its supervisory activity in an amount equivalent to one annual budget.

¹⁶ SR **952.0**; BBl **2007** 4654

¹⁷ SR **954.1**; BBl **2007** 4658

¹⁸ SR **211.423.4**; BBl **2007** 4646

¹⁹ SR **951.31**; BBl **2007** 4650

²⁰ SR **961.01**; BBl **2007** 4668

²¹ SR **955.0**; BBl **2007** 4663

²² Repealed by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), with effect from 1 Jan. 2015 (AS **2014** 4073; BBl **2013** 6857).

Art. 17 Treasury

¹ The Federal Finance Administration manages the liquid assets of FINMA as part of its central Treasury.

² It grants FINMA loans on market terms in order to guarantee its liquidity.

³ The Federal Finance Administration and FINMA determines the details of their cooperation by mutual agreement.

Art. 18 Accounting

¹ The financial statements of FINMA disclose in full its assets and liabilities, earnings and costs.

² They follow the general principles of materiality, intelligibility, consistency and gross presentation and comply with the generally recognised standards.

³ The accounting and valuation rules derived from the accounting standards must be disclosed.

Art. 19 Liability

¹ The liability of FINMA, its management bodies, its staff and FINMA agents is governed by the Government Liability Act of 14 March 1958²³, subject to paragraph 2 below.²⁴

² FINMA and its agents are liable only if:

- a. they have committed a breach of fundamental duties; and
- b. loss or damage is not due to a breach of duty by a supervised person or entity.

Art. 20 Tax exemption

¹ FINMA is exempt from any taxation by the Confederation, the cantons or the communes.

² The federal legislation on:

- a. value added tax;
- b. withholding tax;
- c. stamp duties.

is reserved.

²³ SR 170.32

²⁴ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

Section 3: Independence and Supervision

Art. 21

¹ FINMA carries out its supervisory activity autonomously and independently.

² At least once each year, it reviews the strategy for its supervisory activity and current issues of financial centre policy with the Federal Council.

³ It deals with the Federal Council via the Federal Department of Finance.

⁴ The National Council and the Council of States are responsible for its superintendence.

Section 4: Information for the General Public and Data Processing

Art. 22 Information for the general public

¹ FINMA informs the general public at least once each year about its supervisory activity and supervisory practices.

² It does not provide information on individual proceedings, unless there is a particular need to do so from a supervisory point of view and in particular if the information is necessary:

- a. for the protection of market participants or the supervised persons and entities;
- b. to correct false or misleading information; or
- c. to safeguard the reputation of Switzerland's financial centre.

³ Where FINMA has provided information on individual proceedings, it must also provide immediate notice of the closure of the proceedings. This may be dispensed with at the request of the party concerned.

⁴ FINMA takes account of the personality rights of those concerned in all its information activities. Personal data may be published in electronic or printed form.

Art. 23 Data processing and public directory

¹ As part of its supervisory activity under this Act and the financial market acts, FINMA processes personal data, including particularly sensitive personal data and personality profiles. It regulates the details.

² It maintains a directory of the supervised persons and entities. This directory is accessible to the public in electronic form.

Chapter 3: Supervisory Instruments

Section 1: Audit

Art. 24²⁵ Principle

¹ In accordance with the financial market acts (Art. 1 para. 1), FINMA carries out the audit either itself or arranges for it to be carried out:

- a. by licensed audit companies appointed by the supervised persons and entities and der Federal Audit Oversight Authority under Article 9a des Auditor Oversight Act of 16 December 2005²⁶; or
- b. audit agents in accordance with Article 24a.

² The audit relates in particular to the risks that supervised persons and entities may pass on to creditors, investors, insured persons or to the proper function of the financial markets. Duplication of auditing work must be avoided as far as possible.

³ Article 730b paragraph 2 of the Code of Obligations²⁷ applies by analogy to the preservation of confidentiality by audit companies.

⁴ In relation to audits under paragraph 1 letter a, the Federal Council regulates the main aspects of the content and conduct of the audit and the form of the report. It may authorise FINMA to issue implementing provisions on technical matters.

⁵ The supervised persons and entities bear the costs of the audit.

Art. 24a²⁸ Audit agents

¹ FINMA may instruct an independent and suitably qualified person to conduct audits of supervised persons and entities.

² It specifies the duties of the audit agent in the appointment order.

³ The supervised persons and entities bear the agent's costs.

Art. 25²⁹ Duties of the audited supervised persons and entities

¹ Where an audit company is appointed or if FINMA appoints an audit agent, the supervised persons and entities must provide them with all information and documents that are required to carry out their tasks.

²⁵ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

²⁶ SR 221.302

²⁷ SR 220

²⁸ Inserted by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

²⁹ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

² The supervised person or entity must notify FINMA of its choice of audit company.

Art. 26³⁰

Art. 27 Reporting and measures

¹ The audit company provides FINMA with a report on its audits. The audit company provides the supreme management body of the audited supervised person or entity with a copy of the report.³¹

² If it detects violations of supervisory provisions or other irregularities, it gives the audited supervised person or entity an appropriate period to restore compliance with the law. If the period is not complied with, it informs FINMA.

³ In the case of serious violations of supervisory provisions or serious irregularities, the audit company notifies FINMA immediately.

Art. 28 Supervision of the audit companies

¹ ...³²

² FINMA and the Federal Audit Oversight Authority provide each other with all the information and documents that each need to enforce the relevant legislation.³³

Art. 28a³⁴ Appointment and change of the audit company

¹ Two different audit companies must be instructed for the audit under the licensing procedure and the other audits.

² In justified cases, FINMA may require the supervised person or entity to change audit company.

³ FINMA shall notify the Federal Audit Oversight Authority before ordering a change under paragraph 2.

³⁰ Repealed by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), with effect from 1 Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

³¹ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

³² Repealed by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), with effect from 1 Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

³³ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

³⁴ Inserted by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies)), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

Section 2: Further Supervisory Instruments

Art. 29 Duty to provide information and to report

¹ The supervised persons and entities, their audit companies and auditors as well as persons or companies that are qualified investors or that have a substantial participation in the supervised persons and entities must provide FINMA with all information and documents that it requires to carry out its tasks.

² The supervised persons and entities and the audit companies that conduct audits of them must also immediately report to FINMA any incident that is of substantial importance to the supervision.³⁵

Art. 30 Notice of the opening of proceedings

Where there are indications of violations of supervisory provisions and if FINMA opens proceedings, it notifies the parties of this.

Art. 31 Restoration of compliance with the law

Where a supervised person or entity violates the provisions of this Act or of a financial market act or if there are any other irregularities, FINMA shall ensure the restoration of compliance with the law.

Art. 32 Declaratory ruling

Where the proceedings reveal that the supervised person or entity has seriously violated supervisory provisions, but there is no longer a need to order measures to restore compliance with the law, FINMA may issue a declaratory ruling.

Art. 33 Prohibition from practising a profession

¹ If FINMA detects a serious violation of supervisory provisions, it may prohibit the person responsible from acting in a management capacity at any person or entity subject to its supervision.

² The prohibition from practising a profession may be imposed for a period of up to five years.

Art. 34 Publication of the supervisory ruling

¹ Where there is a serious violation of supervisory provisions, FINMA may publish in electronic or printed form its final ruling once it takes full legal effect, and disclose the relevant personal data.

² Notice of publication must be contained in the ruling itself.

³⁵ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

Art. 35 Confiscation

¹ FINMA may confiscate any profit that a supervised person or entity or a responsible person in a management position has made through a serious violation of the supervisory provisions.

² The foregoing provision applies by analogy if a supervised person or entity or a responsible person in a management position has prevented a loss through a serious violation of supervisory provisions.

³ Where the extent of the assets to be confiscated cannot be ascertained or requires a disproportionate effort to be ascertained, FINMA may make an estimate.

⁴ The right to confiscate prescribes after seven years.

⁵ Criminal law confiscation under Articles 70–72 of the Criminal Code³⁶ takes precedence over confiscation under this provision.

⁶ The confiscated assets go to the Confederation unless they are paid to the parties suffering loss.

Art. 36 Investigating agents

¹ FINMA may appoint an independent and suitably-qualified person to investigate circumstances relevant for supervisory purposes at a supervised person or entity or to implement supervisory measures that it has ordered (an investigating agent).

² It specifies the duties of the investigating agent in the appointment order. It determines the extent to which the investigating agent may act in the place of the management bodies of the supervised person or entity.

³ The supervised person or entity must allow the investigating agent access to its premises and provide him or her with all the information and documents that the investigating agent requires to fulfil his or her duties.

⁴ The costs of the investigating agent are borne by the supervised person or entity. It must if so instructed by FINMA make an advance payment to cover costs.

Art. 37 Revocation of licence, withdrawal of recognition, cancellation of registration

¹ FINMA shall revoke the licence of a supervised person or entity, or withdraw its recognition or cancel its registration if it no longer fulfils the requirements for its activity or seriously violates the supervisory provisions.

² On revocation, withdrawal or cancellation, the supervised person or entity loses its right to carry out its activity. The other consequences of revocation, withdrawal or cancellation are governed by the applicable financial market acts.

³ These consequences apply by analogy if a supervised person or entity carries out its activity without a licence, recognition, or registration.

³⁶ SR 311.0

Section 3: Cooperation with Domestic Authorities

Art. 38 Prosecution authorities

¹ FINMA and the prosecution authorities of the Confederation and the cantons shall provide each other with mutual and administrative assistance in accordance with the relevant acts.

² They coordinate their investigations, as far as is practicable and required.

³ Where FINMA obtains knowledge of common law felonies and misdemeanours or of offences against this Act or the financial market acts, it shall notify the competent prosecution authorities.

Art. 39 Other domestic authorities

The cooperation of FINMA with other domestic authorities is governed in the case of FINMA, subject to Articles 40 and 41, by the financial market acts and in the case of other domestic authorities by the legislation applicable to them.

Art. 40 Grounds for refusal

FINMA may refuse to disclose information that is not publicly accessible or to hand over files to prosecution authorities and other domestic authorities where:

- a. the information and the files solely serve the purpose of forming internal opinions;
- b. their disclosure or handover would prejudice ongoing proceedings or the fulfilment of its supervisory activity; or;
- c. it is not compatible with the aims of financial market supervision or with its purpose.

Art. 41 Disputes

At the request of any of the authorities concerned, the Federal Administrative Court rules on disputes relating to the cooperation between FINMA on the one hand and prosecution authorities or other domestic authorities on the other.

Section 4: Cooperation with Foreign Authorities responsible for Financial Market Supervision

Art. 42 Administrative assistance

¹ In order to enforce the financial market acts, FINMA may request foreign authorities responsible for financial market supervision to provide information and documents.

² FINMA may hand over information and documents that are not publicly accessible to foreign authorities responsible for financial market supervision only if the foreign authorities are bound by official or professional secrecy and the information:

- a. is used exclusively for the direct supervision of foreign institutions; and
- b. is passed on to competent authorities or to bodies that are entrusted with supervisory duties that lie in the public interest only on the basis of a general authorisation in a international treaty or with the consent of FINMA.

³ FINMA shall refuse consent if it is intended that the information be passed on to prosecution authorities and mutual assistance in criminal matters would be excluded. It decides in agreement with the Federal Office of Justice.

⁴ Where the information to be passed on by FINMA relates to individual clients, the Federal Act of 20 December 1968³⁷ on Administrative Procedure applies.

Art. 43 Cross-border audits

¹ In order to enforce the financial market acts (Art. 1 para. 1), FINMA may itself carry out direct audits at the foreign establishments of supervised persons and entities where it is responsible for their consolidated supervision as part of home country supervision, or have such audits carried out by audit companies or audit agents.³⁸

² It may permit foreign authorities responsible for financial market supervision to carry out direct audits at Swiss establishments of foreign institutions, provided these authorities:

- a. are responsible for the consolidated supervision of the audited institutions as part of home country supervision; and
- b. the requirements for administrative assistance under Article 42 paragraphs 2 and 3 are fulfilled.

³ Information may only be collected through cross-border direct audits if it is required for the consolidated supervision of foreign institutions. This includes in particular information on whether an institution throughout its group structure:

- a. is appropriately organised;
- b. records, limits and monitors in an appropriate manner the risks inherent in its business operations;
- c. is managed by persons who offer a guarantee of proper business conduct;
- d. fulfils the equity capital and risk diversification regulations on a consolidated basis; and
- e. properly complies with its reporting obligations vis-à-vis the supervisory authorities.

³⁷ SR 172.021; BBl 2007 4644

³⁸ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

⁴ FINMA may accompany the foreign authorities responsible for financial market supervision on their direct audits in Switzerland or arrange for them to be accompanied by an audit company or an audit agent. The supervised persons and entities concerned may request such accompaniment.³⁹

⁵ Establishments organised under Swiss law must provide the foreign financial market supervisory authorities and FINMA with the information required to carry out the direct audits or the information that FINMA requires to provide the administrative assistance, and must permit the inspection of their books.

⁶ Establishments are defined as:

- a. subsidiaries, branch offices and representative offices of supervised persons and entities or of foreign institutions; and
- b. other companies, provided their activity is included by a financial market supervisory authority in the consolidated supervision.

Chapter 4: Criminal Provisions

Art. 44 Activity without a licence, recognition, or registration or registration

¹ Any person who wilfully without a licence, recognition, or registration carries out an activity that requires a licence, recognition, or registration under the financial market acts is liable to a custodial sentence of up to three years or to a monetary penalty.

² Where the offender acts through negligence, he or she is liable to a fine of up to 250 000 francs.

³ In the case of a repetition of the offence within five years of the conviction taking full legal effect, the monetary penalty amounts to a minimum of 45 daily penalty units.

Art. 45 Provision of false information

¹ Any person who wilfully provides FINMA, an audit company, a self-regulatory organisation, or an agent with false information is liable to a custodial sentence of up to three years or to a monetary penalty.

² Where the offender acts through negligence, he or she is liable to a fine of up to 250 000 francs.

³ In the case of a repetition of the offence within five years of the conviction taking full legal effect, the monetary penalty amounts to a minimum of 45 daily penalty units.

³⁹ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

Art. 46 Violations of obligations by agents⁴⁰

¹ Any person who as an agent wilfully and seriously violates the supervisory provisions by:⁴¹

- a.⁴² falsely stating essential information in the report or withholding essential information;
- b. failing to make a mandatory report to FINMA; or
- c. failing to make an order under Article 27 to the audited supervised person or entity.

is liable to a custodial sentence of up to three years or to a monetary penalty.

² Where the offender acts through negligence, he or she is liable to a fine of up to 250 000 francs.

³ In the case of a repetition of the offence within five years of the conviction taking full legal effect, the monetary penalty amounts to a minimum of 45 daily penalty units.

Art. 47 Audit of annual financial statements

¹ Any person who wilfully:

- a. fails to have the annual financial statements required by the financial market acts audited by a licensed audit company or to have an audit carried out that has been ordered by FINMA;
- b. fails to fulfil his or her obligations vis-à-vis the audit company or the agent

is liable to a custodial sentence of up to three years or to a monetary penalty.

² Where the offender acts through negligence, he or she is liable to a fine of up to 250 000 francs.

³ In the case of a repetition of the offence within five years of the conviction taking full legal effect, the monetary penalty amounts to a minimum of 45 daily penalty units.

Art. 48 Non-compliance with FINMA rulings

Anyone who wilfully fails to comply with a legally enforceable ruling issued by FINMA containing notice of the penalties under this Article or with a decision of the appeal courts is liable to a fine of up to 100 000 francs.

⁴⁰ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

⁴¹ Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

⁴² Amended by Annex No 8 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2014 (Consolidation of Oversight through Audit Companies), in force since 1. Jan. 2015 (AS 2014 4073; BBl 2013 6857).

Art. 49 Offences in business operations

The ascertainment of the criminally liable persons may be dispensed with and instead the business operation may be ordered to pay the fine (Art. 7 of the Federal Act of 22 March 1974⁴³ on Administrative Criminal Law) where:

- a. the ascertainment of the persons who are criminally liable under Article 6 of the Federal Act of 22 March 1974 on Administrative Criminal Law requires investigative measures that are disproportionate in comparison with the penalty incurred; and
- b. a fine of a maximum of 50 000 francs is under consideration for the violations of the criminal provisions of this Act or the financial market acts.

Art. 50 Jurisdiction

¹ For violations of the criminal provisions of this Act or the financial market acts, the Federal Act of 22 March 1974⁴⁴ on Administrative Criminal Law applies, unless this Act or the financial market acts provides otherwise. The authority responsible for prosecution and judgement is the Federal Department of Finance.

² Where proceedings before the courts are requested or if the Federal Department of Finance is of the view that the requirements for a custodial sentence or a custodial measure are met, the offence is subject to federal jurisdiction. In such a case, the Federal Department of Finance shall refer the files to the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland for proceedings before the Federal Criminal Court. The referral is deemed to be the bringing of charges Articles 73–83 of the Federal Act of 22 March 1974 on Administrative Criminal Law apply by analogy.

³ The representatives of the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland and of the Federal Department of Finance are not required to appear in person at the trial.

Art. 51 Unification of prosecution

¹ In a criminal case, if both the jurisdiction of the Federal Department of Finance and federal or cantonal jurisdiction apply, the Federal Department of Finance may order that the prosecution be unified under the prosecution authority already dealing with the case, provided there is a close factual relation, the case is not yet pending before the competent court and unification will not unreasonably delay the ongoing proceedings.

² The Appeals Chamber of the Federal Criminal Court decides on any disputes between the Federal Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland or the cantonal authorities.

Art. 52 Prescription

The right to prosecute offences under this Act and under the financial market acts prescribes after seven years.

⁴³ SR 313.0

⁴⁴ SR 313.0

Chapter 5: Procedure and Right of Appeal

Art. 53 Administrative procedure

The procedure is governed by the provisions of the Federal Act of 20 December 1968⁴⁵ on Administrative Procedure.

Art. 54 Right of appeal

¹ The contesting of FINMA rulings is governed by the provisions on the administration of federal justice.

² FINMA is entitled to appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

Chapter 6: Final Provisions

Section 1: Implementation

Art. 55 Implementing provisions

¹ The Federal Council issues the implementing provisions.

² It may authorise FINMA in matters of limited importance, and in particular in predominantly technical matters, to issue implementing provisions to this Act and to the financial market acts.

Art. 56 Implementation

FINMA is responsible for the implementation of this Act and of the financial market acts.

Section 2: Amendment of Current Legislation

Art. 57

The amendment of current legislation is regulated in the Annex.

Section 3: Transitional Provisions

Art. 58 Transfer of rights and obligations

¹ The Federal Council determines the date on which FINMA acquires its own legal personality. On this date, it succeeds the Federal Banking Commission, the Federal Office of Private Insurance and the Anti-Money Laundering Control Authority.

⁴⁵ SR 172.021; BBl 2007 4644

² The Federal Council designates the rights, obligations and values that are assigned to FINMA, determines the commencement date for the legal effects and approves the opening balance sheet. It shall take any further measures required for the transition and issue the required provisions.

³ FINMA shall take over all the proceedings of the Federal Banking Commission, of the Federal Office of Private Insurance and of the Anti-Money Laundering Control Authority that are pending on the commencement of this Act.

Art. 59 Transfer of employment relationships

¹ The employment relationships of the staff of the Federal Banking Commission, of the Federal Office of Private Insurance and of the Anti-Money Laundering Control Authority shall be transferred in accordance with Article 58 paragraph 1 to FINMA and shall be continued in accordance with this Act.

² There is no right to the continuation of any function, field of work or position within the organisational system; however, staff have a right to their current salary for a period of one year.

³ Job application procedures will be carried out only if it proves necessary as a result of reorganisation or where there is more than one candidate.

⁴ FINMA shall endeavour to carry out restructuring activities in a socially acceptable manner.

Art. 60 Responsible employer

¹ FINMA is the responsible employer for persons in receipt of a pension:

- a. who are allocated to the Federal Banking Commission, the Federal Office of Private Insurance or the Anti-Money Laundering Control Authority; and
- b. who have begun to draw an old age, invalidity or survivor's pension from the occupational pension scheme with the Federal Pension Fund before the commencement of this Act.

² Where any incapacity to work, the cause of which subsequently leads to invalidity, begins before the commencement of this Act and the related pension begins to be drawn after its commencement, FINMA is also the responsible employer.

Section 4: Referendum and Commencement

Art. 61

¹ This Act is subject to an optional referendum.

² The Federal Council determines the date on which this Act comes into force.

Commencement Date:⁴⁶

Article 4, 7, 8, 9 paragraph 1 letters a–e and g–j as well as paragraphs 2–5, Art. 10–14, 17–20, 21 paragraphs 3 and 4, 53–55, 58 paragraph 2 second sentence, 59 paragraphs 2–4; Annex: Number 4 (Federal Administrative Court Act): Heading before Article 31 and 33 letter b: 1 February 2008
Other provisions: 1 January 2009

⁴⁶ AS 2008 5205

Annex
(Art. 57)

Amendment of Current Law

The Federal Acts below are amended as follows:

...⁴⁷

⁴⁷ The amendments may be consulted under AS **2008** 5207.

