



## **CERTIFICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is the objective of introducing certification in Uganda?**

The introduction of a certification programme in Uganda will ensure that practitioners in the capital markets industry have the requisite skills, operate with high standards and apply best practices in seeking to position Uganda's capital markets as the most efficient and trusted center for attracting and providing capital in Africa. For Uganda's capital markets to be more competitive and to attract international funds flows, key staff in capital market intermediaries need to adopt international certification standards to support the introduction of more diversified products in the market as well as to ensure that engagement with investors is consistent and to the highest possible ethical and transparency standards.

The introduction of certification standards, aimed at creating a highly skilled talent pool, is aligned to the Capital Market Development Masterplan and the ambition to strengthen Uganda's capital markets to become an International Financial Centre. The Capital Market Development Masterplan is a ten-year blue print for Uganda's capital markets that seeks to position Uganda's capital markets within the frontier market category of the Morgan Stanley Composite Index for Equities and Bonds as a way of attracting more international capital.

### **2. What is the relationship between CMA and the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments?**

As part of our drive to enhance the positioning of Uganda as a premier investment destination, the Authority signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2018 with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) for the introduction of international certification standards in the capital markets industry. The partnership is in fulfilment of the 10-year Capital Markets Master Plan available at [www.cma.co.ug](http://www.cma.co.ug).

### **3. Why did the Authority specifically select CISI?**

The CISI is the professional body of choice for professionals in the securities and investment industry in the UK and in a growing number of major financial centres globally. Formed in 1992 by London Stock Exchange practitioners, they have a global community of more than 40,000 members in 121 countries and last year more than 41,000 CISI exams were sat in 73 countries. CISI also offers certification exams to market practitioners in other jurisdictions such as Qatar, India, UAE, Egypt, Singapore and Saudi Arabia. The initiative with CISI is being recognised regionally with similar partnerships in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

### **4. What exactly is CISI's role in certification?**

The role of CISI will be to administer the booking and the computer based certification testing for Ugandan market practitioners, using globally recognised exams as well as exams developed to covert the local framework as well as global standard specialisation tests. The CISI have also worked with the CMA to identify appropriate local training institutions to deliver the CISI approved syllabus.

### **5. Was the market notified?**

In July 2018, the CMA issued the Market Certification & Competency Standards Pursuant to Section 35 (2) of the CMA Act. This was done following industry engagement and sensitisation sessions organised by the Authority on the proposed approach, which received strong support.

Following the stakeholder engagement, the Authority issued a circular to all market licensees on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 informing them of the market certification and competency standards to be adopted pursuant to Section 35 (2) of the CMA Act of 2016. A copy of the Circular is also posted on our website at [www.cma.co.ug](http://www.cma.co.ug).

## **6. How will certification be implemented in Uganda?**

CISI, in collaboration with the Authority, have developed a curriculum of two (2) stages. Stage One covers the CISI global entry exam “International Introduction of Securities and Investment” with some specific inclusion on African markets. Stage Two, “Regulations & Market Practice (Kenya)” cover local conduct of business standards and market regulations.

The Authority have chosen to implement the same certification exams that have successfully been used in Kenya, as the regulatory climate and legislations are similar to those in Uganda. This to promote harmonisation and passportability in the EAC community. Practitioners having completed the certification in Uganda will be fully qualified to work in Kenya, and vice versa.

## **7. Must market practitioners take certification exams immediately?**

The transition period for compliance with this requirement is a period of eighteen (18) months from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

## **8. The circular mentions that all employees defined as representatives, licensed under Section 30 (1) with less than ten (10) years’ experience in the capital markets industry, must take the exam. Please clarify which employees should sit for the exam?**

Employees, or practitioners, defined as representatives include: dealers/traders, executive directors, analysts and compliance officer or any other person employed by a licensee as prescribed by the Authority.

## **9. Can I get an exemption from sitting the exam if I have an equivalent qualification?**

Yes, the Authority is actively engaging with holders of equivalent qualifications who submit their relevant curricula and examination standards for review and consideration for recognition as an equivalent certification standard.

### **10. Must I receive training for an exam?**

Although advisable, it is not mandatory to go through an approved training programme. This is subject to the practitioner's comfort level with the subject matter.

### **11. Who will be offering training?**

CISI have, together with the Authority, identified a number of Accredited Training Partners (ATPs) offering training locally to the market. A list of ATPs can be found at [www.cisi.org/atp](http://www.cisi.org/atp). At the time of launch the CISI has the following ATPs operating in Uganda: Africa Risk Institute, Bolton's College, ExamReady and UIBFS.

### **12. What will be the cost for the training?**

The cost will vary depending on the institution offering the training. Kindly contact the ATPs directly for further information of course structure, dates and fees.

### **13. What will be the cost of sitting for the exams?**

To support the Capital Markets Development Masterplan, the Ugandan market can benefit from a 50% discount. The fees (after the discount for 2018/19 are:

- £16.00 registration and student membership fee (one-off)
- £102.50 exam fee for *International Introduction to Securities & Investment (Africa)* – includes PDF workbook, e-learning, practice questions and exam sitting
- £61.00 re-sit fee for *International Introduction to Securities & Investment (Africa)* – includes exam sitting only
- £94.50 exam fee for *Regulations & Market Practice (Kenya)* – includes PDF workbook, e-learning, practice questions and exam sitting
- £61.00 re-sit fee for *Regulations & Market Practice (Kenya)* – includes exam sitting only

**14. What will be the delivery mode of the exam?**

The exam will be computer-based where individuals receive the results immediately after the exam.

**15. What happens if I fail the exam?**

Individuals who fail an exam may re-sit the session again, in accordance with CISI's Multiple Sittings policy and subject to test centre availability.

**16. Where will the actual exams take place?**

The Authority has, together with the CISI identified a test centre in Kampla which has been fully accredited by CISI. Exams will take place at: *International School of Business and Technology, Plot 11A, Rotary Avenue, Lugogo Bypass, Kampala, Uganda, 6087*

**17. Where can I book my exam?**

Exams can be booked online via the CISI website: [www.cisi.org/shop](http://www.cisi.org/shop) or by contacting CISI directly on email: [cisi.africa@cisi.org](mailto:cisi.africa@cisi.org), phone: +44 20 7645 0777

**18. What materials are available?**

The Authority will avail the *Introduction to International Securities and Investments (IISI) Africa* workbook, the *Regulations & Market Practice (Kenya)* workbook, the Circular, the list of approved trainers and the cost on the website.