

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to disclose the levels of protection associated with the different levels of segregation that Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited provides in respect of securities that we hold directly for clients with Central Securities Depositories within the EEA and Switzerland (*CSDs*), including a description of the main legal implications of the respective levels of segregation offered and information on the insolvency law applicable. This disclosure is required under Article 38(6) of the Central Securities Depositories Regulation (*CSDR*) (in relation to *CSDs* in the EEA) and Article 73 of the Swiss Financial Markets Infrastructure Act (*FMIA*) (in relation to *CSDs* in Switzerland).

Under *CSDR*, the *CSDs* of which we are a direct participant (see glossary¹) have their own disclosure obligations and we include links to those disclosures in this document.

This document is not intended to constitute legal or other advice and should not be relied upon as such. Clients should seek their own legal advice if they require any guidance on the matters discussed in this document.

2. Background

In our own books and records, we record each client's individual entitlement to securities that we hold for that client in a separate client account. We also open accounts with *CSDs* in our own (or in our nominee's) name in which we hold clients' securities. We currently make two types of accounts with *CSDs* available to clients: Individual Client Segregated Accounts (*ISAs*) and Omnibus Client Segregated Accounts (*OSAs*).

An *ISA* is used to hold the securities of a single client and therefore the client's securities are held separately from the securities of other clients and our own proprietary securities.

An *OSA* is used to hold the securities of a number of clients on a collective basis. However, we do not hold our own proprietary securities in *OSAs*.

3. Main legal implications of levels of segregation

Insolvency

Clients' legal entitlement to the securities that we hold for them directly with *CSDs* would not be affected by our insolvency, whether those securities were held in *ISAs* or *OSAs*.

The distribution of the securities in practice on an insolvency would depend on a number of factors, the most relevant of which are discussed below.

Application of Hong Kong insolvency law

Were Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited to become insolvent, our insolvency proceedings would take place in Hong Kong and be governed by Hong Kong insolvency law.

¹ At the end of this document is a glossary explaining some of the technical terms used in the document.

Under Hong Kong insolvency law, securities that we held on behalf of clients would not form part of our estate on insolvency for distribution to creditors, provided that they remained the property of the clients². Rather, they would be deliverable to clients in accordance with each client's proprietary interests in the securities.

As a result, it would not be necessary for clients to make a claim in our insolvency as a general unsecured creditor in respect of those securities. Securities in other entities that we held on behalf of clients would also likely be excluded from any bail-in process (see glossary), which may be applied to us if we were to become subject to or eligible for resolution proceedings (see glossary).³

Accordingly, where we hold securities in custody for clients and those securities are considered the property of those clients rather than our own property, they should be protected on our insolvency or resolution. This applies whether the securities are held in an OSA or an ISA.

Nature of clients' interests

Although our clients' securities are registered in our name at the relevant CSD, we hold them on behalf of our clients, who are considered as a matter of law to have a beneficial proprietary interest in those securities. This is in addition to any contractual right a client may have against us to have the securities delivered to them.

This applies both in the case of ISAs and OSAs. However, the nature of clients' interests in ISAs and OSAs is different. In relation to an ISA, each client is beneficially entitled to all of the securities held in the ISA. In the case of an OSA, as the securities are held collectively in a single account, each client is normally considered to have a beneficial interest in all of the securities in the account proportionate to its holding of securities.

Our books and records constitute evidence of our clients' beneficial interests in the securities. The ability to rely on such evidence would be particularly important on insolvency. In the case of either an ISA or an OSA, an insolvency practitioner may require a full reconciliation of the books and records in respect of all securities accounts prior to the release of any securities from those accounts.

Shortfalls

If there were a shortfall between the number of securities that we are obliged to deliver to clients and the number of securities that we hold on their behalf in either an ISA or an OSA, this could result in fewer securities than clients are entitled to being returned to them on our insolvency. The way in which a shortfall could arise would be different as between ISAs and OSAs (see further below).

We do not permit clients to make use of or borrow securities belonging to other clients for intra-day settlement purposes, even where the securities are held in in an OSA, in order to reduce the

² When a client has sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of their legal entitlement to securities that we hold for them (for example, under a right to use or title transfer collateral arrangement), the securities will no longer be the property of the client.

chances of a shortfall arising as a result of the relevant client failing to meet its obligation to reimburse the OSA for the securities used or borrowed.⁴

Treatment of a shortfall

In the case of an ISA, the whole of any shortfall on that ISA would be attributable to the client for whom the account is held and would not be shared with other clients for whom we hold securities. Similarly, the client would not be exposed to a shortfall on an account held for another client or clients.

In the case of an OSA, the shortfall would be shared among the clients with an interest in the securities held in the OSA (see further below). Therefore, a client may be exposed to a shortfall even where securities have been lost in circumstances which are completely unrelated to that client.

If a shortfall arose for which Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited is liable, clients may have a claim against us for any loss suffered. If we were to become insolvent prior to covering a shortfall, clients would rank as general unsecured creditors for any amounts owing to them in connection with such a claim. Clients would therefore be exposed to the risks of our insolvency, including the risk that they may not be able to recover all or part of any amounts claimed.

In these circumstances, clients could be exposed to the risk of loss on our insolvency. If securities were held in an ISA, the entire loss would be borne by the client for whom the relevant account was held. If securities were held in an OSA, the loss would be allocated between the clients with an interest in that account.

In order to calculate clients' shares of any shortfall in respect of an OSA, each client's entitlement to securities held within that account would need to be established as a matter of law and fact based on our books and records. It may therefore be a time consuming process to confirm each client's entitlement. This could give rise to delays in returning securities and initial uncertainty for a client as to its actual entitlement on an insolvency.

Security interests

Security interest granted to third party

Security interests granted over clients' securities could have a different impact in the case of ISAs and OSAs.

Where a client purported to grant a security interest over its interest in securities held in an OSA and the security interest was asserted against the CSD with which the account was held, there could be a delay in the return of securities to all clients holding securities in the relevant account, including those clients who had not granted a security interest, and a possible shortfall in the account. However, in practice, we would expect that the beneficiary of a security interest over a client's securities would perfect its security by notifying us rather than the relevant CSD and would seek to enforce the security against us rather than against such CSD, with which it had

no relationship. We would also expect CSDs to refuse to recognise a claim asserted by anyone other than ourselves as account holder.⁵

Security interest granted to CSD

Where the CSD benefits from a security interest over securities held for a client, there could be a delay in the return of securities to a client (and a possible shortfall) in the event that we failed to satisfy our obligations to the CSD and the security interest was enforced. This applies whether the securities are held in an ISA or an OSA. However, in practice, we would expect that a CSD would first seek recourse to any securities held in our own proprietary accounts to satisfy our obligations and only then make use of securities in client accounts. We would also expect a CSD to enforce its security rateably across client accounts held with it.

4. CSD disclosures *[not applicable for the Swiss CSD]*

Set out below are links to the disclosures made by the CSDs in which we are participants:

<https://my.euroclear.com/apps/en/reference-search.html?q=eq:rights%20of%20participants&entity=eq:ef:eui:eb&limit=0>

These disclosures have been provided by the relevant CSDs. We have not investigated or performed due diligence on the disclosures and clients rely on the CSD disclosures at their own risk.

5. Costs

We are required to disclose the types of costs associated with offering either an ISA or an OSA.

An OSA is used by us to hold securities for a number of clients on a collective basis in a single CSD account. We do not however, hold our own property in the OSA. An ISA is used by us to hold a single client's securities in a CSD. We therefore expect the account opening fees, ongoing maintenance costs and ongoing asset servicing fees of an ISA to differ significantly from the OSA.

The costs and fees for an ISA will require us to account for the following additional charges:

- An account opening charge (per account);
- A periodical account maintenance charge (per account); and
- Out of pocket charges associated to the segregation of accounts.

Any account maintenance cost or other out of pocket expenses applied by the CSD may be passed through and charged to the client for both OSAs and ISAs.

If you settle securities at more than one CSD and select an ISA at each CSD, the fees set out above will apply separately to each account.

Third party fees and other out of pocket expenses shall be charged back to the client in accordance our usual terms and condition.

This information is indicative only and may be subject to change without notice.

The disclosure is for information purposes only. It does not constitute investment, legal, tax or other advice from us to you. You should perform Your own independent verification, evaluation and analysis of such information and consult Your own professional advisers before You rely on it. We do not give any representation or warranty as to, or (to the extent permitted by law) accept any responsibility or liability for, the accuracy, completeness, reliability or up-to-date nature of the information. We have no responsibility for any loss you may incurred as a result your use of or reliance on such information.

If you would like to have a detailed discussion about costs, please raise this with your dedicated contact.

GLOSSARY

bail-in⁶ refers to the process under the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance (Chapter 628 of the Laws of Hong Kong) applicable to failing within scope financial institutions under which certain liabilities of such financial institutions may be modified or cancelled.

Central Securities Depository or ***CSD*** is an entity within the EEA and Switzerland which records legal entitlements to dematerialised securities and operates a system for the settlement of transactions in those securities.

Central Securities Depositories Regulation or ***CSDR*** refers to EU Regulation 909/2014 which sets out rules applicable to CSDs and their participants.

direct participant means an entity that holds securities in an account with a CSD and is responsible for settling transactions in securities that take place within a CSD. A direct participant should be distinguished from an indirect participant, which is an entity, such as a global custodian, which appoints a direct participant to hold securities for it with a CSD.

EEA means the European Economic Area

Financial Markets Infrastructure Act or ***FMIA*** refers to FinfraG (Finanzmarktinfrastrukturgesetz), a Swiss law which sets out rules applicable to CSDs and their participants.

resolution proceedings⁷ are proceedings for the resolution of failing within scope financial institutions under the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance (Chapter 628 of the Laws of Hong Kong).
