

Acting as Ancillary Insurance Intermediaries Guidance

(Version 1.0 - effective from 1 January 2025)

Legislative Background

1. The Insurance Mediation Directive (2016/97/EU) requires that arrangers or sellers of insurance products be regulated. Generally, providers must be regulated by the FCA (known as FSMA Authorised Persons). There is a limited exception for professionals whose regulatory body is a Designated Professional Body under Part XX of FSMA. This exemption regime is designed to exclude professional firms which are not carrying on mainstream financial services activities from the requirement to be authorised by the FCA.
2. Any body wishing to provide Regulated Activities (to include insurance services) other than as permitted by the CLC or, as appointed agent for an insurer, may only do so if regulated by the FCA.
3. The CLC is itself regulated by the FCA and must comply with directions it is given.
4. With the agreement of the FCA, the Council has resolved
“In accordance with requirement 15 of the ‘CLC’s Acting as Ancillary Insurance Intermediaries Code each CLC Body is permitted to carry out all Insurance Distribution Activities complementary to Regulated Services provided by that body to any Client including (without limiting the generality of this Resolution) Abortive Costs Indemnity Insurance, Household and Estate Property Insurance, Term Policies for IHT, Missing Beneficiary insurance, Deposit Guarantee Insurance and Title Indemnity Policies relating in particular to Restrictive Covenants, Absence of Easements, Insolvency Acts, Registered Possessory Titles, Lost Title Deeds, Missing Particulars (Registered Titles), Good Leasehold, Absent Landlords, Missing Rent-charge Owners, Flat/Maisonette Indemnities, Flying Freeholds, Search Indemnities, Absence of Deeds of Postponement on Right to Buy Transactions, Defective Leases, Contingent Buildings Insurance, Forfeiture of Leases (Mortgagees only), Superior Leases, Lease Enlargements, Planning Permissions, Building Regulations and Endorsements, Chancel Liability and Contaminated Land.”
5. The term “arrange” is wide ranging and includes helping a Client to complete a proposal form.
6. This Acting as Ancillary Insurance Intermediaries Code is drafted so that the range of products covered by the CLC’s regulatory arrangements may be extended by resolution of the CLC with the agreement of the FCA.

Incidental

7. The Regulated Activities you provide must be incidental in two senses:
 1. In the provision of a particular Regulated Activity to a particular Client, you carry on only Regulated Activities which arise out of, or are complementary to, the provision by the body of that Regulated Activity to that Client (s.332(4) FSMA and requirement 15); and
 2. Any service provided in the course of carrying on a Regulated Activity must be incidental to the Professional Services you provide (s.327(4) FSMA and requirement 20).
 1. The FCA considers that to satisfy the condition in s.327(4) FSMA Regulated Activities cannot be a major part of the body’s practice.
 2. The FCA also considers the following further factors to be relevant:
 1. the scale of Regulated Activity in proportion to other Professional Services provided;
 2. whether and to what extent services that are Regulated Activities are held out as separate services; and
 3. the impression the body gives, for example, through its advertising or other promotions of its services, as to how Regulated Activities are provided;

3. In the FCA's opinion, one consequence of this is that a body cannot provide services which are Regulated Activities if they amount to a separate business conducted in isolation from the provision of Professional Services. This does not, however, preclude it from operating its professional business in a way which involves separate teams or departments, one of which handles the Regulated Activities.
4. For the purpose of s.327(4), Professional Services are services which do not constitute carrying on a Regulated Activity, and the provision of which is supervised and regulated by a Designated Professional Body, such as the CLC (s.327(8) FSMA and Glossary of Terms)

Example: when acting for the buyer of a property you may arrange a missing landlord indemnity policy on behalf of that buyer. You may not arrange that same policy to a different client as a standalone product.

Accounts to

9. The FCA considers that, in order for a Client to be accounted to for the purposes of s.327(3) FSMA, you must treat any commission or other pecuniary benefit received from third parties and which results from Regulated Activities carried on by the body, as held to the order of the Client. You will not be accounting to the Client simply by telling them that you receive commission. Unless the client agrees to you keeping it, the commission belongs to them and must be paid to them. There is no de minimis below which you may retain the sum. In the FCA's opinion, the condition would be satisfied if you pay over to the Client any third party payment received. Otherwise, it would be satisfied by informing the Client of the payment received and advising the Client that they have the right to require the body to pay them the sum concerned. This could then be used to offset fees due from the Client in respect of Professional Services provided or in recognition of other services provided. However, it does not permit retention of third party payments by seeking the Client's agreement through standard terms and conditions. Similarly, a mere notification to the Client that a particular sum has been received coupled with your request to retain it does not satisfy the condition.

Insurance Product Information Document

10. Article 20(5) to Article 20(8) of the IDD provide as follows:
 1. In relation to the distribution of non-life insurance products as listed in Annex I to Directive 2009/138/EC, the information referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall be provided by way of a standardised insurance product information document on paper or on another durable medium.
 2. The insurance product information document referred to in paragraph 5 shall be drawn up by the manufacturer of the non-life insurance product.
 3. The insurance product information document shall:
 1. be a short and stand-alone document;
 2. be presented and laid out in a way that is clear and easy to read, using characters of a readable size;
 3. be no less comprehensible in the event that, having been originally produced in colour, it is printed or photocopied in black and white;
 4. be written in the official languages, or in one of the official languages, used in the part of the Member State where the insurance product is offered or, if agreed by the consumer and the distributor, in another language;
 5. be accurate and not misleading;
 6. contain the title 'insurance product information document' at the top of the first page;
 7. include a statement that complete pre-contractual and contractual information on the product is provided in other documents. Member States may stipulate that the insurance product information document is to be provided together with information required pursuant to other relevant Union legislative acts or national law on the condition that all the requirements set out in the first subparagraph are met
 4. The insurance product information document shall contain the following information:
 1. information about the type of insurance;
 2. a summary of the insurance cover, including the main risks insured, the insured sum and, where applicable, the geographical scope and a summary of the excluded risks;
 3. the means of payment of premiums and the duration of payments;

4. main exclusions where claims cannot be made;
5. obligations at the start of the contract;
6. obligations during the term of the contract;
7. obligations in the event that a claim is made;
8. the term of the contract including the start and end dates of the contract;
9. the means of terminating the contract.

Enforcement:**Restrictions**

11. Where the FCA makes orders affecting individual bodies, the CLC may withdraw permission.

Disciplinary Steps

12. Where a body is in breach of the Code the CLC, may:
 1. impose a condition on a licence; or
 2. take disciplinary proceedings against the body and its Manager or Head of Finance and Administration;
 3. withdraw its permission.