MANDATORY PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES AUTHORITY

I.7 Guidelines on Central Securities Depositories

INTRODUCTION

Section 73(1) of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (General) Regulation (the Regulation) provides that an agreement entered into between the approved trustee of a registered scheme and a custodian of scheme assets or between the custodian and a delegate of the custodian may provide for scheme assets to be held in a central securities depository.

2. Under section 2 of the Regulation, a central securities depository means a depository in Hong Kong, or a depository or a clearing agency outside Hong Kong that is approved by the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (the Authority) for the purposes of the Regulation.

3. The Authority hereby issues guidelines to:

(a) set out the list of depositories and clearing agencies that are approved by the Authority as central securities depositories for the purposes of the Regulation;

(b) provide guidance on the criteria which the Authority will apply in determining whether to approve a depository or a clearing agency; and

(c) specify the information that needs to be submitted when seeking the approval of the Authority with respect to a depository or a clearing agency which is not on the list of central securities depositories.

EFFECTIVE DATE

4. These revised Guidelines (Version 12 – December 2025) shall become effective on 9 December 2025. The previous version of these Guidelines (Version 11 – January 2025) shall be superseded on that day.

5. A reference to a depository in the paragraphs below is a reference to (a) a depository in Hong Kong or (b) a depository or a clearing agency outside Hong Kong.

LIST OF CENTRAL SECURITIES DEPOSITORIES

6. For the purposes of the Regulation, the central securities depositories in which MPF scheme assets may be held are set out in Annex A. For the avoidance of doubt, provided that the approval criteria set out in paragraph 11 below continue to be satisfied:

(a) a depository which is a central securities depository maintains its status as a central securities depository notwithstanding a change in the name of the depository; and

(b) a depository formed through the merger of two or more central securities depositories, or the acquisition of one central securities depository by another central securities depository, remains a central securities depository.

7. ***Treasuries, central banks and reserve banks***: Annex A includes, but is not limited to, all depositories or clearing facilities (including any central registration system, book entry system or equivalent) operated by the treasury, the central bank or the reserve bank of a country/place. No further or prior approval is required from the Authority where MPF scheme assets are held or to be held in such depositories or clearing facilities. An illustrative list of treasuries, central banks and reserve banks that act in such capacities is shown in Annex B.

For the avoidance of doubt, separately incorporated subsidiaries owned by the government, the central bank or the reserve bank of a country/place will not be considered as part of the treasury, the central bank or the reserve bank and must be separately approved by the Authority.

8. Prior approval of the Authority is required if MPF scheme assets are to be held in depositories other than those listed in Annex A.

9. Notwithstanding approval by the Authority of a depository, approved trustees of registered schemes should ensure that their custody arrangements provide reasonable safeguards against the custody risks associated with maintaining assets with such central securities depositories.

10. Approved trustees with MPF scheme assets under safe custody of central securities depositories should notify the Authority in writing of any proposed changes to the name or identity of any of the central securities depositories as soon as practicable.

APPROVAL CRITERIA OF A DEPOSITORY

11. The following is a set of criteria which the Authority will apply in considering an application for approval of a depository for the purposes of the Regulation:

(a) the depository must act as or operate a system for the central handling of securities or equivalent book-entries in the country/place where it is incorporated, or a transnational system for the central handling of securities or equivalent book-entries;

(b) it must be regulated by a financial regulatory authority;

(c) it must hold assets for custodians that participate in the system under safekeeping conditions no less favourable than the conditions that apply to other participants;

(d) it must maintain adequate records that identify the assets of each participant and segregate the system's own assets from the assets of participants;

(e) it must provide periodic reports to its participants with respect to its safekeeping of assets, including notices of transfers to or from any participant's account; and

(f) it must be subject to periodic examination by regulatory authorities or independent accountants.

12. The Authority may also consider other factors which include the legal structure of the depository, whether the depository is covered by professional indemnity insurance, the credit rating of the depository (if any), and whether the use of a depository is mandatory or a market practice in the relevant country/place.

INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A DEPOSITORY

13. In seeking the approval by the Authority of a depository, the applicant should submit the following information to the Authority:

(a) the particulars of the depository to be utilized, i.e. the name, address and place of incorporation of the depository;

(b) the types of securities that will be deposited;

(c) whether the use of the depository is mandatory or a market practice;

(d) the legal status and structure of the depository, e.g. whether it is independent, non-profit-making or privately owned;

(e) the ownership of the depository, i.e. shareholders and their shareholding;

(f) the regulation or statute under which the depository is established and governed as well as the name of the regulatory authority;

(g) a confirmation from the depository or documentation from an independent source that the depository satisfies the conditions listed in paragraph 11 above;

(h) whether the depository is guaranteed by a government, state, central bank or other authorities or organizations;

(i) whether the depository is covered by professional indemnity insurance;

(j) the credit rating of the depository, if available; and

(k) any other information that may assist the Authority in considering the application.

14. The Authority will inform the applicant in writing whether a depository is approved as a central securities depository for the purposes of the Regulation. During the approval process and, as an ongoing obligation, after approval is granted to a depository, the applicant should notify the Authority in writing as soon as practicable if there is any change in the information submitted to the Authority that may affect the approval given with respect to that depository.

15. Approved trustees should note that these Guidelines relate only to custody and holding arrangement for MPF scheme assets and that nothing in these Guidelines affects what is a permissible investment for a constituent fund or approved pooled investment fund. Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Regulation and the Guidelines issued for the purpose of that Part set out the permissible investments for constituent funds and approved pooled investment funds.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

16. Where a term used in the Guidelines is defined in the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (the Ordinance) or the subsidiary legislation

then, except where specified in the Guidelines, that term carries the meaning as defined in the Ordinance or the subsidiary legislation.

WARNING

17. It is an offence under section 43E of the Ordinance if a person, in any document given to a prescribed person[1] in connection with the Ordinance, makes a statement that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material respect, or recklessly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material respect.

[1] Prescribed person means (a) the Authority; (b) a system operator of an electronic MPF system; (c) an approved trustee; (d) a trustee of a relevant scheme; or (e) an auditor of an approved trustee or of a registered scheme.

List of Central Securities Depositories*

Country/Place	Name of Central Securities Depository
	All depositories or clearing facilities (including any central registration system, book entry system or equivalent) operated by the treasury, the central bank or the reserve bank of a country/place. An illustrative list of treasuries, central banks and reserve banks is attached in Annex B.
Transnational	Clearstream
	The Euroclear System
Argentina	Caja de Valores S.A.
Australia	Austraclear Ltd.
	Clearing House Electronic Subregister System (operated by ASX Settlement Pty Limited)
Austria	OeKB CSD GmbH
Belgium	Euroclear Belgium
Brazil	B3 S.A. - Brasil, Bolsa, Balcão
Bulgaria	Central Depository AD (CDAD)
Canada	The Canadian Depository for Securities Ltd.
Chile	Deposito Central de Valores, S.A.
China	China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd. (CCDC)
	China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Ltd.
	Shanghai Clearing House (SHCH)
	Taiwan Depository & Clearing Corporation (TDCC)
	The Central Clearing and Settlement System, Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company
Costa Rica	InterClear Central de Valores S.A.
Czech Republic	Centrální depozitář cenných papírů, a.s. (Central Securities Depository Prague)
Denmark	VP Securities A/S (Euronext Securities Copenhagen)
Egypt	Misr for Central Clearing, Depository and Registry (MCDR)

Country/Place	Name of Central Securities Depository
Estonia	Nasdaq CSD SE
Finland	Euroclear Finland
France	Euroclear France
Germany	Clearstream Europe AG
Greece	Hellenic Central Securities Depository S.A.
Hungary	KELER Ltd. (Central Clearing House and Depository (Budapest) Ltd.)
India	National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL)
Indonesia	PT Kustodian Sentral Efek Indonesia (KSEI)
Ireland	Euroclear Bank
Israel	The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Clearing House Ltd.
Italy	Monte Titoli S.P.A. (Euronext Securities Milan)
Ivory Coast	Depositaire Central/Banque de Reglement S.A.
Japan	Japan Securities Depository Center, Incorporated (JASDEC Inc.)
Kazakhstan	Central Securities Depository Joint-stock Company
Korea, Republic of	Korea Securities Depository
Latvia	Nasdaq CSD SE
Lebanon	Midclear
Lithuania	Nasdaq CSD SE
Luxembourg	Clearstream Banking S.A. (operates as LuxClear)
Malaysia	Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd
Malta	Central Securities Depository, Malta Stock Exchange plc
Mauritius	The Central Depository & Settlement Company Ltd.
Mexico	Instituto para el Deposito de Valores (S. D. INDEVAL)
Morocco	Maroclear
Netherlands	Nederlands Centraal Instituut voor Giraal Effectenverkeer B.V. (Euroclear Nederland)
New Zealand	New Zealand Central Securities Depository Ltd. (NZCSD)
	New Zealand Depository Limited (NZD)

Country/Place	Name of Central Securities Depository
Norway	Verdipapirsentralen ASA (Euronext Securities Oslo)
Oman	Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC (MCD)
Pakistan	Central Depository Company of Pakistan Ltd.
Peru	Caja de Valores y Liquidaciones (CAVALI)
Philippines	Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation (PDTC)
Poland	Krajowy Depozyt Papierow Wartosciowych S.A. (KDPW) (National Depository for Securities)
Portugal	Interbolsa (Euronext Securities Porto)
Qatar	Qatar Central Securities Depository
Romania	Depozitarul Central S.A. (Romanian Central Depository)
Singapore	The Central Depository (Pte) Ltd.
Slovak Republic	Centralny depozitar cennych papierov SR A.S. (The Central Securities Depository of the Slovak Republic)
Slovenia	KDD Centralna klirinsko depotna druzba d.d., Ljubljana (KDD d.d.) (Central Securities Clearing Corporation)
South Africa	Strate Limited
Spain	IBERCLEAR
Sri Lanka	The Central Depository Systems (Pvt.) Ltd.
Sweden	Euroclear Sweden
Switzerland	Six SIS Ltd
Thailand	Thailand Securities Depository Co. Ltd.
Tunisia	Tunisie Clearing
Turkey	Central Registry Agency Inc. (CRA)
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange
	Dubai CSD
	Nasdaq Dubai Ltd.
United Kingdom	Euroclear UK & International Limited
USA	Depository Trust Company
	National Securities Clearing Corporation
Venezuela	Caja Venezolana de Valores (CVV)

Country/Place	Name of Central Securities Depository
Vietnam	Viet Nam Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation

* Provided that the approval criteria set out in paragraph 11 of Guidelines I.7 on Central Securities Depositories continue to be satisfied:

(a) a depository (as defined in paragraph 5 of Guidelines I.7) which is a central securities depository maintains its status as a central securities depository notwithstanding a change in the name of the depository; and

(b) a depository (as defined in paragraph 5 of Guidelines I.7) formed through the merger of two or more central securities depositories, or the acquisition of one central securities depository by another central securities depository, remains a central securities depository.

Illustrative List of Treasuries, Central Banks and Reserve Banks

The following is an illustrative list of the treasuries, the central banks and the reserve banks that operate depositories or clearing facilities (including any central registration system, book entry system or equivalent). The list is not exhaustive and there may be other treasuries, central banks or reserve banks which act in such capacities and accordingly the depositories or clearing facilities operated by these other treasuries, central banks or reserve banks are central securities depositories for the purposes of the Regulation.

Country/Place	Name of Treasury/Central Bank/Reserve Bank
Australia	The Reserve Bank of Australia
Belgium	Banque Nationale de Belgique
Hong Kong, China	The Hong Kong Monetary Authority
Czech Republic	Czech National Bank
Greece	The Bank of Greece
India	The Reserve Bank of India
Ireland	Central Bank of Ireland
Israel	The Bank of Israel
Italy	Banca d'Italia (Bank of Italy)
Japan	Bank of Japan
Malaysia	Bank Negara Malaysia
Malta	Central Bank of Malta
Mexico	Banco de Mexico
Netherlands	De Nederlandsche Bank, N.V.
New Zealand	Reserve Bank of New Zealand
Philippines	Bureau of the Treasury
Poland	National Bank of Poland
Singapore	Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)
Slovak Republic	National Bank of Slovakia
Tunisia	Central Bank of Tunisia The Tunisian Treasury

Country/Place	**Name of Treasury/Central Bank/Reserve Bank**
United Kingdom	Bank of England
USA	Federal Reserve Bank