

FINANCIAL SECTOR REGULATION ACT, 2017

FINANCIAL MARKETS ACT, 2012

**JOINT STANDARD 1 of 2025 –
CRITERIA FOR THE EXEMPTION OF AN EXTERNAL CENTRAL COUNTERPARTY OR
EXTERNAL TRADE REPOSITORY FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINANCIAL
MARKETS ACT**

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) and the Prudential Authority (PA) (Authorities), under section 107 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017) read with section 6(3)(m) of the Financial Markets Act, 2012 (Act No. 19 of 2012) (Financial Markets Act) hereby make a Joint Standard setting out the criteria for the exemption of an external central counterparty or external trade repository from the provisions of the Financial Markets Act of the as set out in the Schedule hereto.



Unathi Kamlana
Commissioner
FINANCIAL SECTOR CONDUCT AUTHORITY

Fundi Tshazibana
Chief Executive Officer
PRUDENTIAL AUTHORITY

Date of publication: 03 October 2025

SCHEDULE

JOINT STANDARD [-] OF 2025

CRITERIA FOR EXEMPTION OF AN EXTERNAL CENTRAL COUNTERPARTY OR EXTERNAL TRADE REPOSITORY FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS ACT

Table of contents

1. Legislative authority	2
2. Definitions	2
3. Application	3
4. Criteria for exemption as contemplated in section 6(3)(m)(iii)(bb)Error! Bookmark not defined.	
5. Short title and commencement.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Legislative authority

This Joint Standard is made under section 107 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017) and section 6(3)(m)(iii)(bb) of the Financial Markets Act, 2012 (Act No. 19 of 2012).

2. Definitions and interpretation

In this Joint Standard, “**the Act**” means the Financial Markets Act, 2012 (Act No. 19 of 2012) and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act or the Financial Markets Act Regulations bears the meaning so assigned to it unless the context indicates otherwise, and

“**applicant**” means an external central counterparty or external trade repository that submits an application to the Authorities for the granting of an exemption in terms of section 6(3)(m) of the Act;

“**Authorities**” means the Financial Sector Conduct Authority and the Prudential Authority;

“**equivalent jurisdiction**” means a jurisdiction that has been determined as equivalent in accordance with section 6A(1) of the Act;

“**Financial Sector Conduct Authority**” means the authority established in terms of section 56 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act; and

“**Prudential Authority**” means the authority established in terms of section 32 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act.

3. Application

This Joint Standard applies to an external central counterparty or external trade repository that submits an application to the Authorities for an exemption in terms of section 6(3)(m) of the Act.

4. Criteria for exemption as contemplated in section 6(3)(m)(iii)(bb)

- (1) The Authorities hereby prescribe, as contemplated in section 6(3)(m)(iii)(bb) of the Act, the following criteria for purposes of the exemption of an external central counterparty or external trade repository from the provisions of a section of the Act:
 - (a) An application for exemption in terms of section 6(3)(m) of the Act must be made in the form and manner, and contain the information, determined by the Authorities and published on their respective websites;
 - (b) an applicant must, at the request of the Authorities, provide the Authorities with any supplementary information as may be required for the Authorities to consider the application or renew an exemption previously granted;
 - (c) an applicant must provide written confirmation of its license/authorisation as a central counterparty or trade repository as the case may be, in the equivalent jurisdiction;
 - (d) an applicant must provide copies of reports and findings issued by the supervisory authority in the equivalent jurisdiction as required by the Authorities;
 - (e) an applicant must be in good standing with the supervisory authority of the relevant equivalent jurisdiction;
 - (f) an applicant must show observance of the Bank for International Settlements and the International Organization of Securities Commissions' Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures 2012 and any subsequent updates, and provide findings of the latest assessment by its supervisory authority; and
 - (g) an applicant must report such information to the Authorities as may be determined by the Authorities on their respective websites, including the form and manner of such reporting.
- (2) The Authorities will only grant an exemption if they are satisfied that there are sufficient safeguards in place in the relevant equivalent jurisdiction's regulatory framework that justifies an exemption from the provisions of a section of the Act that forms the basis of the exemption application; and
- (3) The Authorities may amend or withdraw an exemption that has been granted to an external central counterparty or external trade repository at any given time when it appears to the Authorities, on the basis of available information, that the external central counterparty or external trade repository is failing, or has failed to satisfy the criteria applicable for the granting of an exemption as stipulated in section 6(3)(m) of the Act or this Joint Standard.
- (4) The criteria in subparagraphs (1) to (3) apply in addition to the criteria contemplated in section 6(3)(m)(i), section 6(3)(m)(ii), and section 6(3)(m)(iii)(aa) and (cc) of the Act.

5. Short title and commencement

This Joint Standard is called Criteria for the exemption of an external central counterparty or external trade repository from the provisions of the Financial Markets Act, 2025 and comes into effect on the date of publication.

Version number	Commencement date
1	03 October 2025