

CISI Guidance for Regulators and Firms

ESMA

“Final Report: Guidelines for the assessment of knowledge and competence”



In December 2015 the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published its ‘Final Report: Guidelines for the assessment of knowledge and competence’, which addresses the MiFID II requirements set out under Articles 24 and 25 to ensure investor protection.

The CISI has issued guidance which covers the three main areas of the ESMA report:

- Qualifications
- Business Ethics
- Continuous Professional Development

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This guidance is summarised as follows:

The ESMA guidelines stipulate firms must:

Ensure that staff providing relevant services to clients are assessed through the successful completion of an **appropriate qualification** and have gained appropriate experience in the provision of relevant services to clients

Carry out an internal or external review, on at least an annual basis, of staff members' development and experience needs, assess regulatory developments and take any action necessary to comply with the ESMA requirements. This review should also ensure that staff possess an appropriate qualification and maintain and update their knowledge and competence by undertaking continuous professional development (CPD)

Ensure that they submit to their regulator, on request, records concerning knowledge and competence of staff providing relevant services to clients

Ensure that staff providing relevant services possess the necessary knowledge and competence to meet regulatory and legal requirements and business ethics standards

The CISI solution

Existing CISI qualification syllabi completely match the ESMA appropriate qualification requirements, including:

- International Introduction to Securities & Investment
- International Certificate in Wealth & Investment Management
- International Certificate in Wealth Management (Spain)

Free relevant CPD for CISI members covering a variety of mediums:

- Professional Refresher e-Learning modules
- CISI TV
- Publications
- Events, including in-house courses

- Online CPD record for all members enabling them to log dates, activities undertaken and attach evidence
- Firms have a Superuser function to view employees' CPD records, run reports, and export to Excel

The CISI has a complete integrity and ethics offering, including:

- Integrity at Work publication
- Integrity Matters scenario based e-learning
- Elearning modules covering ethics and whistleblowing
- Interactive classroom sessions and in-house courses

Why the CISI?

The CISI is the leading professional body for securities, investment, wealth and financial planning professionals.

Formed in 1992 by London Stock Exchange practitioners, the CISI now has 40,000 members in 116 countries and links with regulatory authorities in 36 countries, including in Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and the UK.

CISI qualifications are developed by practitioners, for practitioners, and reviewed annually. They are approved by Ofqual, the UK qualifications regulator, ensuring that they are developed to the highest regulatory standards and subject to regulatory approval. Most exams are delivered via computer-based testing, which provides flexibility, and all come with free student membership and access to member benefits. Last year over 40,000 CISI exams were sat in 80 countries.

The CISI is a not for profit organisation and one of its charitable objectives is to develop high ethical standards for practitioners and to promote such standards in the UK and overseas. The CISI is fully committed to championing ethical behaviour; all applicants for CISI membership are required to pass an integrity test before being admitted, and the CISI offers a suite of integrity products and services.

For more information please download our guidance brochure at www.cisi.org/esma or contact us at esma@cisi.org