



European Securities and
Markets Authority

30 May 2018

Questions and Answers

Implementation of the Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 on improving securities settlement in the EU and on central securities depositories



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1. Background

1. Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving securities settlement in the European Union and on central securities depositories and amending Directives 98/26/EC and 2014/65/EC and Regulation (EU) No 236/2012 (“**CSDR**”) entered into force on 17 September 2014. Most of the obligations under the CSDR needed to be specified further via regulatory technical standards and they will take effect following the entry into force of the technical standards. On 11 November 2016, the European Commission adopted the regulatory technical standards developed by ESMA. These technical standards were published in the Official Journal on 10 March 2017.
2. The CSDR framework is made up of the following EU legislation:
 - (a) CSDR;
 - (b) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/389 of 11 November 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the parameters for the calculation of cash penalties for settlement fails and the operations of CSDs in host Member States (“**Delegated Act**”);
 - (c) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/390 of 11 November 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament of Council of 23 July 2014 with regard to regulatory technical standards on prudential requirements for central securities depositories and designated credit institutions offering banking-type ancillary services (“**RTS on CSD Prudential Requirements**”);
 - (d) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/391 of 11 November 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards further specifying the content of the reporting on internalised settlements (“**RTS on Internalised Settlement**”);
 - (e) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/392 of 11 November 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards on authorisation, supervisory and operational requirements for central securities depositories (“**RTS on CSD Requirements**”);
 - (f) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/393 of 11 November 2016 laying down implementing technical standards with regard to the templates and procedures for the reporting and transmission of information on internalised settlements in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (“**ITS on Internalised Settlement**”); and
 - (g) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/394 of 11 November 2016 laying down implementing technical standards with regard to standard forms, templates and procedures for authorisation, review and evaluation of central securities depositories, for the cooperation between authorities of the home Member State

and the host Member State, for the consultation of authorities involved in the authorisation to provide banking-type ancillary services, for access involving central securities depositories, and with regard to the format of the records to be maintained by central securities depositories in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (“**ITS on CSD Requirements**”).

3. In addition, the CSDR framework is expected to be complemented by the delegated acts to be adopted by the European Commission pursuant to Articles 6(5) and 7(15) of CSDR, based on ESMA draft regulatory technical standards submitted to the European Commission on 2 February 2016 (“**RTS on settlement discipline**”);
4. The European Commission has already released some Frequently Asked Questions to clarify the timing and the scope of CSDR¹.
5. In view of ESMA’s statutory role to build a common supervisory culture by promoting convergent supervisory approaches and practices, ESMA has adopted this Q&As document which relates to the consistent application of CSDR. The first version of this document was published on 13 March 2017. This document is expected to be updated and expanded as and when appropriate.

2. Purpose

6. The purpose of this document is to promote common supervisory approaches and practices in the application of CSDR. It provides responses to questions posed by the general public, market participants and NCAs in relation to the practical application of CSDR.
7. This document is addressed to NCAs under the CSDR to ensure that in their supervisory activities their actions are converging along the lines of the responses adopted by ESMA. It should also help, CSDs, their participants, investors and other market participants by providing clarity on the implementation of CSDR requirements.

¹ [EU FAQs on Regulation \(EU\) No 909/2014](#)

3. Status

8. The Q&A mechanism is a practical convergence tool used to promote common supervisory approaches and practices under Article 29(2) of the ESMA Regulation².
9. Therefore, due to the nature of Q&As, formal consultation on the draft answers is considered unnecessary. However, even if they are not formally consulted on, ESMA may check them with representatives of ESMA's Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group, the relevant Standing Committees' Consultative Working Group or, where specific expertise is needed, with other external parties. In this particular case, considering the date of application of CSDR and the desirability of providing clarity to the market as soon as possible, ESMA has not engaged in such consultations.
10. ESMA will periodically review these questions and answers to identify if, in a certain area, there is a need to convert some of the material into ESMA Guidelines and Recommendations. In such cases, the procedures foreseen under Article 16 of the ESMA Regulation would be followed.

4. Questions and answers

11. This document is intended to be continually edited and updated as and when new questions are received. The date on which each section was last amended is included for ease of reference.
12. Questions on the practical application of any of the requirements of CSDR, including the requirements in CSDR technical standards, may be sent to ESMA using the procedure described on the [Q&As page of the website](#)³.

² Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority), amending Decision No 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/77/EC Regulation, 15.12.2010, L331/84.

³ <https://www.esma.europa.eu/questions-and-answers>



Acronyms Used

CCP	Central counterparty
CSD	Central securities depository
CSDR	Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving securities settlement in the European Union and on central securities depositories and amending Directives 98/26/EC and 2014/65/EC and Regulation (EU) No. 236/2012
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Central Bank
ESMA	European Securities and Markets Authority
ITS	Implementing technical standards
ITS on CSD Requirements	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/394 of 11 November 2016 laying down implementing technical standards with regard to standard forms, templates and procedures for authorisation, review and evaluation of central securities depositories, for the cooperation between authorities of the home Member State and the host Member State, for the consultation of authorities involved in the authorisation to provide banking-type ancillary services, for access involving central securities depositories, and with regard to the format of the records to be maintained by central securities depositories in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council
NCA	National competent authority
Q&A	Question and answer
RTS	Regulatory technical standards
RTS on CSD Requirements	Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/390 of 11 November 2016 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament of Council of 23 July 2014 with regard to regulatory technical standards on prudential requirements for central securities depositories and designated credit institutions offering banking-type ancillary services
RTS on Settlement Discipline	the delegated acts to be adopted by the EC pursuant to Articles 6(5) and 7(15) of CSDR, based on ESMA draft regulatory technical standards submitted to the EC on 2 February 2016
TC-CSD	third country (non-EU) CSD

Table of questions

	Topic of the Question	Relevant Article	Last Updated
General questions	1 Ancillary service	Annex to CSDR	6 February 2018
	2 Additional national requirements		31 March 2017
	3 Relevant Authorities	Articles 12, 23 and 24 of CSDR	17 November 2017
CSD Questions	1 Authorisation and supervision	Art 17 of CSDR	23 March 2018
	2 Organisational requirements : general	Art 27 of CSDR	6 February 2018
	3 Organisational requirements : record keeping	Art 29 of CSDR	14 December 2017
	4 Conduct of business rules	Art 35 of CSDR	23 March 2018
	5 Protection of securities of participants and those of their clients	Art 38 of CSDR	17 November 2017
	6 Prudential requirements	Art 45 <i>et seq.</i> of CSDR	24 May 2018
	7 Provision of banking-type ancillary services	Art 54 <i>et seq.</i> of CSDR	2 October 2017
	8 Access	Art 49 of CSDR	2 June 2017
	9 Provision of services in other Member States	Art 23 of CSDR	2 June 2017
	10 Requirements for CSD links	Art 48 of CSDR	23 March 2018

Part I: General Questions

Last update 6 February 2018

General Question 1 - Ancillary services

- (a) *What does "providing regulatory reporting", the ancillary service mentioned in Section B point 4(b) of the Annex to CSDR, include?*
- (b) *Should a CSD intending to provide data reporting services listed in Section D of Annex I to MIFID II as ancillary services comply with the relevant requirements set out in MIFID II?*

General Answer 1

- (a) This service can be identified in cases where a user of a CSD has a regulatory obligation to provide certain information to its NCA and the CSD takes care of such reporting with the NCA on behalf of its user.

For the sake of clarity, this service cannot be identified in cases where the regulatory obligation to report certain information in respect of its users is imposed directly on the CSD.
- (b) Yes, a CSD intending to provide data reporting services listed in Section D of Annex I to MIFID II should comply with the relevant requirements set out in MIFID II (including requiring an authorisation in accordance with Article 59(1) of MIFID II).

General Question 2 - Additional national requirements

Can Member States set additional requirements for CSDs to those set out in CSDR under national legislation?

General Answer 2

Article 1(1) and (2) of CSDR state that the Regulation lays down uniform requirements for settlement and rules on the organisation and conduct of CSDs, and that – unless otherwise specified in this Regulation – it applies to settlement in all financial instruments and activities of CSDs.

Such requirements that are allowed to be imposed by Member States are for instance mentioned in Article 38(5), second subparagraph, and explained in recital (42) of CSDR.

Against this background, the Member States should not set additional requirements in respect of the aspects harmonised by the CSDR unless otherwise provided by the CSDR itself. There might be however cases in which it is not clear whether a certain aspect has been harmonised. In those cases, a case-by-case analysis may be warranted.

General Question 3 – Relevant Authorities

In case of provision of services by a CSD in another Member State, Article 23(4) of CSDR requires to inform the “relevant authorities of the [host] Member State”, and Article 24(4) thereof requires that, in case of substantial importance of the activities of a CSD in a host Member State, the “relevant authorities of the home Member State and of the host Member State” shall be involved in the supervision of these activities.

Which authorities should be considered as relevant authorities of the home Member State and of the host Member State?

General Answer 3

Relevant authorities of the home and of the host Member States are the authorities that have been identified as “relevant authorities” under Article 12(1) of CSDR, and which are located respectively in the home Member State and the host Member State.

Part II: Central Securities Depositories

Last update 24 May 2018

CSD Question 1 - Authorisation and supervision of CSDs

- (a) *When do the relevant deadlines pertaining to the review of a CSD's application for authorisation under CSDR (including six months for a final decision) begin? Can the clock be stopped on application deadlines when an NCA is waiting for further information from the CSD?*
- (b) *Do the procedures referred to in Article 20(5) of CSDR include also the transfer of issuance accounts and records linked to the provision of the notary or central maintenance services referred to in points 1 and 2 of Section A of the Annex to CSDR?*
- (c) *Should the CSD links a CSD has established or intends to establish at the time of its application for authorisation under Article 16 of CSDR be assessed for the purpose of granting authorisation to that applicant CSD?*

CSD Answer 1

- (a) Article 17(8) of CSDR provides that the NCA shall inform an applicant CSD of its decision to authorise it or not “*within six months from the submission of a complete application*”.

The relevant deadlines pertaining to the review of a CSD's application for authorisation under CSDR (including six months for a final decision) do not begin until the CSD has submitted an application which the NCA deems complete, *i.e.* the 'clock' does not start until the application is considered to be complete. However, once the NCA has deemed an application complete, this constitutes confirmation that it has the information necessary to assess the CSD's compliance.

- (b) In order to ensure the continuity and integrity of securities issues in relation to which a CSD provides the notary or central maintenance services, as well as the possibility for transferable securities to be traded on trading venues and to be subject to financial collateral arrangements in accordance with Article 3(2) of CSDR, the procedures referred to in Article 20(5) of CSDR should also cover the transfer of any issuance accounts and records to another CSD, which is able to provide the notary or central maintenance services in relation to the respective securities.
- (c) Yes. Where a CSD has established or intends to establish CSD links at the time of its application for authorisation pursuant to Article 16 of CSDR, Article 36 of the RTS on CSD Requirements requires the applicant CSD to include an assessment of its compliance with Article 48 of CSDR and Chapter XII of the RTS on CSD Requirements for all the CSD links. Where a CSD has established or intends to establish interoperable links at the time of its application for authorisation under Article 16 of CSDR, except for interoperable links referred to in Article 19(5) of CSDR, the additional procedural steps envisaged under paragraphs (3) and (4) of Article 19 of CSDR should be taken into account while complying with the general procedure pursuant to Article 17 of CSDR.

CSD Question 2 - Organisational requirements: general

- (a) *Can a CSD have a combined audit and risk committee?*

- (b) *Should each of the risk, audit and remuneration committees be composed of entirely different members?*
- (c) *Which information is a CSD required to submit about changes in its management (board members and CEO)?*
- (d) *Article 27(2) of CSDR requires that “at least one third, but no less than two, of [the] members [of the management body] are independent”. What does “independent” mean in respect of members of the management body?*
- (e) *Are there any staff or category of staff that a CSD may not share with another entity of the same group of companies?*
- (f) *Is a direct contractual relationship between a CSD and a member of a user committee of a securities settlement system operated by that CSD mandatory?*
- (g) *Could a CSD share its risk monitoring committees (Article 48 of the RTS on CSD Requirements) with other entities of the same group?*
- (h) *Could risk monitoring committees of CSDs belonging to the same group have identical memberships?*

CSD Answer 2

- (a) No, the intention in Article 48 of the RTS on CSD Requirements is to have three separate committees for risk, audit, and remuneration.
- (b) No, there is no such requirement in CSDR. However, to ensure a separation between the committees, the chairs of each committee as well as the majority of their members should be different. In addition, conflicts of interest should be managed in respect of persons participating in more than one committee.
- (c) If there is a change in its management the CSD should provide information in the following cases:
 - Upon the occurrence of a substantive change: a CSD should report any “*substantive changes affecting the compliance with the conditions for authorisation*” to the NCA possibly in advance and in any case without undue delay upon occurrence of the change (Article 16(4) of CSDR) and within the review process (Article 40(1)(b) of the RTS on CSD Requirements).

A change in the membership of either the senior management or management body would impact the conditions of the authorisation. It would therefore qualify as a substantive change and be reported to the NCA. The CSD should transmit to the NCA all relevant information to be provided under Articles 9 to 15 of the RTS on CSD Requirements, in relation to the new member of the management.

Under Article 57 of the RTS on CSD Requirements, the business records need to reflect any substantive changes in the documents held by the CSD and need to include the organisational charts for the management body, senior management, relevant committees, operational units and all other units or divisions of the CSD.

- Upon request from CA: It should be noted that under Article 40(1)(c) of the RTS on CSD Requirements, a NCA may also request the provision of any additional information that is

“necessary for assessing the compliance of the CSD and its activities with the provisions of [CSDR and relating regulations]”.

- (d) CSDR does not provide a definition of the term “independent member”. This being said, Article 27(3) of CSDR provides that “*the remuneration of the independent and other non-executive members of the management body shall not be linked to the business performance of the CSD.*” It may be inferred from this provision that “independent members” should be, at least, non-executive members of the management of the CSD.

In addition, the definition of the term “independent member” provided for in other Union legislation has to be taken into account. In this respect, Article 2(28) of EMIR requires that an “independent member” of the CCP board (which is equivalent to the CSD management body) is a member of the board who has no business, family or other relationship that raises a conflict of interests regarding the CCP concerned or its controlling shareholders, its management or its clearing members, and who has had no such relationship during the five years preceding his membership of the board.

ESMA considers the same requirements should apply to independent members of management bodies of CSDs.

- (e) No, however the sharing of staff is subject to certain conditions, as detailed below.

In line with other European legislation (cf. EMIR Q&A CCP Question no.13(b)), the term “staff” encompasses any person working for the CSD who is directly engaged in the services or activities which the CSD is authorised to provide or perform, and any natural person directly managing or supervising such persons.

The principle for the sharing of staff is set in Article 49(1) of the RTS on CSDR Requirements, which provides that “a CSD shall have adequate staff to meet its obligations” and that “a CSD shall not share staff with other group entities, unless it does so under the terms of a written outsourcing arrangement”.

This implies that outsourcing provisions set out in the CSDR (in particular Article 30 of CSDR) should also apply to the sharing of staff when the staff in question is part of other group entities.

In accordance with its powers under Articles 17 and 22 of CSDR, the competent authority should assess the appropriateness of sharing of staff considering the compliance with the Regulation, risks to the CSD (as well as risks created by the CSD for the smooth functioning of securities markets) and the level and suitability of resources available, having a special regard to Article 26(1) of CSDR.

Further, Article 50(3) of the RTS on CSD Requirements allows for the sharing of personnel exercising the functions of chief risk officer, chief compliance officer, chief technology officer or internal audit with other entities of the same group, provided that the governance arrangements ensure that related conflicts of interest at group level are appropriately managed.

Even though nothing is provided in respect of other functions, it is expected that for the sharing of personnel exercising any function in the CSD, the same requirements should apply.

- (f) No. Pursuant to Article 28(1) of CSDR and Article 16 of the RTS on CSD Requirements, members of a user committee should be elected among issuers and participants of the relevant securities settlement system operated by a CSD.

An agent of issuers or participants can be a member of a user committee in that capacity, under the following conditions:

- (i) where there are clear rules for management of conflict of interests (in particular with respect to the agent's other clients), and
 - (ii) if at some point during its membership at the user committee, its mandate is terminated, or its principal terminates its contract with the CSD, such agent should no longer be a member of that user committee.
- (g) No, each CSD should have its own risk monitoring committees.
- (h) Yes, risk monitoring committees of CSDs belonging to the same group could be composed of the exact same members under certain conditions. The rules relating to the composition of such committees, to the sharing of staff and to the management of conflicts of interest should be strictly complied with. In particular, it should be ensured that each committee's composition and skills are sufficiently tailored for each CSD of the group.

CSD Question 3 - Organisational requirements: Record keeping

- (a) *When will the CSD record keeping requirements under CSDR and the related technical standards start applying?*
- (b) *Can a CSD only validate the format of the data field for an LEI and not check that the LEI actually exists and that it belongs to the said entity?*

Article 55(2)(a) of the RTS on CSD Requirements

Annex IV, Field 1 of Table 2 on Position (Stock) Records of the ITS on CSD Requirements

- (c) *Can a CSD refuse to complete field 16 of Table 2 (Types of securities account) on the basis that only the participant knows the usage?*

Article 55(3)(b) of the RTS on CSD Requirement

Annex IV, Field 16 of Table 2 on Position (Stock) Records of the ITS on CSD Requirements

- (d) *What is the point in time where settlement instructions are considered as 'failing settlement instructions'?*
- (e) *Should the record keeping requirements applying to the provision of ancillary services listed in the CSDR Annex also apply to the provision by a CSD of an ancillary service that is not precisely listed in the CSDR Annex?*

- (f) *Under rules implementing Articles 22 and 29 of CSDR, CSDs must record the LEIs of the issuers pertaining to the financial instruments in respect of which CSDs provide notary or central maintenance services. What action should be taken by CSDs in order to obtain the LEIs of issuers?*
- (g) *Which entities should be covered for the purpose of the records a CSD has to keep in relation to settlement banks as referred to in Article 54(2)(l) and Article 55(2)(g), (l) and (m) of the RTS on CSD Requirements?*

CSD Answer 3

- (a) The CSD record keeping requirements under CSDR and the related technical standards will start applying from the date of authorisation of each CSD under CSDR, except for Article 54 (Transaction/Settlement Instruction (Flow) Records) of the RTS on CSD Requirements and Article 11(1) of the ITS on CSD Requirements, which apply as of date of entry into force of the RTS on Settlement discipline.
- (b) No. The notary function is a core service provided by a CSD. The CSD has a responsibility to verify that it has the correct credentials in place for issuers that wish to issue securities into its system. The CSD should verify that the LEI is for the correct entity, and that it is current (i.e. the status of the LEI shall be either “Issued”, “Pending Transfer” or “Pending archival”).

If the CSD finds out that the LEI status of an issuer is not current, it should put in place enforceable rules according to which appropriate validation should be carried out upstream by an issuer’s agents, so that accurate up-to-date details are provided. This should apply in relation to all the information that issuers have to provide to CSDs under CSDR.
- (c) No. A participant need to know these details at all times, and a CSD should require in its rules that the participant disclose the account type to it and inform it of any updates.
- (d) Settlement instructions are considered as ‘failing settlement instructions’ from the moment when settlement at the Intended Settlement Date (ISD) is no longer possible, i.e. if they are still pending on the ISD after the settlement processing related to the respective settlement instructions submitted by the relevant cut-off time has been completed. The cut-off time is the deadline set by a system or an agent bank for the acceptance of transfer orders for a given settlement cycle, for the relevant settlement instructions, i.e. there could be different cut-off times for different settlement instructions.
- (e) The NCA should assess on a case by case basis whether an ancillary service provided by a CSD falls within one of the types of ancillary services listed in the CSDR Annex. If this is the case, the NCA should require the CSD to comply with the corresponding record keeping requirements specified in Annex II to the RTS on CSD Requirements. If this is not the case, i.e. the ancillary service does not fall within a type of ancillary services expressly listed in the CSDR Annex, the NCA should assess on whether the records kept by the CSD are adequate for the service provided.
- (f) CSDs should require in their rules that all issuers obtain and provide current LEI codes (cf. point (b) above).

For issuers of securities issues that will occur after the entry into force of the requirements for CSDs to record LEIs for issuers, CSDs should not accept new securities issues from issuers which cannot provide the CSD with an LEI that is current (cf. point (b) above).

For issuers of securities issues that have occurred before the entry into force of the requirements for CSD to record LEIs, the CSDs should inform the issuers pertaining to the securities in respect of which the CSD provide notary service or central maintenance service of their obligation to obtain an LEI that is current (cf. point (b) above).

- (g) A CSD should keep records of the settlement banks which have a contractual relationship with the CSD or which are known to the CSD in relation to the provision of services by the CSD to participants or issuers.

CSD Question 4 - Conduct of business rules

- (a) *Does Article 35 of CSDR allow CSDs to use internal or proprietary messaging standards in their communication procedures with the participants of the securities settlement system they operate and the market infrastructures they interface with?*
- (b) *Should a CSD assess the risks borne by the participants, issuers, linked CSDs or market infrastructures which are already using the CSD?*

CSD Answer 4

- (a) Article 35 of CSDR expressly requires that CSDs use “*international open communication procedures and standards with participants and market infrastructures in order to facilitate efficient recording, payment and settlement*”. “International open communication procedures and standards” are defined in Article 2(1)(34) of CSDR as “*internationally accepted standards for communication procedures, such as standardised messaging formats and data representation, which are available on a fair, open and non-discriminatory basis to any interested party*”.

Therefore, as a principle, the use by CSDs of other messaging standards (such as internal or domestic standards) in their communication procedures with the participants of the securities settlement systems they operate, and the market infrastructures they interface with, would not fulfil this requirement, even with a mapping from domestic standards to international open communication procedures and standards such as the SWIFT/ISO standards.

However, if a CSD can evidence:

- (i) cases where such internationally accepted standards are not “*available on a fair, open and non-discriminatory basis to any interested party*” or do not exist, its competent authority may allow that CSD to use other messaging standards, until international standards become available; or
- (ii) cases where the use of internationally accepted standards that are “*available on a fair, open and non-discriminatory basis to any interested party*” does not “*facilitate efficient recording, payment and settlement*” for a CSD, specific participants or market infrastructures, its competent authority may allow that CSD to use other messaging standards, as long as such lack of efficiency can be evidenced.

For the sake of clarity, interfaces designed for human-to-machine communication (e.g. graphical user interfaces or 'GUIs'), are not covered by Article 35 of CSDR, which relates to machine-to-machine communication.

- (b) Yes, a CSD should inter alia monitor and manage the risks borne by all its participants, issuers, linked CSDs or market infrastructures, including those which are already using its services.

Indeed, Article 47(1) of RTS on CSD requirements provides that “a CSD should establish, as part of its governance arrangements, documented policies, procedures and systems that identify, measure, monitor, manage and enable reporting on the risks that the CSD may be exposed to and the risks that the CSD may pose to any other entities including its participants and their clients, as well as linked CSDs, CCPs, trading venues, payment systems, settlement banks, liquidity providers and investors”.

In respect of participants, the requirements for participation defined under Article 33(1) of CSDR are a tool to mitigate those risks and, once adopted by a CSD, the criteria for participation should apply indistinctively to all participants of the CSD, including existing participants. If the adoption of CSDR-compliant criteria for participation has triggered changes to the rules of the CSD, such changes should be notified by the CSD to its existing participants and the CSD should assess its participants' compliance with such new requirements. The same applies to the rules for access applicable to issuers, other CSDs and other market infrastructures.

In addition, Article 41(m) of the RTS on CSD Requirements on the information to be provided by CSDs for each review period specifies that CSDs provide “information concerning the cases where the CSD denied access to its services to any existing or potential participant, any issuer, another CSD or another market infrastructure”. Denying access to an existing participant, issuer, CSD or market infrastructure also implies a periodic review of the compliance with the criteria for access.

CSD Question 5 - Protection of securities of participants and those of their clients

- (a) *Once Article 38 of CSDR applies (i.e. after the CSD has been authorised), do participants have a phase-in period after authorisation of the CSD to offer all clients the level of protection envisaged in Article 38(5) or should they be ready to offer the envisaged accounts as of the date on which the CSD is authorised?*
- (b) *In accordance with Article 38(5) of CSDR, should all clients (existing and new) be offered the choice between omnibus client segregation and individual client segregation, and be informed of the costs and risks associated with each option, or just new clients?*
- (c) *Are there specific account segregation requirements in the context of links between an EU CSD and a TC-CSD?*
- (d) *Under Article 38(4) of CSDR, can a CSD maintain different types of securities accounts enabling participants to segregate the securities of any of the participants' clients ('individual client segregation'), such as securities accounts with or without the identification of the participant's client at the CSD level?*
- (e) *When a CSD offers different types of individually segregated securities accounts (such as securities accounts with, and securities accounts without the identification of the participant's client at the CSD*

level), should the CSD participants offer in turn the same types of individually segregated securities accounts to their clients?

CSD Answer 5

- (a) Article 38(5) of CSDR applies to all participants of a CSD as of the authorisation of such CSD. Therefore, participants should be ready to “offer their clients at least the choice between omnibus client segregation and individual client segregation and inform them of the costs and risks associated with each option” at the time of the authorisation of the CSD that operates the securities settlement system in which they are participants. CSDs should be able to prove to their NCAs that they comply with Article 38 of CSDR, as this is one of the conditions to be granted authorisation under CSDR. This implies that CSDs need to coordinate with their participants (before they are granted authorisation under CSDR), in order to ensure that they take the necessary measures to be compliant with Article 38 of CSDR.
- (b) All clients (existing and new) should be offered the choice between omnibus client segregation and individual client segregation, and be informed of the costs and risks associated with each option.
- (c) The creation of links between EU CSDs and TC-CSDs is dealt with in Article 84 (*Conditions for the adequate protection of linked CSDs and of their participants*) and Article 85 (*Monitoring and management of additional risks resulting from the use of indirect links or intermediaries to operate CSD links*) of the RTS on CSD Requirements.

It follows that in the context of:

- standard links with a TC-CSD: no specific account segregation requirements apply, but the comparability of the level of the asset protection shall be positively assessed by the requesting CSD;
 - indirect links with TC-CSDs: a specific account segregation requirement is prescribed by the RTS on CSD Requirements, but it can be waived provided that an adequate level of protection of the securities is nonetheless ensured. The relevant provisions are: points (a)(i), (a)(ii) and (h) and the last subparagraph of Article 85(1) of the RTS on CSD Requirements, according to which:
 - (i) the relevant intermediary shall comply with segregation and disclosure requirements at least equivalent to those laid down in Article 38(5) and (6) of CSDR;
 - (ii) an individually segregated account at the receiving CSD shall be used for the operations of the CSD link;
 - (iii) where an individually segregated account at the receiving CSD is not available, the requesting CSD shall inform its competent authority about the reasons justifying the unavailability of individually segregated accounts and shall provide it with the details on the risks resulting from the unavailability of individually segregated accounts;
 - (iv) the requesting CSD shall in any case ensure an adequate level of protection of its assets held with the TC-CSD.
- (d) Yes. Article 38(4) of CSDR does not impose a specific type of individual segregation arrangement, nor does it prevent a CSD to maintain several types of individually segregated securities accounts for its participants. Under CSDR, the CSD may or may not have access to information on the identity of its participants' clients.

- (e) No, Article 38(5), first paragraph, of CSDR only requires a CSD participant to offer its clients a choice between omnibus client segregation and individual client segregation, and does not impose to offer a specific type of individually segregated securities account. In addition, Article 38(4) of CSDR provides that a CSD shall keep accounts enabling a participant to segregate the securities of any of its clients “as required by the participant”.

Hence, if a CSD offers its participants to maintain several types of individually segregated securities accounts, a CSD participant may decide, in accordance with any applicable national legal and regulatory requirements, to offer to its own clients only one or several of the types of individually segregated securities accounts offered by the CSD.

CSD Question 6 - Prudential requirements - Operational risks **new**

- (a) *Is the definition of a “critical service provider” referred to in Article 68 of the RTS on CSD Requirements restricted to a party that has a contract to provide services to the CSD?*
- (b) *Article 69 of the RTS on CSD Requirements refers to measures to be put in place to mitigate operational risks in the context of arrangements between a CSD and other market infrastructures. Does the reference to “market infrastructures” include trading venues?*
- (c) *Do overnight deposits with a central bank, an authorised credit institution or a CSD authorised to provide banking-type ancillary services fulfil the requirements specified in Article 82(1) of the RTS on CSD Requirements?*
- (d) *Do central banks providing cash settlement in central bank money for CSDs qualify as critical service providers referred to in Article 68 of the RTS on CSD Requirements?*
- (e) *Does TARGET2-Securities (T2S) qualify as a critical service provider within the meaning of Article 68 of the RTS on CSD Requirements?*
- (f) ****new*** In Article 82(2) of the RTS on CSD Requirements, does “access to financial instruments on the same business day when the decision to liquidate the financial instruments is taken” mean that these financial instruments should be liquidated on the same business day?*

CSD Answer 6

- (a) No. A contract for the provision of services is not necessary to identify a critical service provider – however, once a service provider has been identified as critical by the CSD, in accordance with Article 68, the CSD needs to put in place adequate contractual and organisational arrangements with the respective provider “before any relationship with such providers becomes operational”.
- (b) Yes. According to Article 53 of CSDR, market infrastructures include trading venues. Therefore, the same concept should apply to the RTS.

- (c) A CSD can use overnight deposits and other time deposits with a central bank, an authorised credit institution or a CSD authorised to provide banking-type ancillary services, provided that the CSD can have immediate and unconditional access to its respective cash assets.
- (d) No. Given the nature of the central bank provision of cash settlement services, payment systems operated by central banks should be considered as market infrastructures. Accordingly, the provisions referring to market infrastructures, i.e. Articles 35 and 45(6) of CSDR and Articles 69, 75(6)(d), 76(2)(c)(iv) and 79(c)(iv) of the RTS on CSD Requirements, should cover in their scope also payment systems operated by central banks.
- (e) No. Article 30(5) of CSDR exempts CSDs from the requirements laid down in paragraphs 1 to 4 of Article 30 of CSDR, when they outsource some of their services or activities to a public entity and where that outsourcing is governed by a dedicated legal, regulatory and operational framework which has been jointly agreed and formalised by the public entity and the relevant CSD and agreed by the competent authorities on the basis of the requirements established in the CSDR. This exemption precludes the application of Article 68 of the RTS on CSD Requirements in the case of T2S, for which the organisational and operational safety, efficiency and resilience of T2S should be ensured through the dedicated legal, regulatory and operational framework and agreed governance arrangements.
- (f) No. According to Article 82(2) of the RTS on CSD Requirements, a CSD should be able to dispose of the financial instruments on the day when the decision to liquidate (i.e. to convert into cash) is made, i.e. to be in a position, from a legal and operational standpoint, to order a liquidation of the financial instruments. It does not necessarily entail that a CSD should liquidate these financial instruments on the same business day.

CSD Question 7 - Provision of banking-type ancillary services

- (a) *Which are the participants' competent authorities responsible for the supervision of the participants of the CSD that are established in the three Member States with the largest settlement values in the CSD's securities settlement system pursuant to Article 55(4)(e) of CSDR?*
- (b) *How should the values referred to in Article 54(5) of CSDR be calculated?*
- (c) *Article 55(4)(e) of CSDR requires the competent authority of a CSD to calculate the settlement values of each participant of that CSD over a one-year period and to aggregate them by Member State in order to identify the top three Member States. How should those settlement values be determined?*

CSD Answer 7

- (a) In order to determine which authorities should be involved under Article 55(4)(e) of CSDR, a CSD's NCA should first identify the three relevant Member States for this purpose and then identify the competent authorities of the participant in each of these Member States.

To identify the three relevant Member States, a CSD's NCA should (i) calculate the aggregate settlement values in each of the CSD's securities settlement system of each and every participant over a one-year period, (ii) aggregate such values by Member State and (iii) determine which are the top three Member States.

The authorities referred to in Article 55(4)(e) of CSDR will be the competent authorities of the participants located in these top three Member States. Where more than one competent authority is established for the relevant participant, they can all be entitled to receive the relevant information and issue reason opinions.

- (b) For the purposes of Article 54(5) of CSDR, the total value of cash settlement through accounts opened with credit institutions, and the total value of all securities transactions against cash settled in the books of the CSD over a one-year period should be determined by taking into account the settlement instructions that are eligible to be included in the calculations of the indicators for the determination of the most relevant currencies pursuant to Article 12(1)(b) of CSDR, having regard to the ESMA Guidelines on the process for calculation of the indicators to determine the most relevant currencies in which settlement takes place.

In addition to the principles specified in the ESMA Guidelines mentioned above, cash distributions (e.g. cash dividend, interest payment) should be included for the purposes of Article 54(5) of CSDR, given that the objective of Article 54(5) is to manage risks that are related to a CSD designating a credit institution for the provision of banking-type ancillary services.

If a CSD seeks to designate a credit institution to provide any banking-type ancillary services from within a separate legal entity, for the authorisation of the CSD under CSDR, the values to be used should be those covering one year up to the month prior to the submission of the authorisation request. For the following years after the authorisation of the CSD, the values to be used should be those covering each calendar year.

- (c) For the purposes of Article 55(4)(e) of CSDR, the settlement values of a participant in the securities settlement system of a CSD should be determined by considering all and only the settlement instructions of that participant that are eligible to be included in the calculations of the indicators for the determination of the most relevant currencies pursuant to Article 12(1)(b) of CSDR, having regard to the ESMA Guidelines on the process for calculation of the indicators to determine the most relevant currencies in which settlement takes place.

For the authorisation of a CSD under CSDR, the values to be used should be those covering one year up to the month prior to the submission of the authorisation request. For the following years after the authorisation of a CSD, the values to be used should be those covering each calendar year.

CSD Question 8 - Access to CSDs

Article 49(2) of CSDR provides that a CSD shall provide a response to an access request from an issuer within three months. If the CSD asks the requesting issuer for additional information, does it automatically entail an extension of the three-month period?

CSD Answer 8

No, CSDR does not provide CSDs with any possibility to extend this three-month period. If the request submitted by an issuer does not satisfy the access conditions set out by it, the CSD can, based on a comprehensive risk assessment, refuse to grant access to such issuer. In that case, as specified in Article 49(4) of CSDR, the issuer shall have the right to complain to the competent authority of the CSD.

CSD Question 9 - Provision of services in other Member States

Article 23(3) of CSDR relates to the provision of notary and central maintenance services in another Member State. Its paragraph (e) specifically provides that “where relevant, [a CSD shall communicate to the NCA of the home Member State] an assessment of the measures the CSD intends to take to allow its users to comply with the national law referred to in Article 49(1)” i.e. the corporate law of the Member State under which the securities are constituted.

- i. Does this requirement apply to all types of securities (shares, bonds, etc.)?*
- ii. What type of assessment should the CSD provide to the home Member State NCA?*

CSD Answer 9

- i. Yes, Article 23(3)(e) of CSDR applies to all types of securities (as defined under Article 2(8) of CSDR).
- ii. National laws referred to in Article 49(1) of CSDR govern the relationship between issuers and holders of such securities or any third party, such as ownership rights, voting rights, dividends and corporate action, which for the sake of clarity, is not the national law of the home NCA that will receive this communication.

Therefore, to assess that these measures allow its users to comply with the applicable securities law, the CSD should not only communicate the measures it intends to take and the procedure it intends to follow, but should also provide actual evidence that the proposed measures ensure compliance. To that end, independent legal opinions may be requested in order to certify that the rules and procedures set out by the CSD allow their users to comply with each applicable national law.

CSD Question 10 - Requirements for CSD links

- (a) Article 84(1)(d) of the RTS on CSD Requirements provides that the requesting CSD shall make available to its participants the legal and operational terms and conditions in relation to the link arrangement. Where the receiving CSD is not the issuer CSD and, thus, has itself a CSD link with the issuer CSD (or with another investor CSD), should the requesting CSD provide its participants with legal and operational terms and conditions applying to these other link arrangements?*

- (b) Article 84(1)(e) of the RTS on CSD Requirements provides that the requesting CSD shall assess the local legislation applicable to the receiving TC-CSD. Where the receiving TC-CSD is not the issuer CSD and, thus, has itself a CSD link with the issuer CSD (or with another investor CSD), should the requesting CSD perform an assessment of the local legislation applying to these other CSDs?
- (c) How should CSDs and their NCAs assess the risks related to a link with an EU CSD which has not been authorised under the CSDR yet?
- (d) Are links between CSDs participating in T2S interoperable links as defined in the CSDR?

CSD Answer 10

- (a) The requesting CSD does not need to provide its participants with information concerning any further CSD links up to the issuer CSD. Article 84(1)(d) of the RTS on CSD Requirements relates to the link with the receiving CSD only and to the legal and operational terms and conditions of this specific link arrangement.
- (b) Article 84(1)(e) of the RTS on CSD Requirements requires the requesting CSD to perform an assessment of the local legislation applicable to the receiving TC-CSD which should include asset protection considerations, as per Article 84(1), last sub-paragraph. If necessary, this assessment should thus consider any information about the receiving TC-CSD's further CSD links (as the case may be, up to the issuer CSD) that may have an impact in terms of entitlement of the requesting CSD to the securities or of insolvency proceedings effects (e.g. in case the applicable law would make a *renvoi* to the law of the issuer CSD as the law applicable to proprietary aspects, or to the nature of the rights of the receiving CSD on the securities).
- (c) When assessing the risks related to a link with a CSD established in the EU that has not been authorised yet, CSDs should comply, and their NCAs should verify their compliance, with the requirements set out in Article 48 of CSDR and the related technical standards.
- (d) Yes, as Article 2(33) of CSDR defines an interoperable link as a “CSD link whereby CSDs agree to establish mutual technical solutions for settlement in the securities settlement systems they operate”, which is the case of CSDs participating in T2S, as they use a common settlement infrastructure.

Furthermore, Article 19(5) of CSDR clearly contemplates the specific case of T2S when referring to “interoperable links of CSDs that outsource some of their services related to those interoperable links to a public entity” (thus establishing an exemption for such interoperable links from the authorisation process generally applicable to other interoperable links, and subjecting them to a mere notification procedure).

However this qualification as interoperable link covers only the T2S-related aspects of the relationship between the respective CSDs, i.e. the settlement of securities through T2S. Two CSDs participating in T2S can have in parallel other types of CSD links between themselves, in relation to different securities not settled through T2S, to the extent allowed by the dedicated legal, regulatory and operational framework referred to in Article 30(5) of CSDR. These other CSD links should not be qualified as interoperable links only because of the participation of the two CSDs in T2S.