



Swiss Federal Act on Banks and Savings Banks

(Banking Act; BA)

SR 952.0
of 8 November 1934 (status as at 1 January 2020)

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The Swiss Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,
based on Articles 34^{ter}, 64 and 64^{bis} of the Federal Constitution², after examination of the Swiss Federal Council's message of 2 February 1934³,
decrees:

Section I: Scope of the Act

ARTICLE 1⁴

- 1 Banks, private banks (individual proprietorships⁵, general and limited partnerships) and savings banks, hereinafter referred to as banks, shall be subject to this Act.
- 2 Natural persons and legal entities that are not subject to this Act may not accept deposits from the public on a professional basis. The Swiss Federal Council may provide for exceptions as long as the protection of the depositors is ensured. Issuing bonds is not deemed to be the acceptance of deposits on a professional basis.⁶
- 3 The present Act specifically does not apply to:
 - a. stockbrokers and trading houses dealing only in securities and transactions which engage in business directly related thereto, provided they do not engage in the banking business;
 - b. asset managers, notaries and business agents who simply manage their customers' funds and who do not engage in regular banking business.
- 4 The term "bank" or "banker", alone or in combination with other words, may only be used in a company name, in the designation of the business purpose and in business advertising by institutions that have obtained a license from the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) subject to the provisions of Article 2(3).⁷

¹ Version of the Title according to Sect. I of the Act of 22 April 1999, in force since 1 October 1999 (AS **1999** 2405; BBI **1998** 3847).

² [BS **1** 3; AS **1976** 2001]

³ BBI **1934** I 171

⁴ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBI **1970** I 1144).

⁵ Now: Sole proprietorships.

⁶ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBI **1993** I 805). See also the final provisions and amendments dated 18 March 1994 at the end of this Act.

⁷ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

- 5 This Act shall only apply to the Swiss National Bank or central mortgage institutions if this is explicitly stated.

ARTICLE 1a⁸ Banks

A bank shall be an institution primarily active in the financial sector that

- a. accepts deposits from the public in excess of CHF 100 million on a professional basis or that publicly advertises as doing so;
- b. accepts deposits from the public up to CHF 100 million on a professional basis or that publicly advertises as doing so, and which invests or gives interest on the deposits received from the public; or
- c. on a large scale refinances itself with loans from banks that do not own any significant holdings in it in order to finance for own account and in any manner possible any number of persons or companies with which it does not form an economic unit.

ARTICLE 1b⁹ Innovation funding

- 1 The provisions of this Act shall also apply to persons that are primarily active in the financial sector, and:
- a. Accept deposits from the public up to CHF 100 million on a professional basis or who publicly advertise as doing so; and
 - b. Which neither invest nor give interest on these deposits from the public.
- 2 The Swiss Federal Council may adjust the amount mentioned in (1), taking into account of the competitiveness and innovative capacity of Switzerland as a financial center.
- 3 Persons as per (1) shall specifically:
- a. Precisely define their scope of business and provide for an administrative organization in keeping with their business activities;
 - b. dispose of an adequately endowed risk management and effective internal controls, which ensure the adherence to legal regulations and company-internal policies (Compliance);
 - c. dispose of adequate financial means;
 - d. ensure that the persons in charge of administration and management enjoy a good reputation and thereby assure an irreproachable conduct of business operations;

⁸ Inserted with Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institution Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS **2018** 5247; BBl **2015** 8901).

⁹ Inserted with Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institution Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS **2018** 5247; BBl **2015** 8901)

- 4 The following provisions shall remain applicable:
- a. The accounting for persons as per (1) shall base itself exclusively on the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO)s (CO)¹⁰.
 - b. Persons as per (1) shall have their annual financial statements and, if necessary, their consolidated financial statements audited in accordance with the provisions of the CO; Article 727a(2)-(5) CO shall not apply.
 - c. Persons as per (1) shall arrange for an audit firm licensed by the Federal Audit Oversight Authority under Article 9a(1) or (4^{bis}) of the Auditor Oversight Act of 16 December 2005¹¹ with an audit in accordance with Article 24 of the Financial Market Supervision Act of 22 June 2007 (FINMASA).¹²
 - d. The provisions on privileged deposits (Article 37a) and on immediate payout (Article 37b) shall not apply to deposits made to persons as per (1); depositors shall be informed of this prior to making the deposit.
- 5 Under special circumstances, FINMA may also declare (1)-(4) applicable to persons who accept deposits from the public on a professional basis in excess of CHF 100 million or who publicly advertise as doing so but who neither invest nor grant interests on these funds and who ensure the clients' protection with special precautions.
- 6 If the threshold of CHF 100 million is exceeded, FINMA must be notified within 10 days and a license application in accordance with Article 1a shall be submitted within 90 days. (5) shall remain applicable.

ARTICLE 1^{bis} 13

ARTICLE 2¹⁴

- 1 The provisions of this Act shall also apply to the:
- a. branches of foreign banks established in Switzerland;
 - b. representatives of foreign banks in Switzerland.¹⁵

¹⁰ SR **220**

¹¹ SR **221.302**

¹² SR **956.1**

¹³ Inserted with Annex Section II 5 of the Swiss National Bank Act of 3 October 2003 (AS **2004** 1985; BBI **2002** 6097). Repealed by Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, with effect from 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483)

¹⁴ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBI **1970** I 1144).

¹⁵ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

- 2 FINMA¹⁶ shall issue directives for such entities and may, in particular, require that these entities are adequately capitalized and that securities are provided.
- 3 In view of reciprocal recognition of equivalent rules regarding banking activities and of an equivalence in banking supervision, the Swiss Federal Council shall be empowered to sign treaties with states which stipulate that banks of the treaty state in question may open a branch, agency or representation without FINMA's authorization.¹⁷

ARTICLE 2^{bis} 18

- 1 As far as they are not subject to FINMA's jurisdiction in bankruptcies in the context of single-entity supervision, the following shall be subject to Sections XI and XII of this Act:
 - a. group parent companies of a financial group or financial conglomerate domiciled in Switzerland;
 - b. group companies domiciled in Switzerland that fulfill functions significant for the activities subject to licensing (significant group companies).
- 2 The Swiss Federal Council shall define the criteria to determine significance.
- 3 FINMA shall name the significant group companies and maintain a list of these. This list shall be accessible to the public.

Section II: License to Operate a Bank¹⁹

ARTICLE 3²⁰

- 1 Banks shall be required to obtain a license from FINMA prior to engaging in business operations; they may not be entered into the Commercial Register before such a license has been granted.
- 2 A license shall be granted, if:
 - a. a bank's articles of incorporation, partnership agreements and business rules provide a clear definition of the scope of its business and establish an adequate organization in view of the proposed business activities. Where the business purpose or scope of business so requires, the bank must create separate bodies for its management on the one hand and for its direction, supervision and control on the other hand. These bodies must be adequately segregated in order to ensure the effective supervision of the bank's management;

¹⁶ Term according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829). This change has been taken into account in the entire enactment.

¹⁷ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805). Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

¹⁸ Inserted with Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBl **2014** 7483).

¹⁹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144).

²⁰ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144). Also see the final provisions 22 4 of 1999 at the end of this text

- b.²¹ the bank demonstrates that it has fully paid in its minimum capital as defined by the Swiss Federal Council;
- c. the persons in charge of the bank's administration and management enjoy a good reputation and thereby guarantee proper business conduct;
- c.^{bis}²² natural persons or legal entities that directly or indirectly hold equity interest in the bank of at least 10 percent of the capital or voting rights or whose business activities are otherwise such that they may influence the bank in a significant manner (qualified participation), guarantee that their influence will not have a negative impact on the bank's prudent and solid business activity;
- d.²³ the persons entrusted with the bank's management have their domicile in a place where they may exercise the management in a factual and responsible manner.
- 3 The bank shall file its articles of incorporation, partnership agreements and business regulations with FINMA and notify it of all subsequent amendments concerning the purpose and scope of its business, its share capital or its internal organization. Such amendments may not be entered into the Commercial Register unless they have been approved by FINMA.
- 4 ...²⁴
- 5 All natural persons or legal entities shall notify FINMA prior to directly or indirectly acquiring or selling qualified equity interests as defined in (2)(c^{bis}) in a bank organized pursuant to Swiss law. Banks shall also notify FINMA whenever qualified equity interests are increased or decreased and thus reach, exceed or fall below the threshold of 20, 33 or 50 percent of the capital or voting rights, respectively.²⁵
- 6 The bank shall notify FINMA of any persons subject to the requirements of (5) as soon as it has knowledge thereof, however at least once a year.²⁶
- 7 Banks organized pursuant to Swiss law shall notify FINMA before they establish a subsidiary, branch office, agency or representation abroad.²⁷

²¹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

²² Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805). Also see the final provisions of 18 March 1994, at the end of this Act.

²³ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805). Also see the final provisions of 18 March 1994, at the end of this Act.

²⁴ Repealed by Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, with effect from 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

²⁵ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805)

²⁶ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805). Also see the final provisions of 18 March 1994, at the end of this Act.

²⁷ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

ARTICLE 3a²⁸

A bank constituted in the form of a public-law institution or public limited company on the basis of a Cantonal legal directive shall be deemed to be a Cantonal bank. The Canton's equity holdings shall amount to more than one third of the capital and it shall dispose of more than one third of the voting rights. The Canton may assume full or partial liability for the bank's liabilities.

ARTICLE 3b²⁹

Should a bank be part of a financial group or a financial conglomerate, FINMA may require the existence of an adequate consolidated supervision by a financial supervisory authority as a prerequisite to its issuing a license.

ARTICLE 3c³⁰

- 1 Two or more companies shall be deemed to be a financial group if:
 - a. at least one acts as a bank or securities dealer;
 - b. they are active primarily in the financial sector; and
 - c. they form an economic unit or, on the basis of other circumstances, it is to be assumed that one or more companies subject to individual supervision are legally obliged or in practice forced to support other group companies.
- 2 A financial group shall be considered to be a bank or security dealer-dominated financial conglomerate pursuant to (1) if it is predominantly involved in banking or securities trading and if at least one insurance company of considerable economic significance is part of it.

ARTICLE 3d³¹

- 1 FINMA may subject a financial group or financial conglomerate dominated by banking or securities trading to group or conglomerate supervision if the group or conglomerate:
 - a. controls a bank or a securities trader in Switzerland organized in accordance with Swiss law; or
 - b. is actually managed from Switzerland.
- 2 If other foreign authorities concurrently claim the full or partial supervision of the financial group or

²⁸ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805). Version according to Section I of the Act of 22 April 1999, in force since 1 October 1999 (AS **1999** 2405; BBl **1998** 3847). See also the final provisions of these amendments at the end of this text.

²⁹ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

³⁰ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

³¹ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

the financial conglomerate, FINMA, under observance of its competences, shall agree with the foreign authority on responsibilities, modalities and extent of the group or conglomerate supervision. Before finalizing its decision, it shall consult those companies of the financial group or conglomerate that are incorporated in Switzerland.³²

ARTICLE 3e³³

- 1 FINMA's group supervision shall be carried out in addition to the individual supervision of a bank.
- 2 FINMA's conglomerate supervision shall be carried out in addition to the individual supervision of a bank or insurance company and to the supervision of a financial or insurance group by the respective competent supervisory authority.

ARTICLE 3f³⁴

- 1 The financial group's or conglomerate's persons entrusted with the executive management on the one hand and the direction, supervision and control on the other hand must have a good reputation and guarantee proper business conduct.
- 2 The financial group or conglomerate must be organized in such a manner to be able to specifically detect, mitigate and monitor all material risks.

ARTICLE 3g³⁵

- 1 FINMA shall be authorized to issue provisions on capital adequacy, liquidity, risk distribution, intra-group risk positions and accounting for financial groups.
- 2 FINMA shall be authorized to issue or establish entity-specific provisions on capital adequacy, liquidity, risk distribution, intra-group risk positions and accounting for financial conglomerates dominated by their banking or securities trading business. In regard to capital adequacy requirements, it shall take into consideration the prevailing rules of the financial and insurance industries as well as the relative significance of these two industries within the financial conglomerate and the associated risks.

ARTICLE 3h³⁶

³² Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

³³ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

³⁴ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

³⁵ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

³⁶ Inserted with Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789). Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

ARTICLE 3^{bis} 37

- 1 FINMA may also make the license to establish a bank to be organized in accordance with Swiss law but which is subject to a controlling foreign influence, as well as the license to establish a branch office or appoint a permanent representative of a foreign bank, contingent on the following additional conditions:³⁸
 - a.³⁹ the country where the foreign bank or of the controlling corporation or shareholder is domiciled must guarantee reciprocity of supervision, provided no contradictory international obligations exist;
 - b. the use of a corporate name that does not indicate or suggest a Swiss character of the bank;
 - c.⁴⁰ ...
- 1^{bis} If a bank is part of a financial group or financial conglomerate, FINMA may make the license dependent on the agreement of the relevant foreign supervisory authority.⁴¹
- 2 The bank must inform the Swiss National Bank of the scope of its business activities and its relationships abroad.
- 3 A bank organized in accordance with Swiss law shall fall under the provisions of (1) whenever foreigners with qualified equity holdings directly or indirectly hold more than half of the voting rights or in any other way exercise a controlling influence.⁴²

A foreigner shall be:

- b. any natural person who possesses neither Swiss citizenship nor a Swiss residency permit;
- c. legal entities and partnerships domiciled abroad or, if they are domiciled in Switzerland, are controlled by persons as defined in (a).

ARTICLE 3^{ter} 43

- 1 Banks that are under foreign control after their incorporation shall require an additional license in accordance with Article 3^{bis}.
- 2 If there is a change in foreign shareholders with qualified equity interests, a new additional license must be obtained.⁴⁴

³⁷ Inserted by Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144).

³⁸ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

³⁹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 July 1995 (AS **1995** 2109; BBl **1994** IV 950).

⁴⁰ Repealed by Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, with effect from 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

⁴¹ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 16 December 1994 (AS **1995** 2109; BBl **1994** IV 950). Version according to Annex Section II 6 of the Swiss Insurance Supervision Act of 17 December 2004, in force since 1 January 2006 (AS **2005** 5269; BBl **2003** 3789).

⁴² Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

⁴³ Inserted by Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144).

⁴⁴ Version according to Section I of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 July 1995 (AS **1995** 2109; BBl **1994** IV 950).

- 3 The bank's board members and management must notify FINMA of all matters which could imply that the bank is under foreign control or that there has been a change in foreign shareholders with qualified equity interests.⁴⁵

ARTICLE 3^{quater} 46

- 1 The Swiss Federal Council shall be authorized to declare in international treaties that the special licensing requirements set out in Articles 3^{bis} and 3^{ter} do not apply at all or only in part if citizens of a treaty state or legal entities domiciled in a treaty state establish or take over a bank organized pursuant to Swiss law or acquire qualified interests therein. Provided there are no international obligations to the contrary, the Swiss Federal Council may make this contingent on the granting of reciprocity by the treaty state.
- 2 Should the legal entity itself be directly or indirectly controlled by citizens of another country or by legal entities domiciled in another country, the afore-mentioned provisions shall be applicable.

Section III: Capital, Liquidity and Other Requirements Relating to Business Operations⁴⁷

ARTICLE 4⁴⁸

- 1 Banks shall dispose of adequate capital and liquidity both at single entity and on a consolidated level.
- 2 The Swiss Federal Council shall determine the elements of adequate capital and liquidity. It shall establish the minimum requirements in accordance with a bank's business activities and its risks. FINMA shall be authorized to issue implementing provisions.
- 3 In special cases, FINMA may grant alleviations to the minimum requirements or define more stringent provisions.
- 4 A bank's qualified equity interests in a company outside of the financial or insurance sectors may not exceed 15 percent of its capital. The total of such equity interests may not exceed 60 percent of the bank's capital. Any exceptions to this rule shall be defined by the Swiss Federal Council.

ARTICLE 4^{bis} 49

- 1 A bank's loans to any single customer as well as its equity interests in any single company shall be

⁴⁵ Version according to Section I of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 July 1995 (AS **1995** 2109; BBl **1994** IV 950).

⁴⁶ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805)

⁴⁷ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144).

⁴⁸ Version according to Annex Section II 5 of the Swiss National Bank Act of 3 October 2003, in force since 1 January 2005 (AS **2004** 1985; BBl **2002** 6097).

⁴⁹ Inserted by Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144). Also see the final provisions of 18 March 1994, at the end of this Act.

in adequate proportion to the bank's own capital.

2 The Implementing Ordinance shall define this proportion, with special consideration given to loans to public-law entities and to the type of security furnished.

3 ...⁵⁰

ARTICLE 4^{ter} 51

1 Loans may be granted to the bank's governing bodies and significant shareholders as well as to related persons and affiliated companies only in application of generally accepted principles of the banking industry.

2 ...⁵²

ARTICLE 4^{quater} 53

Banks shall abstain from misleading or obtrusive marketing of their Swiss domicile or their association to Swiss institutions both in Switzerland and abroad.

ARTICLE 4^{quinqüies} 54

1 Banks with parent companies supervised by a banking or financial market regulator may transmit information or documents not publicly available to their parent companies if these are necessary for the purpose of consolidated supervision, provided:

- a. such information is used exclusively for internal control or direct supervision of banks or other financial intermediaries subject to licensing;
- b. both the parent company and the relevant supervisory authority for consolidated supervision are bound by official secrecy or professional confidentiality;
- c. this information is not transmitted to third parties without the prior permission of the bank or based on the blanket permission previously defined in a state treaty.

2 If in doubt regarding the transmission of data pursuant to (1), banks may demand a formal decision from FINMA to allow or forbid the transmission of information.

ARTICLE 5⁵⁵

⁵⁰ Repealed by Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, with effect from 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

⁵¹ Inserted by Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144). Also see the final provisions of 18 March 1994, at the end of this Act.

⁵² Repealed by Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, with effect from 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

⁵³ Inserted by Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBl **1970** I 1144).

⁵⁴ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805)

⁵⁵ Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

Section IV:⁵⁶ Accounting

ARTICLE 6 Preparation of financial statements

- 1 Banks shall prepare an annual report for every business year, consisting of:
 - a. the annual financial statements;
 - b. the management report;
 - c. the consolidated financial statements.
- 2 Banks shall prepare at least semi-annual interim financial statements.
- 3 The annual report and the interim financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Title XXXII of the Code of Obligations⁵⁷ and this Act as well as any applicable implementing provisions.
- 4 In extraordinary situations, the Swiss Federal Council may decide to diverge from (3).

ARTICLE 6a Publication

- 1 Annual reports shall be made accessible to the public.
- 2 Interim financial statements shall be made accessible to the public if the implementing provisions to this Act require an institution to do so.
- 3 (1) and (2) do not apply to private banks that do not publicly solicit customer deposits. Article 958e(2) of the Swiss Code of Obligations⁵⁸ shall remain applicable.

ARTICLE 6b Implementing provisions

- 1 The Swiss Federal Council shall issue implementing provisions in regard to the form, content and publication of annual reports and interim financial statements.
- 2 The Swiss Federal Council may deviate from the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations⁵⁹ on accounting and financial reporting if this is justified by the special features of the banking business or the protection of creditors and an institution's economic situation is presented in an equivalent manner.
- 3 The Swiss Federal Council may authorize FINMA to issue implementing provisions for matters of limited effect, usually aspects mainly technical in nature.

⁵⁶ Version according to Annex Section 7 of the Act of 23 December 2011 (Accounting Act), in force since 1 January 2013 (AS **2012** 6679; BBl **2008** 1589).

⁵⁷ SR **220**

⁵⁸ SR **220**

⁵⁹ SR **220**

- 4 In consideration of the conditions set out in (2), FINMA may restrict the application of the accounting standards recognized by the Swiss Federal Council in the banking sector.

Section V:⁶⁰ Systemically Important Banks

ARTICLE 7 Definition and purpose

- 1 Systemically important banks are banks, financial groups and bank-dominated financial conglomerates, the default of which would cause considerable damage to the Swiss economy and the Swiss financial system.
- 2 The purpose of the provisions of this section, in conjunction with the generally applicable banking regulations, shall be to further mitigate the risks to the stability of the Swiss financial system posed by systemically important banks, to ensure the continuation of economically important functions and to avoid any recourse to state aid.

ARTICLE 8 Criteria and determination of systemic importance

- 1 Functions shall be deemed systemically important if they are indispensable to the Swiss economy and cannot be substituted at short notice. Systemically important functions are, in particular, the domestic deposit and lending business as well as payment transactions.
- 2 A bank's systemic importance shall be determined by its size, its interconnectedness with the financial system and the economy as well as the speed at which the bank's services can be substituted. Specifically, the following criteria shall apply:
 - a. the market share in the systemically important functions as defined in (1);
 - b. the amount of deposits protected as per Article 37h(1) that exceeds the maximum amount defined in Article 37h(3)(b);
 - c. the ratio of the bank's total assets to Switzerland's annual Gross Domestic Product;
 - d. the bank's risk profile as determined by its business model, balance sheet structure, asset quality, liquidity and debt/equity ratio.
- 3 After consulting FINMA, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) shall issue a formal decision designating the systemically important banks and their systemically important functions.

⁶⁰ Version according to Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717).

ARTICLE 9 Special requirements

- 1 Systemically important banks shall meet special requirements. The scope and structure of these shall be based on the degree of systemic importance of the bank concerned. The requirements must be proportionate to their benefit, make allowance for their impact on the banks concerned and on their competitiveness, and must also take into account internationally recognized standards.
- 2 In particular, systemically important banks shall:
 - a. dispose of capital that in particular:
 1. shows a higher loss absorbency than that of not systemically important banks, as measured against statutory requirements,
 2. significantly contributes to ensuring the continuation of systemically important functions in the event of impending insolvency (PONV),
 3. is of a quality that sets incentives for the banks to limit their degree of systemic importance as well as to improve their capacity to be restructured or liquidated in Switzerland and abroad,
 4. is measured for their risk-weighted assets on the one hand and for their non-risk-weighted assets (that may also contain off-balance sheet transactions) on the other hand;
 - b. dispose of liquidity that ensures a better absorbency of liquidity shocks compared to banks that are not systemically important and that can also service its outstanding payment commitments even in times of unusual stress;
 - c. diversify risks so as to limit counterparty risk and large exposures;
 - d. design their contingency planning with respect to structure, infrastructure, management and control as well as intra-group liquidity and capital flows in a way that it can be implemented immediately thus ensuring the continuation of the bank's systemically important functions in the event of impending insolvency.

ARTICLE 10 Application to specific banks

- 1 After consulting the Swiss National Bank, FINMA shall issue a formal decision stipulating the special requirements as defined in Article 9(2)(a) - (c) that systemically important banks must meet. It shall inform the general public of the basic content of this formal decision, and the banks' compliance with it.
- 2 Systemically important banks must prove that they meet the special requirements of Article 9(2)(d) and that they are able to continue providing the systemically important functions in the event of an impending insolvency. Should a bank fail to provide this proof, FINMA shall impose any necessary measures.

- 3 When defining capital requirements under Article 9(2)(a), FINMA may grant alleviations once the bank has improved its recovery or liquidation capacities in Switzerland and abroad, exceeding the requirements defined in Article 9(2)(d).
- 4 After consulting the Swiss National Bank and FINMA, the Swiss Federal Council shall regulate:
 - a. the special requirements as per Article 9(2);
 - b. the criteria for assessing the proof pursuant to (2);
 - c. and the measures that FINMA may impose if the bank fails to supply the proof as per (2).r (2).⁶¹

ARTICLE 10a Measures in regard to remuneration packages

- 1 If a systemically important bank or its group parent company directly or indirectly receives state aid from federal funds despite implementing the special requirements, the Swiss Federal Council shall simultaneously impose measures in regard to the bank's remuneration packages for the bank's employees for the duration of the claimed aid.
- 2 In particular, after considering the bank's financial situation and the support provided, the Swiss Federal Council can:
 - a. entirely or partially prohibit the payment of variable remunerations;
 - b. prescribe adjustments to the bank's remuneration system.
- 3 A systemically important bank and its group parent company must include a binding caveat in their remuneration systems to the effect that in the case of state aid the legal entitlement to variable remuneration may be curtailed as per this article.

Section VI:⁶² Additional Capital

ARTICLE 11 Principles

- 1 If their legal form allows for the issuance of shares or participation capital (share capital without voting rights), banks and the group parent companies of financial groups and bank-dominated financial conglomerates may in their articles of incorporation:
 - a. authorize the Board of Directors to increase the share capital or the participation capital (buffer capital);
 - b. allow for an increase in the share capital or participation capital that is carried out with the

⁶¹ Also see the transitional provisions and amendments dated 30.9.2011 at the end of this text.

⁶² Version according to Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717).

conversion of mandatory convertible bonds (conversion capital) if a trigger event occurs.

- 2 Banks and the group parent company of financial groups and bank-dominated financial conglomerates may, irrespective of their legal form, provide in the issuing conditions of bonds that creditors must waive their claims if a specific event occurs (bonds with debt waiver clause).
- 2^{bis} In their articles of incorporation, co-operative banks may indicate the possibility of raising participation capital.⁶³
- 3 The additional capital as defined in (1)–(2^{bis}) may be created solely to reinforce the bank's equity base and for preventing or coping with a crisis of the bank.⁶⁴
- 4 The capital raised with the issue of mandatory convertible bonds or bonds with a debt waiver clause as per the provisions of this section may be included in the required capital to the extent that this is admissible as per this Act and its implementing provisions. Its eligibility is contingent on FINMA's prior approval of the respective issue conditions.

ARTICLE 12 Buffer capital

- 1 The general meeting may authorize the board of directors to increase the share capital or the participation capital by amending the articles of incorporation. The articles of incorporation shall indicate the nominal amount by which the board of directors may increase the capital.
- 2 For important reasons, the Board of Directors may revoke the subscription rights of the shareholders or participation certificate holders, in particular if this serves the rapid and smooth placement of the shares or participation certificates. In this case, the new shares or participation certificates must be issued at market conditions. If it is in the bank's interest, a discount shall be granted if this enables a rapid and complete placement of the shares or participation certificates.
- 3 In all other respects, the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations⁶⁵ on the authorized capital increase shall apply, with the exception of the following:
 - a. Article 651(1) and (2) (time limits and restrictions in regard to the amount of authorized capital increases);
 - b. Article 652b(2) (important reasons for revoking subscription rights);
 - c. Article 652d (capital increase using equity);
 - d. Article 656b(1) and (4) (limitation of amount of an approved increase in participation capital).

⁶³ Inserted with Annex Section II(14) of the Financial Institutions Act, in force since 1 January 2020 (AS **2018** 5247, 2019 4631; BBI **2015** 8901).

⁶⁴ Amended by Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institutions Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2020 (AS **2018** 5247, 2019 4631 BBI **2015** 8901).

⁶⁵ SR **220**

ARTICLE 13 Conversion capital

- 1 The general meeting may decide a contingent increase of the share capital or participation capital by defining in the articles of incorporation that the debt securities arising from mandatory convertible bonds are converted into shares or participation certificates once the triggering event occurs.
- 2 It may limit the nominal value of the contingent capital increase in its articles of incorporation. In the articles of incorporation, the annual general meeting shall define:
 - a. the number, type and nominal value of the shares and participation certificates;
 - b. the basis on which the issue price shall be calculated;
 - c. revocation of the subscription rights of the shareholders and participation certificate holders;
 - d. restricted fungibility for new registered shares and participation certificates.
- 3 The board of directors shall be authorized to issue mandatory convertible bonds within the scope of the articles of incorporation's provisions. Unless the articles of incorporation specify otherwise, the Board of Directors shall determine:
 - a. a possible split into several bonds or into several tranches;
 - b. the triggering event or, in the case of tranches, the triggering events;
 - c. the issue price or the rules by which it is determined;
 - d. the conversion ratio or the rules by which it is determined.
- 4 The mandatory convertible bonds shall be offered for subscription to the shareholders and participation certificate holders in proportion to their equity interest. If the mandatory convertible bonds are issued at market conditions or with a discount to ensure a rapid and complete placement, the general meeting may revoke the subscription rights of the shareholders and participation certificate holders.
- 5 Once the triggering event for the conversion occurs, the board of directors shall immediately issue a public document. This document must contain the number, nominal value and type of the issued shares and participation certificates, the new amount of the share capital and the participation capital as well as the necessary amendments to the articles of incorporation.
- 6 The board of directors' resolution is to be submitted to the Commercial Register without delay. The Commercial Register entry cannot be blocked.
- 7 The share capital and the participation capital shall be increased upon the board of directors' resolution to do so. Simultaneously, all claims arising from the mandatory convertible bonds shall expire.

- 8 None of the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations⁶⁶ on contingent capital increases shall apply, with the exception of the following provisions:
- a. Article 653a(2) (minimum capital contribution);
 - b. Article 653d(2) (protection of beneficiaries of conversion or option rights);
 - c. Article 653i (expiry).

ARTICLE 14⁶⁷ Participation capital of co-operative banks

- 1 Participation capital (Article 11(2^{bis})) shall be divided into subtotals (participation shares). Participation shares shall be denoted as such. They shall be issued against contributions, have a nominal value but do not constitute a membership.
- 2 The holders of participation shares shall be informed of general meetings with agenda points and requests to be discussed, the resolutions made as well as the annual report and the audit report in the same manner as the members of the co-operative.
- 3 Amendments of the articles of incorporation and other resolutions of the general meeting that will impair their status shall only be permitted if they also impair the status of holders of co-operative shares in the same manner.
- 4 The position of the owners of participation shares shall be at least equal to that of members of the co-operative when it comes to sharing the retained earnings and the liquidation proceeds.
- 5 They may contest the resolutions of the general meeting just like a member of the co-operative.
- 6 Where this is necessary to exercise their rights, they may submit a request to the annual general meeting for a special audit. Should the general meeting reject the request, they may submit a request to the court to appoint a special auditor within three months, if they jointly hold at least 10 percent of the participation capital or participation capital with a nominal value of CHF 2 million. Articles 697a–697g CO⁶⁸ shall apply to the proceedings in analogy.

ARTICLE 14a⁶⁹ Reserves, dividends and the acquisition of own participation shares of co-operative banks

- 1 Co-operative banks shall allocate 5% of their annual profits to their general reserves until these make up 20% of equity. They shall allocate to the general reserves, regardless of their amount, the following:

⁶⁶ SR 220

⁶⁷ Amended by Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institutions Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2020 (AS 2018 5247, 2019 4631 BBI 2015 8901).

⁶⁸ SR 220

⁶⁹ Inserted by Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institutions Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 Jan 2020 (AS 2018 5247, 2019 4631; BBI 2015 8901).

- a. Additional proceeds generated with the issue of participation shares beyond their nominal value after covering the issue expenses, unless these funds are used for amortizations or for charitable purposes;
 - b. The difference between payments received on canceled participation shares and any shortfall from the participation shares issued for this;
 - c. 10% of the amounts that are paid as profit share after a payment of a dividend of 5% on the participation capital has been made.
- 2 They shall use the general reserves, provided these do not exceed half of equity, to absorb losses or for measures that ensure the going concern of the bank in economically hard times, to avoid lay-offs or to soften their impact.
 - 3 Any dividends on participation shares shall be paid out solely from retained earnings and the reserves created for this purpose.
 - 4 A co-operative bank may acquire its own participation shares under the following conditions:
 - a. It commands unappropriated retained earnings to cover such expenditures and the total nominal value of the participation shares to be acquired does not exceed 10% of participation capital.
 - b. The rights associated with the acquisition of participation shares shall be suspended.
 - 5 The percentage stipulated in (4)(a) may be exceeded up to the upper limit of 20%, provided the own participation shares acquired beyond the 10% limit are sold or eliminated by means of a capital reduction within two years.

ARTICLE 14b⁷⁰ Cooperative banks' notification duties and registers

- 1 The acquisition of unlisted participation shares shall be subject to the same duties of notification, providing proof and identification towards the co-operative bank as the acquisition of unlisted bearer shares towards the public limited company (Articles 697i–697k and 697m CO⁷¹).
- 2 The co-operative bank shall enter the owners of participation shares as well as the beneficial owners reported to it in the co-operative bank's register.
- 3 Apart from the rules on the cooperative bank register, the company law provisions concerning the register of bearer shares as well as the beneficial owners reported to the company shall also apply to the register by analogy (Article 697l CO).

⁷⁰ Inserted by Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institutions Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 Jan 2020 (AS **2018** 5247, 2019 4631; BBI **2015** 8901).

⁷¹ SR **220**

Section VII: Savings and Deposits⁷²

ARTICLE 15

1 Deposits referred to as “savings” in any combination of words may be accepted only by banks publishing financial statements. No other companies are authorized to accept savings deposits and may not use the term “savings” with regard to the money deposited with them in either their company name, or in the designation of their business purpose or in their advertising.⁷³

2–3 ...⁷⁴

ARTICLE 16⁷⁵

For the purposes of Article 37d of this Act, the following shall be deemed to be deposits:⁷⁶

- 1 tangible assets and securities belonging to the depositor;
- 2 tangible assets, securities and claims which the bank safekeeps on behalf of the depositor;
- 3 freely available delivery claims of the bank against third parties arising from spot transactions, completed forward transactions, collateral transactions or issues for the account of depositors.

Section VIII: ...

ARTICLE 17⁷⁷

Section IX: Supervision and Audit⁷⁸

ARTICLE 18⁷⁹

1 Banks, financial groups and financial conglomerates must arrange for an audit firm licensed by the Federal Audit Oversight Authority under Article 9a(1) of the Auditor Oversight Act of 16 December 2005⁸⁰ to carry out an audit in accordance with Article 24 of the Financial Market Supervision Act

⁷² Version according to Annex Section 17 of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 January 1997 (AS **1995** 1227; BBl **1991** III 1).

⁷³ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994, in force since 1 February 1995 (AS **1995** 246; BBl **1993** I 805).

⁷⁴ Repealed by Annex Section 17 of the Act of 16 December 1994, with effect from 1 January 1997 (AS **1995** 1227; BBl **1991** III 1).

⁷⁵ Version according to Annex Section 17 of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 January 1997 (AS **1995** 1227; BBl **1991** III 1).

⁷⁶ Version according to Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003, in force since 1 July 2004 (AS **2004** 2767; BBl **2002** 8060).

⁷⁷ Repealed by Annex Section 5 of the Federal Intermediated Securities Act of 3 October 2008, with effect from 1 January 2010 (AS **2009** 3577; BBl **2006** 9315).

⁷⁸ Term according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829). This amendment has been taken into account in the entire enactment.

⁷⁹ Version according to Annex Section 5 of the Act of 20 June 2014 (Bundling of Supervision over Auditing Firms), in force since 1 January 2015 (AS **2014** 4073; BBl **2013** 6857).

⁸⁰ SR **221.302**

of 22 June 2007.⁸¹

- 2 Banks, financial groups and financial conglomerates must have their annual financial statements, and if applicable, the consolidated financial statements, audited in accordance with the principles of an ordinary audit (as per Code of Obligations⁸²) by an audit firm subject to state supervision.

ARTICLES 19–22⁸³

Section X: Supervision⁸⁴

ARTICLE 23⁸⁵

- 1 FINMA may itself carry out audits at banks, banking groups and financial conglomerates if this is necessary in view of the bank's economic significance, the complexity of the factors to be addressed or its approval of internal models.

ARTICLE 23^{bis} 86

- 1 If a bank outsources significant functions to another natural or legal person, these shall be subject to the information and notification requirements as per Article 29 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007⁸⁷.
- 2 FINMA may audit such persons at any time.

ARTICLE 23^{ter} 88

When implementing Articles 3(2)(c^{bis}) and 5 of this Act, FINMA may, in particular, suspend the voting rights connected to shares or stock held by shareholders or partners with qualified equity interests.

ARTICLE 23^{quater} 89

⁸¹ SR **956.1**

⁸² SR **220**

⁸³ Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁸⁴ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁸⁵ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829)

⁸⁶ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971 (AS **1971** 808; BBI **1970** I 1144). Version according to Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483).

⁸⁷ SR **956.1**

⁸⁸ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971 (AS **1971** 808; BBI **1970** I 1144). Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁸⁹ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971 (AS **1971** 808; BBI **1970** I 1144). Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

ARTICLE 23^{quinquies} 90

- 1 Should FINMA revoke a bank's license, for legal persons, general and limited partnerships, this shall cause their dissolution and for sole proprietorships, the deletion from the Commercial Register⁹¹. FINMA shall appoint a liquidator and monitor its activities.
- 2 The above remains subject to the measures defined in Section XI.

ARTICLE 23^{sexies} 92

ARTICLE 23^{septies} 93

ARTICLE 23^{octies} 94

ARTICLE 24⁹⁵

- 1 ...⁹⁶
- 2 In the procedures in accordance with Sections XI and XII of this Act, creditors and owners of a bank, a group parent company or a significant group company may, as per Article 2^{bis}, appeal only against the approval of a restructuring plan or plans to divest operations. Appeals in accordance with Article 17 of the Swiss Federal Act on Debt Collection and Bankruptcy of 11 April 1889⁹⁷ are excluded from these procedures.⁹⁸
- 3 Appeals in procedures in accordance with Sections XI and XII do not have a suspensive effect. The judge presiding over the proceedings may grant a suspensive effect if requested to do so. However, no suspensive effect may be granted for appeals against the approval of a restructuring plan.⁹⁹
- 4 Should a creditor's or owner's appeal against the approval of a restructuring plan be accepted, the court may only award it a compensation.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁰ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971 (AS **1971** 808; BBI **1970** I 1144). Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁹¹ Now: Sole proprietorships.

⁹² Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 1994 (AS **1995** 246; BBI **1993** I 805). Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁹³ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 22 April 1999 (AS **1999** 2405; BBI **1998** 3847). Repealed by Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, with effect from 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483).

⁹⁴ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003 (AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060). Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁹⁵ Version according to Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, in force since 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Article 1; BBI **1970** I 1144).

⁹⁶ Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

⁹⁷ SR **281.1**

⁹⁸ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003 (AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060). Inserted with Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483).

⁹⁹ Inserted with Section I 16 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 December 2006 on the adaptation of enactments to the provisions of the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Administrative Court Act (AS **2006** 5599; BBI **2006** 7759). Version according to Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBI **2011** 4717).

¹⁰⁰ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1

Section XI:¹⁰¹ Measures in Case of impending Insolvency

ARTICLE 25 Prerequisites

- 1 Should there be a justified concern that a bank is over-indebted or has serious liquidity problems or that the bank can no longer fulfill the capital adequacy provisions after the expiry of a deadline set by FINMA, FINMA may order the following:
 - a. protective measures pursuant to Article 26;
 - b. restructuring procedures pursuant to Articles 28–32;
 - c. the bank's liquidation due to bankruptcy¹⁰² (bankruptcy of the bank) pursuant to Articles 33–37g.
- 2 The protective measures may be ordered as stand-alone measures or in conjunction with a restructuring or liquidation.
- 3 The provisions concerning debt remission (Articles 293–336 DCBA¹⁰³ [Swiss Federal Act on Debt Collection and Bankruptcy]), the moratorium under company law (Articles 725 and 725a of the Swiss Code of Obligations¹⁰⁴) and the duty to inform the judge (Article 729b(2)¹⁰⁵ of the Swiss Code of Obligations) do not apply to banks.
- 4 FINMA's orders shall pertain to all of the bank's assets, including assets and liabilities as well as contractual relationships, whether they are in Switzerland or abroad.¹⁰⁶

ARTICLE 26 Protective Measures

- 1 FINMA may order protective measures as follows:¹⁰⁷
 - a. issue instructions to the bank's governing bodies;
 - b.¹⁰⁸ appoint an investigator;

March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBI **2011** 4717).

¹⁰¹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003, in force since 1 July 2004 (AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060).

¹⁰² Terminology as per Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993). This amendment has been taken into account throughout the entire enactment.

¹⁰³ SR **281.1**

¹⁰⁴ SR **220**

¹⁰⁵ Now: Article 728c(3)

¹⁰⁶ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹⁰⁷ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

¹⁰⁸ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

- c. strip governing bodies of their power to legally represent the bank or remove them from office;
 - d. remove the audit firm under the Banking Act or Code of Obligations from office;
 - e. limit the bank's business activities;
 - f. forbid the bank to make or accept payments or undertake securities transactions;
 - g. close down the bank;
 - h. order deferment of payments or payment extension, except for mortgage-secured receivables of central mortgage bond institutions.
- 2 It shall ensure that the measures are made public appropriately if this is necessary for their enforcement or for the protection of third parties.
- 3 Provided FINMA does not order anything else regarding accrued interests, payment deferrals shall have the effects as described in Article 297 DCBA¹⁰⁹.

ARTICLE 27¹¹⁰ Precedence of netting, liquidation or transfer agreements

- 1 Memorandums of understanding concluded in advance pertaining to the following shall remain unaffected by measures foreseen as per Sections XI and XII:
- a. netting of accounts receivable, including the agreed-upon method and the value assessment;
 - b. discretionary utilization of collateral in the form of securities or other financial instruments whose value is objectively ascertainable;
 - c. transfer of accounts receivable and accounts payable as well as of collateral in the form of securities or other financial instruments whose value is objectively ascertainable;
- 2 Article 30a remains applicable.

ARTICLE 28¹¹¹ Restructuring Plans

- 1 If it appears likely that the bank can recover or can continue to provide individual banking services, FINMA may initiate its restructuring.
- 2 It shall issue the necessary provisions and orders for such a restructuring.
- 3 It may entrust a person to prepare a restructuring plan (restructuring agent: Sanierungsbeauftragter).

¹⁰⁹ SR **281.1**

¹¹⁰ Inserted with Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBl **2014** 7483).

¹¹¹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

ARTICLE 29¹¹² Restructuring the Bank

In case of a bank restructuring, the restructuring plan must ensure that the bank fulfills the licensing requirements and complies with all other statutory regulations after it has been restructured.

ARTICLE 30¹¹³ Continuation of banking services

- 1 The restructuring plan may foresee the continuation of selected banking services, regardless of the continued existence of the bank concerned.
- 2 It may, in particular, transfer the bank's assets or parts thereof, including assets and liabilities as well as contractual relationships, to other entities or to a temporary "bridge bank".
- 3 If contractual relationships or the bank's assets or parts thereof are transferred, the transferee shall take the place of the bank, provided the restructuring plan foresees this. The Mergers Act of 3 October 2003¹¹⁴ shall not apply.¹¹⁵

ARTICLE 30a¹¹⁶ Deferral of the Termination of Agreements

- 1 With the ordering or approval of measures as per this section, FINMA may postpone the following:
 - a. the termination of agreements and the exercising of rights aimed at their termination;
 - b. the exercising of netting, liquidation or transfer rights as per Article 27.
- 2 A deferment may only be ordered if the measures justify a termination or the exercising of rights as per (1).
- 3 It may be ordered for a maximum of two working days. FINMA shall specify the beginning and the end of the deferment.
- 4 The deferment shall be excluded or become void if the termination or the exercising of a right as per (1)
 - a. is not linked to the ordered measures; and
 - b. is due to the behavior of the bank in an insolvency proceeding or the legal entity that takes over the agreements in part or in full.
- 5 If, after the deferment has elapsed, the licensing requirements and the remaining statutory

¹¹² Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

¹¹³ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

¹¹⁴ SR **221.301**

¹¹⁵ Version according to Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717)

¹¹⁶ Inserted with Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBl **2014** 7483).

provisions have been complied with, the agreement shall continue to be force and the rights as per (1) in connection with the ordered measures can no longer be exercised.

ARTICLE 31¹¹⁷ Approval of restructuring plan

- 1 FINMA shall approve the restructuring plan if it specifically:
 - a. is based on a prudent valuation of the bank's assets;
 - b. anticipates the creditors' position to be more favorable than they would be in the case of a liquidation of the bank;
 - c. takes into consideration the precedence of the creditors' interests over those of the shareholders and takes into account of the ranking of the creditors;
 - d.¹¹⁸ considers the legal and economic interconnection between assets, liabilities and contractual relationships.
- 2 No approval of the bank's general meeting is necessary.
- 3 As a last resort to preventing the bank's insolvency, the restructuring plan may, while preserving the creditors' rights as per (1), call for a reduction of the existing equity and the creation of new equity, the conversion of borrowed capital into equity as well as the reduction of accounts receivable.¹¹⁹
- 4 FINMA must inform the public of the basics of this restructuring plan.¹²⁰

ARTICLE 31a¹²¹ Rejection of the restructuring plan

- 1 Should the restructuring plan provide for a curtailment of the creditors' rights, FINMA shall set the creditors a deadline within which they can reject the restructuring plan, at the latest with its approval.
- 2 Should creditors representing more than half of the third-class claims on the books pursuant to Article 219(4) DCBA¹²² [Swiss Federal Act on Debt Collection and Bankruptcy] reject the restructuring plan, FINMA shall order the bank's liquidation in accordance with Articles 33–37g.
- 3 This article does not apply to the restructuring of a systemically important bank.¹²³

¹¹⁷ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹¹⁸ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBI **2011** 4717).

¹¹⁹ Version according to Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, in force since 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483)

¹²⁰ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBI **2011** 4717).

¹²¹ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 Sep 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹²² SR **281.1**

¹²³ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since

ARTICLE 31b¹²⁴ Rebalancing

- 1 If assets, liabilities and contractual relationships are only partially transferred to another entity or to a bridge bank, FINMA shall order an independent valuation of these.
- 2 FINMA shall regulate how to handle the re-balancing among the entities affected and accordingly complement the restructuring plan with an addendum.

ARTICLE 32 Assertion of claims

- 1 Once FINMA has approved a restructuring plan, the bank shall be entitled to contest legal transactions in accordance with Articles 285–292 DCBA¹²⁵.
- 2 Should the restructuring plan exclude the bank's contesting of legal transactions as per (1), each creditor is entitled to do so up to the extent that the restructuring plan curtails his/her rights.
- 2^{bis} Legal acts in execution of the FINMA-approved restructuring plan cannot be contested in accordance with Articles 285–292 DCBA.¹²⁶
- 3 The date on which the restructuring plan is approved shall be relevant for determining the deadlines foreseen under Articles 286–288 DCBA. If FINMA has ordered protective measures as set out in Article 26(1)(e)-(h) beforehand, then the date of that enactment shall be relevant.
- 3^{bis} The right to contest shall expire two years after the restructuring plan has been approved.¹²⁷
- 4 Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall also apply mutatis mutandis to the assertion of liability claims under Article 39.

1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717)

¹²⁴ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717)

¹²⁵ SR **281.1**

¹²⁶ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717).

¹²⁷ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 Sep 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993)

Section XII:¹²⁸ Liquidation of Insolvent Banks (Bank Bankruptcy)

ARTICLE 33 Order of Insolvency Proceedings and Appointment of Liquidators¹²⁹

- 1 Should there be no prospect of restructuring or if a restructuring were to fail, FINMA shall revoke the bank's license, order its liquidation due to bankruptcy and make this public.
- 2 FINMA shall appoint one or several liquidators. These shall be under FINMA supervision and provide FINMA with a report if requested.
- 3 The liquidators shall inform the creditors at least annually as to the status of the liquidation.

ARTICLE 34 Consequences and Procedure

- 1 Ordering a bank's liquidation shall have the effect of opening bankruptcy proceedings in accordance with Articles 197–220 DCBA¹³⁰.
- 2 The liquidation shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 221–270 DCBA, subject to the provisions following below.
- 3 FINMA may issue orders and injunctions differing from those of the DCBA.

ARTICLE 35¹³¹ Creditors' Meetings and Creditor's Committee

- 1 The official liquidator may request that FINMA:
 - a. constitute a creditors' meeting and determine its powers as well as the necessary attendance and voting quorums necessary to pass resolutions;
 - b. designate a creditors' committee and determine its composition and powers.
- 2 FINMA shall not be bound to the liquidator's requests.

ARTICLE 36 Handling of Claims; Claims Schedule

- 1 When preparing the claims schedule, any claims on the books are deemed to be lodged automatically.
- 2 Creditors can consult the claims schedule to the extent that it is necessary for the protection of

¹²⁸ Originally before Article 29. Version according to Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003, in force since 1 July 2004 (AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060).

¹²⁹ Terminology as per Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993). This amendment has been taken into account throughout the entire enactment.

¹³⁰ SR **281.1**

¹³¹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

their creditor rights; in doing so, professional secrecy pursuant to Article 47 shall be maintained to the extent possible.

ARTICLE 37 Obligations entered into during Protective Measures

In case of a liquidation, the bank shall satisfy any obligations it was permitted to enter into during the protective measures pursuant to Article 26(1)(e)-(h) before all others.

ARTICLE 37a¹³² Privileged Deposits

- 1 Deposits in the name of the depositor, including medium-term bonds that are deposited with the bank in the name of the depositor, shall be assigned to the second class of creditors for up to CHF 100,000 for each creditor, pursuant to Article 219(4) DCBA¹³³.
- 2 The Swiss Federal Council may adjust the maximum amount referred to in (1) for inflation.
- 3 Deposits with enterprises acting as banks without a FINMA license are not privileged.
- 4 Should a claim belong to several persons, the privileged status may be asserted only once.
- 5 Receivables of bank foundations acting as pension schemes pursuant to Article 82 of the Swiss Federal Act on Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance of 25 June 1982¹³⁴ and vested benefits institutions subject to the Vested Benefits Act of 17 December 1993¹³⁵ shall be considered deposits of the individual pension holders and policy holders. Regardless of other deposits belonging to these pension and policy holders, they are insured for a maximum of up to what was stated in (1).
- 6 Banks must hold domestic receivables or other assets located in Switzerland in the amount of 125 percent of their privileged deposits. FINMA may increase this amount and in justified cases allow for exceptions, in particular for those institutions that maintain equivalent coverage due to the structure of their business activities.

ARTICLE 37b¹³⁶ Immediate Payments

- 1 Privileged deposits as defined in Article 37a(1) shall be paid out immediately from a bank's available liquid assets outside of the claims schedule and excluding any netting.
- 2 In individual cases, FINMA shall determine the maximum amount of deposits that can be paid out immediately. It thereby shall take into account the ranking of the remaining creditors pursuant to Article 219 DCBA¹³⁷.

¹³² Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

¹³³ SR **281.1**

¹³⁴ SR **831.40**

¹³⁵ SR **831.42**

¹³⁶ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

¹³⁷ SR **281.1**

ARTICLE 37c¹³⁸

ARTICLE 37d¹³⁹ Segregation of Deposited Assets

Deposited assets pursuant to Article 16 shall be segregated in accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of the Federal Intermediated Securities Act (FISA) dated 3 October 2008¹⁴⁰. In case of a shortfall, Article 19 FISA (of 3 October 2008) shall apply.

ARTICLE 37e Distribution and Wind-down Procedures

- 1 The distribution table shall not be made public.
- 2 Following distribution, the liquidators must submit a final report to FINMA.
- 3 FINMA shall issue the necessary orders for the wind-down procedures. It shall announce the wind-down publicly.

ARTICLE 37f Coordination with Foreign Procedures

- 1 Should the bank also be subject to foreclosure procedures abroad, FINMA shall coordinate the bank's bankruptcy proceedings with the competent foreign authorities to the furthest extent possible.
- 2 Should a creditor have been partially paid in a procedure abroad related to the bank's bankruptcy, then the creditor's bankruptcy dividend from the Swiss procedure (after deduction of costs incurred by the creditor) shall be lessened by the amount already received abroad.

ARTICLE 37g¹⁴¹ Recognition of Foreign Bankruptcy Orders and Measures

- 1 It shall be in FINMA's discretion to recognize bankruptcy injunctions or insolvency measures pronounced abroad against banks.
- 2 FINMA may put assets located in Switzerland at the disposal of a foreign bankruptcy estate without any previous domestic legal procedure, if the foreign insolvency proceedings:
 - a. treat the claims collateralized and privileged in accordance with Article 219 DCBA of creditors domiciled in Switzerland equally; and¹⁴²
 - b. adequately take into account the other claims of creditors domiciled in Switzerland.

¹³⁸ Repealed with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in effect from 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹³⁹ Version according to Annex Section 5 of the Swiss Federal Intermediated Securities Act of 3 October 2008, in force since 1 January 2010 (AS **2009** 3577; BBI **2006** 9315).

¹⁴⁰ SR **957.1**

¹⁴¹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹⁴² SR **281.1**

- 3 It shall be in FINMA's discretion to recognize bankruptcy injunctions or measures pronounced against banks in the country where they have their actual headquarters.
- 4 Should legal procedures take place domestically for the assets located in Switzerland, third-class creditors as defined in Article 219(4) DBCA and creditors domiciled abroad may also be included in the claims schedule.
- 4^{bis} Should the bank have branch offices in Switzerland, a procedure in accordance with Article 50(1) DCBA shall be permitted until the claims schedule in accordance with Article 172 Swiss Federal Act on International Private Law (IPLA)¹⁴³ of 18 December 1987 has become legally valid.¹⁴⁴
- 5 Moreover, Articles 166–175 IPLA shall apply.¹⁴⁵

Section XIII:¹⁴⁶ Depositor protection scheme

ARTICLE 37h Principle

- 1 Banks must ensure that privileged deposits with Swiss branches are secured pursuant to Article 37a(1). For this purpose, banks holding such deposits shall be required to join a self-regulatory organization for banks.¹⁴⁷
- 2 The self-regulation organizations shall be subject to FINMA approval.
- 3 The self-regulation shall be approved if it:
 - a.¹⁴⁸ ensures the repayment of secured deposits within 20 working days of the introduction of measures pursuant to Article 26(1)(e)-(h) or of the liquidation procedures pursuant to Articles 33–37g;
 - b.¹⁴⁹ foresees a maximum amount of CHF 6 billion for the total of outstanding contributions due;
 - c. ensures that each bank disposes of liquid funds for half of its contributions due in addition to its statutory liquidity at all times.
- 4 The Swiss Federal Council may adapt the amount foreseen under (3)(b) provided special circum-

¹⁴³ SR 291

¹⁴⁴ Inserted with Annex Section 2 of the Act of 16 March 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS 2018 3263; BBI 2017 4125).

¹⁴⁵ Version according to Annex Section 2 of the Act of 16 March 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS 2018 3263; BBI 2017 4125).

¹⁴⁶ Originally before Article 36. Version according to Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003, in force since 1 July 2004 (AS 2004 2767; BBI 2002 8060).

¹⁴⁷ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS 2011 3919; BBI 2010 3993).

¹⁴⁸ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS 2011 3919; BBI 2010 3993).

¹⁴⁹ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS 2011 3919; BBI 2010 3993).

stances warrant it.

- 5 Should the self-regulation not satisfy the requirements of (1)-(3), the Swiss Federal Council shall regulate the deposit protection in an ordinance. In particular, it shall designate the entities which protect deposits and define the banks' contributions to these.

ARTICLE 37i¹⁵⁰ Trigger of the Deposit Protection

- 1 If FINMA has ordered protective measures as per Article 26(1)(e)-(h) or bankruptcy as per Article 33, it shall inform the provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme of this and the needed amount of contributions to pay out the protected deposits.
- 2 The provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme shall make available the corresponding amount within 20 working days after being informed by the investigator, recovery agent or liquidator appointed by FINMA.
- 3 In case protective measures are in place, FINMA may defer notification as long as:
 - a. there is a reasonable prospect that the protective measure will be lifted within a short period of time; or
 - b. the protected deposits are not affected by the protective measure.
- 4 The time limit referred to in (2) shall be interrupted if and as long as the order of the protective measures or bankruptcy is not enforceable.

ARTICLE 37j¹⁵¹ Settlement and Legal Cession

- 1 The investigator, restructuring agent or liquidator appointed by FINMA shall pay out the secured deposits to the depositors.
- 2 The secured deposits shall be paid out under exclusion of any netting.
- 3 The depositors shall not be entitled to any direct compensation from the provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme.
- 4 Depositors' rights shall be transferred to the provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme in the amount of disbursements made.

¹⁵⁰ Version according to Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

¹⁵¹ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 Sep 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBl **2010** 3993).

ARTICLE 37k¹⁵² Data Exchange

- 1 FINMA shall provide the provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme with the information necessary to fulfill its duties.
- 2 The provider of the Deposit Protection Scheme shall make available to FINMA and the investigator, restructuring agent or liquidator appointed by FINMA any information and all documents they require to enforce the protection of the deposits.

Section XIIIa: ¹⁵³ Dormant assets

ARTICLE 37I Transfer of assets¹⁵⁴

- 1 A bank may transfer dormant assets to another bank without the creditors' consent.
- 2 Such a transfer requires a written agreement between the transferring bank and the receiving bank.
- 3 In case of a bank's bankruptcy, the liquidators shall act on behalf and in the interest of the creditors of dormant assets towards third parties.
- 4 The Swiss Federal Council shall determine when assets are considered to be dormant.

ARTICLE 37m¹⁵⁵ Liquidation

- 1 Banks shall liquidate dormant assets after 50 years, provided the rightful owner has not answered to any prior publication of such account. Dormant assets amounting to CHF 500 or less may be liquidated without prior publication.
- 2 Any beneficiary claims shall expire with the completion of the liquidation.
- 3 The proceeds of such a liquidation shall be credited to the Swiss Confederation.
- 4 The Swiss Federal Council shall regulate the publication and liquidation of dormant assets.

¹⁵² Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 September 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹⁵³ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 18 March 2011 (Protection of bank deposits), in force since 1 Sep 2011 (AS **2011** 3919; BBI **2010** 3993).

¹⁵⁴ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 22 March 2013 (Dormant Assets), in force since 1 January 2015 (AS **2014** 1267; BBI 2010 7495).

¹⁵⁵ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 22 March 2013 (Dormant Assets), in force since 1 January 2015 (AS **2014** 1267; BBI 2010 7495).

Section XIV: Liability and Penal Provisions

ARTICLE 38¹⁵⁶

- 1 Private bankers shall be subject to the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations¹⁵⁷ in regard to responsibilities under civil law.
- 2 Article 39 shall apply to all other banks.

ARTICLE 39¹⁵⁸

The responsibility of the founders of a bank, of the bodies responsible for a bank's management, its direction, supervision and control as well as the liquidators and audit firms appointed by the bank shall be subject to the provisions of company law (Articles 752–760 of the Swiss Code of Obligations¹⁵⁹).

ARTICLES 40–45¹⁶⁰

ARTICLE 46¹⁶¹

- 1 Whoever intentionally does the following shall be imprisoned up to three years or fined accordingly:
 - a. unlawfully accepts public or savings deposits;
 - b. fails to maintain the accounting in an orderly manner or does not archive company books of account, records and documents as prescribed;
 - c. does not establish and make public the annual or interim financial statements in accordance with Article 6.
- 2 Whoever acts in negligence shall be penalized with a fine of up to CHF 250,000.
- 3 ...¹⁶²

¹⁵⁶ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

¹⁵⁷ SR **220**

¹⁵⁸ Version according to Annex Section 5 of the Act of 20 June 2014 (Bundling of Supervision over Auditing Firms), in force since 1 January 2015 (AS **2014** 4073; BBI **2013** 6857).

¹⁵⁹ SR **220**

¹⁶⁰ Repealed by Section I of the Act of 3 October 2003, with effect from 1 July 2004 (AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060).

¹⁶¹ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

¹⁶² Repealed by Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, with effect from 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483).

ARTICLE 47¹⁶³

- 1 Whoever intentionally does the following shall be imprisoned up to three years or fined accordingly:
 - a.¹⁶⁴ disclose confidential information entrusted to them in their capacity as a member of an executive or supervisory body, employee, representative, or liquidator of a bank or a person in accordance with Article 1b, as member of a body or employee of an audit firm or that they have observed in this capacity;
 - b. attempt to induce an infraction of the professional secrecy;
 - c.¹⁶⁵ disclose confidential information to third parties or use this information for own benefits or the benefit of others.
- 1^{bis} Whoever enriches themselves or others with an action in accordance with (1)(a) or (c) shall be punished with imprisonment for up to five years or fined accordingly.¹⁶⁶
- 2 Whoever acts in negligence shall be penalized with a fine of up to CHF 250,000.
- 3 ...¹⁶⁷
- 4 The violation of the professional confidentiality shall remain punishable even after a bank license has been revoked or a person has ceased his/her official responsibilities.
- 5 The federal and cantonal provisions on the duty to provide evidence or on the duty to provide information to an authority shall be exempted from this provision.
- 6 Prosecution and judgment of offenses pursuant to these provisions shall be incumbent upon the cantons. The general provisions of the Swiss Penal Code¹⁶⁸ shall be applicable.

ARTICLE 48¹⁶⁹

¹⁶³ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

¹⁶⁴ Version according to Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institutions Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS **2018** 5247; BBI **2015** 8901).

¹⁶⁵ Inserted with Section I 2 of the Act of 12 December 2014 on the Expansion of the Prosecution of the Violation of the Professional Confidentiality, in force since 1 July 2015 (AS **2015** 1535; BBI **2014** 6231 6241).

¹⁶⁶ Inserted with Section I 2 of the Act of 12 December 2014 on the Expansion of the Prosecution of the Violation of the Professional Confidentiality, in force since 1 July 2015 (AS **2015** 1535; BBI **2014** 6231 6241).

¹⁶⁷ Repealed by Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, with effect from 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBI **2014** 7483).

¹⁶⁸ SR **311.0**

¹⁶⁹ Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBI **2006** 2829).

ARTICLE 49¹⁷⁰

- 1 Whoever intentionally does the following shall be fined up to CHF 500,000:
 - a. unlawfully using the term “bank”, “banker” or “savings” in their company name, the description of their business purpose or in their business advertising;
 - b. not forwarding to FINMA the mandatory reports;
 - c. publicly advertising their acceptance of savings and public deposits without possessing the legally required license to do so.
- 2 Whoever acts in negligence shall be fined up to CHF 150,000.
- 3 ...¹⁷¹

ARTICLE 50¹⁷²

ARTICLE 50^{bis} ¹⁷³

ARTICLE 51¹⁷⁴

ARTICLE 51^{bis} ¹⁷⁵

Section XV: Transitional and Final Provisions

ARTICLE 52¹⁷⁶

The Swiss Federal Council must review the provisions in regard to their comparability with the corresponding international standards and their degree of implementation abroad no later than 3 years after the entry into force of Sections V and VI of the amendment dated 30 September 2011, and after this, at an interval of 2 years. Each time, it shall report its findings to the Swiss Federal Assembly and highlight the possible need for amending laws and ordinances.

¹⁷⁰ Version according to Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, in force since 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

¹⁷¹ Repealed by Annex Section 10 of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Act of 19 June 2015, with effect from 1 January 2016 (AS **2015** 5339; BBl **2014** 7483).

¹⁷² Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

¹⁷³ Inserted with Section 22 of the Annex to the Act on Administrative Criminal Law (AS **1974** 1857; BBl **1971** I 993). Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

¹⁷⁴ Repealed by Annex Section 15 of the Financial Markets Supervision Act of 22 June 2007, with effect from 1 January 2009 (AS **2008** 5207 5205; BBl **2006** 2829).

¹⁷⁵ Inserted with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971 (AS **1971** 808; BBl **1970** I 1144).

¹⁷⁶ Version according to Section I of the Act of 30 September 2011 (Strengthening the stability in the financial sector), in force since 1 March 2012 (AS **2012** 811; BBl **2011** 4717).

ARTICLE 52a¹⁷⁷

The Swiss Federal Council shall review the amendments of 15 June 2018 no later than 3 years after their entry into force to determine whether they meet financial market supervisory goals in accordance with FINMASA¹⁷⁸. It shall report its findings to the Swiss Federal Assembly and highlight the possible need for amending laws and ordinances.

ARTICLE 53

- 1 The entry into force of this law shall repeal the following provisions:
 - a.¹⁷⁹the cantonal provisions on banks; with the exception of the provisions on cantonal banks, the provisions concerning professional trading in securities as well as the provisions on the monitoring of compliance with cantonal laws against abusive interest rates;
 - b. Article 57 of the Final Title of the Civil Code. Code.¹⁸⁰
- 2 The cantonal provisions for a statutory lien in favor of savings deposits shall become void if they are not replaced by new regulations in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 within three years of the coming into force of the present Act.

ARTICLE 54¹⁸¹

ARTICLE 55¹⁸²

ARTICLE 56

The Swiss Federal Council shall define the entry into force of this Act and legislate the necessary provisions for its enforcement.

Date of entry into force: 1 March 1935¹⁸³

¹⁷⁷ Inserted with Annex Section II 14 of the Financial Institution Act of 15 June 2018, in force since 1 January 2019 (AS **2018** 5247; BBl **2015** 8901).

¹⁷⁸ SR **956.1**

¹⁷⁹ Version according to Annex Section 17 of the Act of 16 December 1994, in force since 1 January 1997 (AS **1995** 1227; BBl **1991** III 1).

¹⁸⁰ SR **210**

¹⁸¹ Repealed by Annex Section 17 of the Act of 16 December 1994, with effect from 1 January 1997 (AS **1995** 1227; BBl **1991** III 1).

¹⁸² Repealed with Section I of the Act of 11 March 1971, with effect from 1 July 1971 (AS **1971** 808 824 Art. 1 BBl **1970** I 1144).

¹⁸³ Swiss Federal Council Decision of 26 February 1935

Final Provisions to the Amendments of 11 March 1971¹⁸⁴

- 1 Banks and financial companies founded prior to the effective date of the Act¹⁸⁵ are not required to obtain a new license in order to remain operative.
- 2 Financial companies that are now subject to the Act must register with the Swiss Federal Banking Commission within three months of its effective date¹⁸⁶.
- 3 Banks and financial companies must adapt to comply with the provisions of Article 3(2)(a), (c) and (d) as well as of Article 3^{bis}(1)(c)¹⁸⁷ within two years of the effective date of the Act¹⁸⁸. Their license may be revoked if their adaptation does not occur on a timely basis.
- 4 In order to allow taking into consideration the particular circumstances of financial companies and credit offices that have a waiting period, the Swiss Federal Council shall be permitted to issue special provisions.

Final Provisions to the Amendments of 18 March 1994¹⁸⁹

- 1 Natural persons and legal entities holding deposits from the public at the time the amendment to this Act of 18 March 1994 takes effect, that fall into the scope of the prohibition set out in Article 1(2), have to repay these within two years of the effective date of entry into force of this amendment. The Swiss Federal Banking Commission may extend or shorten this deadline on a case-by-case basis, whenever particular conditions exist.
- 2 Bank-like financial companies which prior to the entry into force of this amendment had been authorized by the Swiss Federal Banking Commission to publicly solicit the acceptance of third-party funds prior to the implementation of the Act, do not need to obtain a new license to operate as a bank. They must adopt Articles 4^{bis} and 4^{ter} within one year from the date this amendment to the Act has entered into force.
- 3 Banks must adopt the provisions of Articles 3(2)(c^{bis}) and (d) as well as 4(2^{bis}) within one year of the entry into force of this amendment.
- 4 The cantons must ensure compliance with the provisions of Articles 3a¹⁹⁰(1) and 18(1) within three years of the entry into force of this amendment. Should responsibility for supervision as per Article 3a(2) be transferred to the Swiss Federal Banking Commission prior to expiry of this deadline, the provisions of Article 18(1) must be complied with already at the time of the transfer.

¹⁸⁴ AS 1971 808; BBl 1970 I 1144

¹⁸⁵ The Act entered into force on 1 July 1971 (Article 1 of the Swiss Federal Council Decision of 24 June 1971 – AS 1971 824 Article 1).

¹⁸⁶ The Act entered into force on 1 July 1971 (Article 1 of the Swiss Federal Council Decision of 24 June 1971 – AS 1971 824 Article 1).

¹⁸⁷ This provision has been repealed.

¹⁸⁸ The Act entered into force on 1 July 1971 (Article 1 of the Swiss Federal Council Decision of 24 June 1971 – AS 1971 824 Article 1).

¹⁸⁹ AS 1995 246; BBl 1993 I 805

¹⁹⁰ This provision has been reworded.

- 5 All natural persons and legal entities who at the date on which this amendment to the Act take effect, hold qualified equity interests in a bank according to Article 3(2)(c^{bis}), must notify the Swiss Federal Banking Commission to this effect at the latest one year after the entry into force of this amendment.
- 6 Banks must inform the Swiss Federal Banking Commission as per Article 3(6) for the first time one year after the date when this amendment to the Act enters into force.
- 7 Banks organized according to Swiss law must inform the Swiss Federal Banking Commission of all subsidiaries, branch offices, agencies and representations abroad within three months following the date when these amendments to the Act take effect.

Final Provisions to the Amendment of 22 April 1999¹⁹¹

- 1 In the case of cantonal banks which are subject in full to the supervision of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission at the time this Act takes effect, the license foreseen under Article 3 is deemed to have been granted.
- 2 For the cantonal bank of the Canton of Zug, the requirement of the Canton to hold more than one third of the voting rights in accordance with Article 3a does not apply, provided that the cantonal guarantee and the exercise of the voting right by the Canton of Zug is not modified and that it remains ensured that important resolutions cannot be adopted without the consent of the Canton of Zug.
- 3 In the case of the Cantonal Bank of the Canton of Geneva, the equity interests held by the municipalities shall be deemed to be equivalent to the shares held by the Canton as foreseen under Article 3a, provided the canton does not reduce its current equity holdings.

Final Provisions to the Amendment of 3 October 2003¹⁹²

- 1 The self-regulation shall be submitted to the Swiss Federal Banking Commission for approval within one year of the entry into force of this amendment.
- 2 Should the Swiss Federal Banking Commission issue an injunction regarding the liquidation of a bank prior to the entry into force of this amendment, the previous law will apply for the liquidation as well as for a banking moratorium or a deferment of payments related to the bankruptcy.

¹⁹¹ AS **1999** 2405; BBI **1998** 3847

¹⁹² AS **2004** 2767; BBI **2002** 8060

Final Provisions to the Amendment of 17 December 2004¹⁹³

- 1 Persons who de facto manage a financial group or financial conglomerate from Switzerland without managing a bank in Switzerland, must register with the Swiss Federal Banking Commission within three months of the effective date of these amendments.
- 2 Existing financial groups and financial conglomerates must adopt the new provision within two years of the effective date of these amendments.
- 3 The Swiss Federal Banking Commission may extend these deadlines upon timely and justified petition.

Transitional provision in regard to the amendment of 30 September 2011¹⁹⁴

The first-time adoption of the provisions as per Article 10(4) shall be submitted to the Swiss Federal Assembly for approval.

Transitional provision in regard to the amendment of 22 March 2013¹⁹⁵

For assets deemed to be dormant assets for more than 50 years as at 22 March 2013, the duration of publication shall be 5 years.

¹⁹³ AS **2005** 5269; BBI **2003** 3789

¹⁹⁴ AS **2012** 811; BBI **2011** 4717

¹⁹⁵ AS **2014** 1267; BBI **2010** 7495

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