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AML registration is not a full license

From CryptoLicenseWiki, the free encyclopedia of crypto licenses · Last updated 28 November 2026

In short: In several countries a crypto business only has to register with the anti-money-laundering supervisor. Registration shows the supervisor has checked the firm's AML controls and its people; it does not usually mean capital, client asset or conduct rules apply.

Where registration is the main requirement

Jurisdiction	Requirement
Australia	Registration with AUSTRAC as a digital currency exchange (DCE) provider; an Australian financial services licence where the crypto-asset is a financial product
Bahamas	Registration under the Digital Assets and Registered Exchanges (DARE) Act
British Virgin Islands	Registration as a virtual asset service provider (VASP)
Canada	Registration with FINTRAC as a money services business dealing in virtual currency; registration with provincial securities regulators for crypto trading platforms
Cayman Islands	Registration or licence as a virtual asset service provider (VASP)
El Salvador	Registration with the CNAD as a digital asset service provider (DASP); bitcoin service providers register with the BCR
Japan	Registration as a crypto-asset exchange service provider
United Kingdom	Registration with the FCA as a cryptoasset exchange provider or custodian wallet provider under the Money Laundering Regulations
United States	Federal registration with FinCEN as a money services business (MSB), plus a money transmitter licence in most states (in New York, a BitLicense or trust charter)

Rules as of November 2026. “Not confirmed” means we have not yet verified the rule from an official source; it does not mean there is none. Each jurisdiction's sources are listed in its guide.

Source: https://cryptolicensewiki.com/aml-registration/
Version: last updated 28 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

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