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Crypto license in El Salvador

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Crypto license in El Salvador



Flag

Regulator	National Commission of Digital Assets (CNAD) and Central Reserve Bank (BCR) [1]
License	Registration with the CNAD as a digital asset service provider (DASP); bitcoin service providers register with the BCR [1]
Legal basis	Digital Assets Issuance Law 2023 [1]
Minimum capital	Not confirmed
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Not confirmed
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	See the CNAD register [1]

Public register	CNAD register of digital asset service providers

In short: Registration with the CNAD as a digital asset service provider (DASP); bitcoin service providers register with the BCR from the National Commission of Digital Assets (CNAD) and Central Reserve Bank (BCR). [1] Minimum capital: Not confirmed. Travel Rule: not confirmed. Compensation if the firm fails: none. As of November 2026.

El Salvador regulates digital asset issuers and service providers under its **Digital Assets Issuance Law** of 2023, through the **National Commission of Digital Assets (CNAD)**. Bitcoin service providers are registered with the Central Reserve Bank.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in El Salvador: Registration with the CNAD as a digital asset service provider (DASP); bitcoin service providers register with the BCR. [1] Legal basis: Digital Assets Issuance Law 2023. [1]

- **DASP registration (CNAD)** – for digital asset service providers
- **Bitcoin service provider registration (BCR)** – for bitcoin exchange and payment services

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in El Salvador (2026): Not confirmed.

Application fee: Not confirmed.

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, security and technology usually cost more than the capital itself.

Application process

Decision time: Not confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Apply to the CNAD (or the BCR for bitcoin services) with business plan, ownership and AML/CFT documents.

2. Meet any conditions before starting operations.

Substance and governance

Not confirmed.

Client protection

What the rules in El Salvador require, as of November 2026. See Client protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in El Salvador
Travel Rule	Not confirmed.
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed.
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	None.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

Registered providers are listed by the CNAD. [1]

> The public register is the only current source of who holds a license.

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: CNAD register of digital asset service providers .

3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out an impostor site.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: crypto brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Who regulates crypto in El Salvador?

The CNAD for digital asset service providers and issuers, and the Central Reserve Bank for bitcoin service providers.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the CNAD / BCR or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Crypto licenses compared
- Crypto license in the United States
- Crypto license in Canada
- Crypto license in the Cayman Islands
- Crypto license in Bermuda
- How to verify a crypto business's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body.

1. Official Comisión Nacional de Activos Digitales . CNAD. Accessed November 2026.

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