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Crypto license in South Africa

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Crypto license in South Africa



Flag

Regulator	Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) [1]
License	Financial services provider (FSP) licence covering crypto assets [1]
Legal basis	Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, after crypto assets were declared a financial product in 2022; Financial Intelligence Centre Act [1] [2]
Minimum capital	Not confirmed
Application fee	Not confirmed
Decision time	Not confirmed
Travel Rule	Required [2]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	See the FSCA register [1]

Public register	FSCA register of financial services providers

In short: Financial services provider (FSP) licence covering crypto assets from the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). [1] Minimum capital: Not confirmed. Travel Rule: required. [2] Compensation if the firm fails: none. As of November 2026.

In **South Africa**, crypto assets were declared a financial product in 2022, so crypto asset service providers that give advice or intermediary services need a **financial services provider (FSP) licence** from the **Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA)**. They are also accountable institutions under anti-money-laundering law.

License types

The license used by crypto businesses in South Africa: Financial services provider (FSP) licence covering crypto assets. [1] Legal basis: Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, after crypto assets were declared a financial product in 2022; Financial Intelligence Centre Act. [1] [2]

- **FSP licence (crypto assets)** – for advice and intermediary services relating to crypto assets

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in South Africa (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 FSCA for an FSP licence with the crypto asset product category.

2. Register with the Financial Intelligence Centre as an accountable institution.
3. Meet the fit and proper requirements and any licence conditions.

Substance and governance

A South African FSP with key individuals and representatives who meet the FSCA's fit and proper requirements. [1]

Client protection

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

Protection	Rule in South Africa
Travel Rule	Required under the Financial Intelligence Centre's Directive 9. [2]
Client asset segregation	Not confirmed.
Custody	Not confirmed.
Compensation if the firm fails	None.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

Licensed FSPs can be searched on the FSCA register. [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: FSCA register of financial services 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

Do South African crypto exchanges need a license?

Yes, an FSP licence from the FSCA where they provide financial services relating to crypto assets.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the FSCA 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 Seychelles
- 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 Financial Sector Conduct Authority . FSCA. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Financial Intelligence Centre . FIC. Accessed November 2026.

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