



FATF Recommendation 31 : Competent authorities, their powers and resources

Text of the Recommendation and Interpretative Note

See also: [The full text of the 40 Recommendations, glossary and interpretative notes](#) 

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Recommendation 31

C. INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY IN SYSTEMS FOR COMBATING MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING

Competent authorities, their powers and resources

Countries should ensure that policy makers, the FIU, law enforcement and supervisors have effective mechanisms in place which enable them to co-operate, and where appropriate coordinate domestically with each other concerning the development and implementation of policies and activities to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Interpretative Notes

General

1. Reference in this document to “countries” should be taken to apply equally to “territories” or “jurisdictions”.
2. Recommendations 5-16 and 21-22 state that financial institutions or designated non-financial businesses and professions should take certain actions. These references require countries to take measures that will oblige financial institutions or designated non-financial businesses and professions to comply with each Recommendation. The basic obligations under Recommendations 5, 10 and 13 should be set out in law or regulation, while more detailed elements in those Recommendations, as well as obligations under other Recommendations, could be required either by law or regulation or by other enforceable means issued by a competent authority.
3. Where reference is made to a financial institution being satisfied as to a matter, that institution must be able to justify its assessment to competent authorities.
4. To comply with Recommendations 12 and 16, countries do not need to issue laws or regulations that relate exclusively to lawyers, notaries, accountants and the other designated non-financial

businesses and professions so long as these businesses or professions are included in laws or regulations covering the underlying activities.

5. The Interpretative Notes that apply to financial institutions are also relevant to designated non-financial businesses and professions, where applicable.

Also available:

- [Recommandation 31 du GAFI: Les autorités compétentes, leurs attributions et leurs ressources \(French\)](#)

Related documents:

- [40 Recommendations - English 20 June 2003 \(incorporating the amendments of 22 October 2004\) \(English\)](#)
- [The 40 Recommendations \(English\)](#)

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