



Frequently Asked Questions

Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services

1. What is meant by Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services?

This type of service refers to the provision of digital and personalised advisory services through a computer program and/or artificial intelligence enabled algorithms with limited human intervention.

These advisory services are exclusively of financial nature and are related to discretionary and non-discretionary investment and portfolio management services for the clients.

2. What are the underlying benefits of Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services for licensees/stakeholders?

Robotic and artificial intelligence are new and emergent technologies which can seamlessly facilitate automated portfolio planning and asset allocation, online risk assessments, amongst others, for the benefits of licensees/stakeholders of the Financial Services Commission, Mauritius (the "FSC"). Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services can potentially be beneficial as they provide for:

- a. a suite of innovative and automated capabilities compared to traditional investment advisory alternatives;
- b. low-cost advisory services and solutions;
- c. easier on-boarding process;
- d. no limitations on the number of clients to which the advisory services can be offered;
- e. 24/7 availability of access by clients to advisory services;
- f. opportunities of tapping into underserved market segments with convenient and affordable services; and
- g. the ability to spot fraudulent or illegal activities, many of which may be close to impossible for humans to identify.

3. What is the relevant legislation for Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services activities in Mauritius?

The [Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services Rules 2021](#) was issued by the FSC on 12 June 2021 to regulate the conduct of this business activity.

These Rules must be read in conjunction with the relevant Acts, FSC Rules and Guidelines which the FSC may issue from time to time.

4. Who shall be eligible to apply for a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence?

Any company incorporated under the Companies Act 2001 can submit an application to the FSC (in the prescribed format) to provide this business activity.

Applications have to be made in accordance with Part IV of the Financial Services Act 2007 ("FSA").

5. Can a holder of a Global Business Licence ("GBL") apply for a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services Licence?

Yes, a holder of a GBL can apply for a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services Licence.

6. What are the requirements for submission of an application for the Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence?

Applicants will have to:

- a. submit a duly filled [application form](#);
- b. submit all information and documents (as stipulated in the [licensing criteria](#)); and
- c. pay the applicable [fees](#) (Processing Fees - Rs. 20,000 (USD 500); Annual Fees - Rs. 76,000 (USD 1,900))

7. Is it necessary for the holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence to apply for a separate Investment Adviser licence under the Securities Act?

No, the FSC has issued the Securities (Investment Advice) Rules 2021 which exempt the holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence from the need to hold an Investment Adviser licence in order to advise or manage a portfolio of securities for clients.

8. Can the holder of an Investment Adviser licence or any other licence holder be engaged in the provision of Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services?

Yes, such requests may be considered on a case to case basis. In these cases, the FSC will consider the specificities of the requests, as well as, the nature, riskiness and complexity of the business activities of the existing licence holder. The existing licence holder will have to apply for an additional licence to carry out Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services.

9. What are the minimum capital requirements for the holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence?

The holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence shall, at all times, maintain a minimum unimpaired stated capital of MUR 600,000 or its equivalent in a foreign currency.

10. What are the key and ongoing obligations for the holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence?

The holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence shall inter alia:

- a. have its principal bank account in Mauritius;
- b. implement adequate internal controls, risk management (including cyber risk management) as well as governance policies and procedures;
- c. preserve the integrity and privacy of its clients' information in conformity with the applicable Data Protection Laws of Mauritius;
- d. be managed by a Board of directors consisting of a minimum of three directors, one of whom shall be an independent director and a resident of Mauritius; and
- e. employ an adequate number of officers with appropriate competence, experience and proficiency, and commensurate with the size, nature and complexity of its services.

The above-mentioned list is not exhaustive and the holder of a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services licence must comply with the [Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services Rules 2021](#).

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Disclaimer

This FAQ has been prepared for guidance and information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. – Published by the Financial Services Commission, Mauritius