ForexLicenseWiki
The free, sourced encyclopedia of forex and CFD broker licenses
forexlicensewiki.com

Forex license in the British Virgin Islands

From ForexLicenseWiki, the free encyclopedia of forex licenses · Last updated 28 November 2026

Independent information service. ForexLicenseWiki is not a regulator, a broker or a licensing agent. It is not affiliated with the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of the British Virgin Islands. The only authoritative record of who holds a license is the regulator's own public register: BVI FSC regulated entities .

Forex license in the British Virgin Islands



Flag

Regulator	Financial Services Commission (FSC) of the British Virgin Islands [1]
License	Investment business licence under SIBA, usually Category 1B (dealing as principal) and Category 2 (arranging deals) [1] [2]
Legal basis	Securities and Investment Business Act 2010 (Revised 2020); Regulatory Code [1]
Minimum capital	Per Regulatory Code (~US$1m reported) [1] [4]
Application fee	Application fee US$2,200 and initial or annual licence fee US$3,300 for Category 1A or 1B [2]
Decision time	Advisers estimate about three to four months, including preparation and FSC questions [2] [4]
Retail leverage, major FX	No cap found
Negative balance protection	Not required
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No

Licensed firms	127 full investment business licences, all types (Dec 2025) [5]
Public register	BVI FSC regulated entities

In short: Forex and CFD brokers in the British Virgin Islands are licensed by the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of the British Virgin Islands. [1] Minimum capital: Per Regulatory Code (~US$1m reported). [1] [4] Retail leverage on major currency pairs: No cap found. Compensation if the firm fails: none. Figures as of November 2026.

In the British Virgin Islands, any person carrying on investment business in or from the BVI needs a licence under the **Securities and Investment Business Act (SIBA)** from the **Financial Services Commission**. Forex and CFD brokers usually hold Category 1B (dealing as principal), often with Category 2 (arranging deals).

License types

The license used by forex and CFD brokers in the British Virgin Islands: Investment business licence under SIBA, usually Category 1B (dealing as principal) and Category 2 (arranging deals). [1] [2] Legal basis: Securities and Investment Business Act 2010 (Revised 2020); Regulatory Code. [1]

- **Category 1A: dealing as agent** – agency brokers
- **Category 1B: dealing as principal** – market makers
- **Category 2: arranging deals in investments** – introducing and arranging

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in the British Virgin Islands (2026): A minimum capital resource requirement set in the Regulatory Code by licence category; advisers cite around US$1 million in financial standing for principal dealers. Confirm the exact figure with the FSC. [1] [4]

Application fee: Application fee US$2,200 and initial or annual licence fee US$3,300 for Category 1A or 1B. [2]

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, technology and liquidity usually cost more than the capital itself, and regulators expect a realistic budget for the first years.

Application process

Decision time: Advisers estimate about three to four months, including preparation and FSC questions. [2] [4] The usual steps are:

1. Incorporate a BVI company.
2. Prepare SIBA application Parts 1, 4, 5 and 6, plus Form A for directors and senior officers and Form B-1 for the auditor.
3. Submit to the FSC with the application fee.
4. Answer the FSC's questions.
5. Pay the licence fee on approval and meet ongoing Regulatory Code obligations.

Substance and governance

FSC-approved directors and senior officers, an approved auditor and compliance arrangements. [2] [3]

Trader protection

What the BVI FSC rules guarantee a retail client, as of November 2026. See Trader protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in the British Virgin Islands
Retail leverage limits	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Negative balance protection	Not required by regulation as far as we could confirm.
Client money	Client asset rules apply under SIBA and the Regulatory Code. [1]
Compensation if the firm fails	No investor compensation scheme.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

The BVI FSC's statistical bulletin shows 127 “full” investment business licences at 31 December 2025, down from 132 a year earlier. This covers all investment businesses, including fund managers and custodians, not only forex brokers.[5]

Counts change month to month and regulators count differently (some include banks, fund managers or every investment firm). The public register is the only current source.

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

Frequently asked questions

Which BVI licence does a forex broker need?

Usually a SIBA investment business licence in Category 1B (dealing as principal), often together with Category 2 (arranging deals).

How much does a BVI investment business licence cost?

The FSC application fee is US$2,200 and the licence fee US$3,300 a year for Category 1A or 1B, before capital and running costs.

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

See also

- Forex licenses compared
- Forex license in the Cayman Islands
- Forex license in the United States
- Forex license in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Forex license in Saint Lucia
- How to verify a broker's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body. Other entries are named secondary sources, used where we could not find the figure published officially.

1. Official Securities and Investment Business Act (Revised Edition 2020) . BVI Financial Services Commission. Accessed November 2026.
2. Your roadmap to BVI investment business licensing under SIBA (27 August 2026) . Harneys. Accessed November 2026.
3. The application process for regulatory licences and approvals in the BVI . Carey Olsen. Accessed November 2026.
4. BVI Investment Business License (SIBA) . Zitadelle AG. Accessed November 2026.
5. British Virgin Islands investment funds: Spring 2026 update (FSC Statistical Bulletin Q4 2025) . Carey Olsen. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://forexlicensewiki.com/forex-license/british-virgin-islands/
Version: last updated 28 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

© 2026 ForexLicenseWiki. ForexLicenseWiki is a free, independent encyclopedia of forex and CFD broker licenses: what each regulator requires and what each license does and does not protect, across 25 jurisdictions. General information, not legal or investment advice. Confirm with the regulator or a qualified adviser before acting.