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

Forex license in Vanuatu

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 Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC). The only authoritative record of who holds a license is the regulator's own public register: VFSC licensed financial dealers .

Forex license in Vanuatu



Flag

Regulator	Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) [1]
License	Financial Dealers Licence (Principal's licence): Class A covers debt instruments and proceeds of foreign exchange, Class B equities, precious metals and commodities, Class C derivatives, Class D digital assets [1] [2]
Legal basis	Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70], as amended in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2024 [2] [3]
Minimum capital	VT 5m deposit (reported) [1] [4]
Application fee	Application fee VT 50,000 and licence fee VT 100,000 per licence, with an annual renewal fee of VT 100,000; each class needs its own application [1]
Decision time	No statutory deadline confirmed
Retail leverage, major FX	No cap found
Negative balance protection	Not required
Compensation scheme	None

Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	Around 60 (reported, after 2019–20 cleanup) [5] [6] [7]
Public register	VFSC licensed financial dealers

In short: Forex and CFD brokers in Vanuatu are licensed by the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC). [1] Minimum capital: VT 5m deposit (reported). [1] [4] Retail leverage on major currency pairs: No cap found. Compensation if the firm fails: none. Figures as of November 2026.

Vanuatu licenses forex brokers as **financial dealers** through the **Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC)**. Reforms from 2017 to 2021 replaced a light-touch regime with separate license classes and a requirement for real physical presence in Vanuatu.

License types

The license used by forex and CFD brokers in Vanuatu: Financial Dealers Licence (Principal's licence): Class A covers debt instruments and proceeds of foreign exchange, Class B equities, precious metals and commodities, Class C derivatives, Class D digital assets. [1] [2] Legal basis: Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70], as amended in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2024. [2] [3]

- **Class A Principal's Licence** – debt instruments and proceeds of foreign exchange
- **Class B Principal's Licence** – equities, precious metals and commodities
- **Class C Principal's Licence** – derivatives, including CFDs
- **Class D Principal's Licence** – digital assets; only for holders of Class A, B or C

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Vanuatu (2026): The VFSC guidelines we reviewed set no minimum capital figure. Advisers describe a deposit of 5,000,000 vatu (about US$45,000) that must stay in place while the license is held; confirm with the VFSC. [1] [4]

Application fee: Application fee VT 50,000 and licence fee VT 100,000 per licence, with an annual renewal fee of VT 100,000; each class needs its own application. [1]

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: No statutory deadline confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Incorporate in Vanuatu and secure local premises or a licensed resident manager.
2. Recruit an executive with at least five years' experience in the class applied for.
3. Prepare the application for each class, with fit and proper documents.
4. Pay the application fee for each license.
5. On approval, pay the licence fee and renew annually.

Substance and governance

An office in Vanuatu with its own filing, management and accounting systems and a business continuity plan, or a licensed resident manager; executives normally resident in Vanuatu six months a year, and at least one with five years' experience in the relevant class. [1]

Trader protection

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

Protection	Rule in Vanuatu
Retail leverage limits	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Negative balance protection	Not required by regulation as far as we could confirm.
Client money	Not confirmed from the sources reviewed.
Compensation if the firm fails	No investor compensation scheme.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

No official count found. Finance Magnates reported that the physical-presence rules brought the number of licensed brokers down to around 60, from 508 financial dealer licensees in January 2017. The VFSC publishes a list of financial dealer licensees (latest version dated 19 May 2025) that can be counted for a current figure. [5] [6] [7]

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.

Recent changes

Amendment Act No. 5 of 2024 added late-filing penalties of 10% of the licence fee for each month, up to 50%. [3]

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: VFSC licensed financial dealers .
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 Vanuatu license does a forex broker need?

Usually Class A (which covers proceeds of foreign exchange) and Class C (derivatives) principal's licences, each applied for separately.

Do Vanuatu brokers need an office in Vanuatu?

Yes. The law requires a physical office in Vanuatu with its own systems, or a licensed resident manager.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the VFSC 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 Australia
- Forex license in Singapore
- Forex license in Nauru
- Forex license in Labuan (Malaysia)
- 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 Guidelines on the requirements for applicants for licences as a Securities Dealer . Vanuatu Financial Services Commission. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70], Consolidated Edition 2026 . Vanuatu Financial Services Commission. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Financial Dealers Licensing (Amendment) Act No. 5 of 2024 . PacLII. Accessed November 2026.
4. How to get a Vanuatu forex license . B2Broker. Accessed November 2026.
5. Vanuatu regulator brings brokers to the shore in person . Finance Magnates. Accessed November 2026.
6. Destination Vanuatu: would you follow the lead of many FX brokerages and look east? . FinanceFeeds. Accessed November 2026.

7. Official Financial Dealers Licensing . Vanuatu Financial Services Commission. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://forexlicensewiki.com/forex-license/vanuatu/
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.