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

Leverage limits by regulator

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

In short: Retail leverage on major currency pairs is capped at 30:1 in the EU, the UK, Australia and the DIFC, 20:1 in Singapore and 50:1 in the US. Several offshore jurisdictions set no regulatory cap that we could find (as of November 2026).

Jurisdiction	Regulator	Retail leverage rule
Anjouan (Comoros)	AOFA / Anjouan FSA (not recognised)	No regulation recognised by the national authorities.
Australia	ASIC	30:1 for major currency pairs; 20:1 for minor pairs, gold and major indices; 10:1 for other commodities and minor indices; 5:1 for shares and other assets; 2:1 for crypto-assets.
Bahamas	SCB	No fixed leverage cap; under the 2026 draft rules each CFD firm would need an SCB-approved minimum margin policy for retail clients.
Belize	FSC Belize	No statutory retail leverage cap found. Licence conditions limit FX dealing to over-the-counter markets and organised exchanges.
British Virgin Islands	BVI FSC	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Cayman Islands	CIMA	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Cyprus	CySEC	ESMA-equivalent national measures: 30:1 major currency pairs; 20:1 non-major pairs, gold and major indices; 10:1 other commodities and non-major indices; 5:1 individual equities; 2:1 crypto-assets.
Germany	BaFin	ESMA-equivalent national measures: 30:1 major currency pairs down to 2:1 for crypto-assets.

Jurisdiction	Regulator	Retail leverage rule
Grande Comore (Comoros)	IRAGC (no legal basis found)	No recognised regulation.
Labuan (Malaysia)	Labuan FSA	At most 100:1 (1% margin) for money and forex trading, and 1:1 for digital assets; stop-loss or similar risk controls are required.
Marshall Islands	None	No regulation.
Mauritius	FSC Mauritius	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Mohéli / Mwali (Comoros)	MISA (not recognised)	No regulation recognised by the national authorities.
Nauru	ISAN (declared fraudulent)	No recognised regulation.
Poland	KNF	ESMA-equivalent national measures: 30:1 major currency pairs down to 2:1 for crypto-assets. The KNF applies some of the strictest CFD conduct supervision in the EU.
Saint Lucia	FSRA (does not license forex)	No regulation.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	SVG FSA	No regulation.
Seychelles	FSA Seychelles	No statutory retail leverage cap found.
Singapore	MAS	Retail leverage on major currency pairs is limited to 20:1 by minimum margin requirements; other products have lower limits.
South Africa	FSCA	We found no FSCA rule capping retail leverage; leverage is set by each provider.
Switzerland	FINMA	Switzerland has not adopted the EU's retail leverage caps; leverage is set by each institution within its risk policy.
United Arab Emirates	CMA / DFSA / FSRA	DFSA (retail): 30:1 major currency pairs, 20:1 minor pairs, gold and major indices, 10:1 oil and other commodities, since December 2021. Onshore and ADGM limits were not confirmed here.

Jurisdiction	Regulator	Retail leverage rule
United Kingdom	FCA	30:1 for major currency pairs; 20:1 for non-major pairs, gold and major indices; 10:1 for other commodities and non-major indices; 5:1 for individual equities; 30:1 for CFDs on certain government bonds (stricter than ESMA's 5:1).
United States	CFTC / NFA	Minimum security deposit of 2% for major currency pairs (50:1) and 5% for others (20:1); the NFA can set higher deposits.
Vanuatu	VFSC	No statutory retail leverage cap found.

The ESMA model

The EU's 2018 measures, now applied as national rules by each EU regulator and mirrored by the UK and Australia, set leverage by asset class: 30:1 for major currency pairs; 20:1 for non-major pairs, gold and major indices; 10:1 for other commodities and non-major indices; 5:1 for individual equities and other references; 2:1 for cryptocurrencies. [1]

In the US, leverage is limited through minimum security deposits of 2% for major currency pairs and 5% for others. [3]

Leverage limits apply to retail clients. Professional or wholesale clients can usually be offered more. See Retail and professional client status.

References

1. Official ESMA agrees to prohibit binary options and restrict CFDs to protect retail investors (27 March 2018) . European Securities and Markets Authority. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Read this before trading CFDs . ASIC. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official 17 CFR 5.9: Security deposits for retail forex transactions . eCFR. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://forexlicensewiki.com/leverage-limits/
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.