

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

CRS

What is the CRS?

The Common Reporting Standard (CRS) is to help fight against tax evasion and protect the integrity of tax systems. It contains the due diligence rules that financial institutions need to follow to collect and then report the information.

Who is reportable?

The CRS seeks to establish the tax residency of customers. Under the CRS, financial institutions are required to identify customers who appear to be tax resident outside of the country where they hold their accounts and products, and the financial institutions have to report certain information on these accounts to the local tax authority (For UTB : the Belgium tax authority). The Belgian tax authority may then share that information with the tax authority where you are tax resident.

Why are you asking me for my jurisdiction(s) of tax residency?

Under the CRS, tax authorities require financial institutions such as UTB to collect and report certain information relating to the customers' tax statuses.

Are all banks doing this?

All financial institutions in participating countries are required to be compliant with the CRS.

How is my tax residence defined?

This will depend on where you live and your circumstances. Please contact a professional tax advisor or check the OECD website for more information on how to determine your tax residency, as HSBC cannot give tax advice.

The information I have been asked for on the forms is similar to the information I have been asked for under FATCA. Why is this different?

Even if you have already provided information under the United States government's Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), you may still need to provide additional information for the CRS as these are different regulations with different requirements.

FATCA is US Law and requires financial institutions to identify US Persons and report in line with local FATCA regulations, based on citizenship. The CRS requires financial institutions to identify the tax residency of all our customers and in most cases report information on customers who are tax resident outside of the country where they hold their accounts.

What information are you asking customers to provide and verify?

In line with the CRS requirements, the information that must be provided includes: The name, address, Country(ies) of tax residence, Taxpayer Identification Number(s) ("TIN") and date and place of birth;

How often will I need to provide this information?

Once we have a valid self-certification on file, you will only be asked to complete another when you update certain information on your account or we believe your reportable status may have changed.

What information will be reported to tax authorities?

The information reported to tax authorities will have been provided in the self-certification form, and details about the accounts and products

you have with us, including:

- the year-end account balance(s) or value
- the total amounts of interest or payments credited to the account during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period;

Which countries are participating in the CRS?

For a list of countries participating in the CRS, alongside the dates that they will start exchanging information, please see the OECD CRS portal.

<http://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/common-reporting-standard/>

Where can I find further information and advice?

For further information on your tax residency, please refer to the rules governing tax residence that have been published by each national tax authority. You can also find out more at the OECD Automatic Exchange of Information portal.