

Client segmentation

In accordance with Article 4 of the Financial Services Act (FinSA), Bellecapital is obliged to classify all its clients into client segments.

The client segment determines the scope of the applicable client and investor protection level, to be applied and influences, among other things, the extent of the duties to provide information and clarification in connection with our financial services. Classification into a client segment relates to all current and future business relationships and all financial services.

In essence, FinSA distinguishes between two main categories of clients for the purposes of client segmentation: retail clients and professional clients. (FinSA still recognises the category of institutional clients in accordance with Art. 4 para. 4 FinSA, as well as public entities with professional treasury operations. This bears little relevance to Bellecapital.)

Retail client

This segment encompasses all clients not classified as professional clients. These may be natural persons, legal entities or partnerships. Retail clients enjoy the highest level of investor protection with the most comprehensive duties to provide information and clarification. However, the financial instruments on offer to retail clients may be limited.

Professional client

Clients may be classified as professional clients if they meet the legal requirements. Professional clients need to have a certain minimum quantity of assets. They are regarded as experienced investors who are offered a wider range of investments than retail clients and who require a lower level of investor protection. It is assumed that professional clients have the necessary knowledge and experience of financial services and financial instruments to make investment decisions. In addition, they can assess whether the associated investment risks are appropriate and financially viable for them. There is therefore a lower level of investor protection for a professional client than for a retail client.

Bellecapital's asset management clients fall into the "retail client" segment

Bellecapital has decided to treat all of its clients as retail clients, so that they benefit from the highest level of investor protection with the most comprehensive duties to provide information and clarification to them.

Changing client category (opting in/opting out)

Wealthy retail clients may declare that they wish to be classified as professional clients. In doing so, they must convincingly demonstrate that they a) have the knowledge needed to understand the investment risks as a result of their personal education and professional experience or similar experience in the financial sector, and that they have disposable assets of at least CHF 500,000; or b) disposable assets of at least CHF 2 million, pursuant to Art. 5 FinSA.

To change from a retail client to a professional client (opting out), a special request form must be completed, signed and provided to Bellecapital.

Conversely, professional clients may declare that they wish to be treated as retail clients. Art. 5 para. 5 FinSA makes provisions for the possibility of opting-in under certain circumstances. This must also be completed by providing a signed special request form to Bellecapital.