

ROLE OF THE SEC



What is the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)?

The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange is an autonomous agency established by an Act of Parliament – the Securities Industry Act of 1995 – to regulate the securities market.

What is the securities market?

The securities market is the market in which securities are traded i.e. bought and sold. This market facilitates the exchange of funds between borrowers and lenders. Borrowers of funds are able to raise capital by issuing securities to the public. Investors willingly provide these funds by investing their money in securities because these financial instruments offer attractive returns in the form of interest income, dividends and capital gains. Trading in the securities market takes place on the floor of a stock exchange or in the over-the-counter (OTC) market.

What is the mission of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission?

We administer the Securities Act to promote transparency and integrity in the capital market through a committed and competent team of professionals in order to protect investors and foster the orderly growth and development of the market.

Why is there a need for an organization such as the SEC?

The Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission ("the Commission") is responsible for ensuring that the securities industry operates in a fair, transparent and efficient manner in order to protect the rights of investors.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

How does the Commission regulate the securities market?

The Commission regulates the market by:

- Registering all securities issued to the public; all issuers of those securities; all market actors i.e. brokers, dealers, traders, underwriters, securities companies, and investment advisers; and all self regulatory organizations (for example, stock exchanges and securities associations);
- Maintaining constant surveillance over the market to ensure that there is transparent, fair and equitable dealing in securities;
- Hearing and investigating complaints from aggrieved persons;
- Enforcing the penalties of the Securities Industry Act;
- Conducting Investor Education programmes.

Did you know that we do outreach sessions? Get more information on our Investor Education programme by contacting the Communications Unit at 624-2991 Ext.1275 or 1259

How does registering with the Commission provide investors with protection?

- All issuers of securities and market actors (“registrants”) must provide the Commission with information on the company, its directors and the securities being offered to the public or to investors.
- Firms and individuals are registered by category – each registration category has different education and experience requirements, and permits different activities.
- Registration will not be granted unless the Commission is satisfied that an applicant is fit and proper, meets the requirements of the law with respect to capital and educational qualifications and discloses any information that may affect the conduct and integrity of his business
- Market actors and issuers must continuously provide the Commission and investors with information inclusive of changes which may positively or negatively impact affect the performance of their business

