

Frequently asked questions

What are my obligations?

FATCA or Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, is United States law which aims to reduce tax evasion by US persons using financial accounts outside the United States of America.

New Zealand has introduced this law requiring financial institutions to provide information about members who are US persons to Inland Revenue, which then passes it on to the US Internal Revenue.

Financial Institutions in New Zealand are required to identify and report United States (US) members to the Inland Revenue Department for sharing with the US Internal Revenue Service.

Please note we are unable to provide tax advice. For tax related questions, please contact a professional tax adviser or refer to the IRS website.

Who is affected by FATCA?

FATCA legislation impacts First Credit Union members who are US persons that hold financial accounts outside the United States. You are considered a US person if you fall under any of the following criteria:

1. US citizenship or US residence
2. US place of birth
3. US address including US PO Boxes
4. US tax residents
5. In care of or hold mailing address which is the sole address of the account holder
6. Current Power of Attorney or signatory authority granted to a person with a US address

For most members, FATCA has minimal impact, and there will be no action required.

However, First Credit Union may still contact you to confirm your status as a Non US person if we have reasons to believe you are potentially a US person for FATCA purposes.

How might it affect you?

First Credit Union will regularly review new and existing member accounts to look for any indication that a member may be considered a US person.

Accounts of US persons that may be reported are savings accounts including term investments. The information that will be reported to the IRS or IRD will be of a personal nature such as name, US address and TIN (or date of birth if no TIN) and of a financial nature such as account number, account balances and interest payments.

Personal information about non US persons will not be reported.

What happens if you do not provide the information required under FATCA?

First Credit Union is committed to being fully FATCA compliant.

First Credit Union may not open or provide additional products and services to members who fail to provide documentation required to establish US persons under FATCA.

First Credit Union may close existing member accounts for members who decide not to provide the necessary information and documentation in the required time frame.

What documents will we request for?

Once First Credit Union confirms that a member is a US person, you will be required to complete a supplementary form.

In addition, you will be required to provide a copy of your USA passport or USA tax form (referred to as W forms). We will also require proof of your US address.