



Medallion Signature Guarantee Guide

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TRANSFERRING
U.S. AND CANADIAN SECURITIES

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Introduction

Many estates and private investors outside North America hold shares listed in the United States or Canada. When these securities need to be transferred or sold, transfer agents often require a Medallion Signature Guarantee (MSG).

This specialised certification confirms the identity and authority of the person signing documentation relating to the transfer of securities. It protects transfer agents, financial institutions, and investors from unauthorised transactions.

For individuals outside North America, obtaining a Medallion Signature Guarantee can be challenging because most Medallion Guarantee Providers only provide the service to existing clients in the United States or Canada.

Share Data Ltd is one of the few organisations in the United Kingdom and worldwide authorised to provide Medallion Signature Guarantees for qualifying transactions.

THIS GUIDE EXPLAINS:

- What is a Medallion Signature Guarantee
- When it is required
- Who may need one
- How the process works

How Share Data Ltd can assist with cross-border securities transactions



What is a Medallion Signature Guarantee?

A Medallion Signature Guarantee (MSG) is a specialised certification used in financial transactions to authenticate a signature on documents relating to the transfer or sale of securities in North America.

THE GUARANTEE CONFIRMS THAT:

- the individual signing documentation has been properly identified
- the signature is genuine
- the person has authority to complete the transaction



When is an MSG Required?

A Medallion Signature Guarantee is required when transferring or selling securities listed in the North America.

IT IS COMMONLY REQUIRED BY:

- Transfer agents
- Brokerage firms
- U.S. or Canadian financial institutions
- Banks (when closing accounts if living abroad or due to death)

TYPICAL SITUATIONS WHERE A MEDALLION SIGNATURE GUARANTEE IS REQUIRED INCLUDE:

- Selling U.S. or Canadian shares held in certificated form
- Transferring securities between accounts
- Re-registering shares following the death of a shareholder
- Moving securities into a brokerage account
- Transferring shares to beneficiaries

THOSE WHO COMMONLY REQUIRE A MEDALLION SIGNATURE GUARANTEE INCLUDE:

- Executors administering estates with North American securities
- Solicitors handling probate matters involving overseas shares
- Stockbrokers managing share transfers
- Accountants assisting with estate or tax matters
- Private individuals holding U.S. or Canadian securities

Because transfer agents rely on the guarantee to validate transactions, documentation submitted without the correct certification may be rejected or delayed.

Case Study – U.S. Securities in an Estate

A UK-based executor required assistance selling U.S. shares held in an estate, including holdings in AbbVie Inc. and Abbott Laboratories.

THE ESTATE REQUIRED:

- Medallion Signature Guarantees
- completion of transfer documentation
- tax documentation including Form W-8BEN
- coordination with the transfer agent
- preparation of Form 706-NA

Share Data Ltd assisted by preparing the required documentation, providing the Medallion Signature Guarantee, and coordinating the transfer and sale of the securities through a UK brokerage.

This enabled the proceeds of the sale to be distributed efficiently to the estate.



Case Study – Canadian Investments

A UK solicitor administering an estate needed assistance with several Canadian investments.

THE ESTATE REQUIRED:

- closure of Canadian bank accounts
- transfer and sale of shares in Great-West Lifeco
- Medallion Signature Guarantees for executor documentation

Share Data Ltd coordinated the required paperwork, provided the Medallion Signature Guarantee certification, and arranged for the securities to be transferred and sold through a UK brokerage.

The proceeds were then remitted to the solicitor for distribution to beneficiaries.



How Share Data Can Help

Share Data has been a member of the STAMP Medallion programme since 2014 and can provide Medallion Signature Guarantees for qualifying transactions up to \$2,000,000 per transaction.

The firm regularly assists with:

- Medallion Signature Guarantees
- Sale and transfer of U.S. and Canadian shares
- Estate-related securities transactions
- Transfer agent documentation
- Cross-border securities administration

DOCUMENTS TYPICALLY REQUIRED

To obtain a Medallion Signature Guarantee, the following documents are usually required:

- Completed stock transfer form
- Certified copy of passport
- Certified proof of address (dated within 3 months)
- Evidence of share ownership (DRS statement or dividend statement)

Additional documentation may be required depending on the transaction.

ABOUT SHARE DATA

Established in 1995, Share Data provides high-quality valuation and estate administration services for professionals and private individuals. We specialise in tradeable securities in the UK and internationally, offering practical solutions during complex probate matters.

Contact details

If you require assistance with a Medallion Signature Guarantee or the transfer of overseas securities, the Share Data team can guide you through the process.



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