

UNCLEARED OTC DERIVATIVES MARGIN REFORMS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNTERPARTIES

OTC UNCLEARED MARGIN REFORMS AND BACKGROUND¹

In March 2015, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), part of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), and the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) finalised a framework to reduce systemic risk by establishing a consistent global standard for margining of non-centrally-cleared derivatives. This was followed by final rules from the US Prudential Regulators (PR), the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Canadian, Japanese and Swiss regulators. The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU regulator has published near final rules. These have been accepted by the European Commission, but not yet approved by the European Parliament. The regulators in Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia have published draft rules which are at different stages of development. The regulator in India has published an initial consultation paper.

Rules for the exchange of margin on uncleared derivative transactions are highly topical across the industry right now and ANZ is pleased to provide a summary discussion of these rules. It should be noted that this summary is based on draft margin rules which may not necessarily reflect the final rules. You should check the latest position and rules in each applicable jurisdiction before making any decisions. The

European Union (**EU**), Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong have indicated that there may be a delay in implementation of their margin rules beyond the indicatives dates stated in this summary.

KEY DATES

The uncleared margin rules will require most financial firms and systemically important non-financial firms subject to the rules to exchange Initial Margin (**IM**) and Variation Margin (**VM**) when entering into uncleared OTC derivative transactions with other covered entities from around 1 March 2017 onwards for VM and from 1 September 2017 onwards for IM.²

The margin rules in a jurisdiction apply to covered entities and covered transactions when both parties to the contract exceed the implementation threshold in the relevant jurisdiction. Exhibit 1 sets out the implementation thresholds and implementation dates that apply under the various rule sets.

In general terms, the implementation thresholds reference the aggregate notional amount of uncleared OTC derivatives entered into by the covered entity during a certain reference period. The formulations do differ slightly between jurisdictions so it is important to refer to the rules in each applicable jurisdiction for details.

¹ This summary is of a very general nature and is not intended as advice. ANZ strongly encourages you to independently evaluate the appropriateness of this material to your circumstances. As margin reforms are complex, we recommend that you seek your own independent financial, tax or legal advice before making any decisions.

² The US PR and CFTC rules and Japanese rules started to apply to Phase 1 entities captured under those rules from 1 September 2016 for both IM and VM. Implementation of the EU, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australian rules have recently been delayed. For most captured counterparties this may potentially mean a very slight delay for implementation of VM beyond 1 March but the IM schedule is likely to proceed as planned.

EXHIBIT 1: Initial Margin and Variation Margin thresholds²

IM Thresholds	AU - AUD	US - USD	EU - EUR	JP - JPY	HK - HKD	SG - SGD	CH - CHF	CA - CAD		
Sept 2016 (Phase 1)	4.5#	3	-	420	25#	4.8#	-	5		
Mar 2017* (Phase 1)	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-		
Sept 2017 (Phase 2)	3.375	2.25	2.25	315	19	3.6	2.25	3.75		
Sept 2018	2.25	1.5	1.5	210	12.5	2.4	1.5	2.5		
Sept 2019	1.125	0.75	0.75	105	6	1.2	0.75	1.25		
Sept 2020	16b	8b	8b	1.1	65b	13b	-	12b		

INITIAL MARGIN THRESHOLDS (IN TRILLION)

VARIATION MARGIN THRESHOLDS (IN TRILLION)

VM Thresholds	AU - AUD	US - USD	EU - EUR		HK - HKD	SG - SGD	CH - CHF	CA - CAD
Sept 2016 (Phase 1)	4.5#	3	NA	420	25#	4.8#	NA	5
Mar 2017 (Phase 2)	12b	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Sept 2017	3b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Rules near final but not confirmed # Phase 1 date deferred but no revised date issued

Phase I date deterred but no revised date issued

For example, when ANZ faces a financial institution counterparty who has an aggregate notional amount of uncleared derivatives of USD12 billion, then VM exchange will be required from March 2017 and IM posting and collection will be required from September 2020.

WHO ARE AFFECTED?

The BCBS/IOSCO framework provides guidance to global regulators relating to the application of margin rules to financial firms and systemically important non-financial firms. Regulators have used this guidance to develop their own local rule sets. Although there is a great deal of similarity between the rule sets at a high level (i.e. the rules generally apply to financial institutions of some description), the precise definitions used for entity capture in the different rule sets differ and this makes identification of covered entities more time consuming. Counterparties may find they meet covered entity definitions in some jurisdictions but not others.

Financial firms such as banks, insurance companies and funds under most rules are likely to be considered in-scope. Any type of financial institution or financial firm should consider its status.

In all jurisdictions, the applicable minimum IM thresholds apply in determining IM capture. In certain jurisdictions (for example in Australia and Singapore based on draft rules), minimum thresholds also apply in determining VM capture. Under the draft Australian rules an aggregate notional amount of uncleared OTC derivatives of over AUD 3 billion is required before an entity becomes subject to the VM requirements.

Subject to substituted compliance, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZBGL) expects to be directly subject to the margin rules in Australia, the US (PR rules), Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and potentially the EU.

ANZBGL will be indirectly subject to rule sets where it is required to comply because the counterparty is regulated in a particular jurisdiction, even where ANZ is not. For example, if ANZBGL faces a Swiss bank, although ANZBGL is not directly subject to the Swiss rules, ANZBGL would need to comply with the Swiss rules in order to maintain its trading relationship with the Swiss bank.

There may be limited exemptions from the margining requirements available for certain types of entities such as central banks and sovereigns.

WHAT TRANSACTIONS ARE COVERED?

The definitions used for determining what transactions are captured by the margin rules (i.e. covered transactions) differ between jurisdictions. As a general rule, subject to specific product exemptions, uncleared OTC derivatives transactions are captured.

There are product specific exemptions within the rules but these exemptions do differ between the jurisdictions. Some examples are:

- Physically settled FX forwards and FX swaps (other than non-deliverables forwards) are exempt from IM and VM requirements in the US, Japan, Canada, Switzerland and Singapore (based on the draft rules). Under the EU draft rules physically settled FX forwards and swaps are exempt from IM requirements but VM requirements will apply on a phased-in basis in the case of FX Forwards. Under the current drafts of the Australian and Hong Kong rules, physically settled FX forwards and FX swaps are exempt from IM requirements, but VM requirements will apply.
- Equity options are exempt under US rules and coverage under EU rules will be phased in.

2 Based on (draft) rules of the various jurisdictions as of August 2016.

Only trades booked on, or after relevant compliance dates, are mandated for regulatory margining. Securities lending, repos and exchange traded derivatives are not subject to the margining requirements.

WHAT ARE THE MARGIN REQUIREMENTS?

The rules in each jurisdiction distinguish two different types of margin, **Variation Margin** and **Initial Margin**, each of which is explained in further detail below.

Variation Margin

Variation Margin or VM is an amount of margin required to be exchanged between parties that covers the day-to-day change in net mark-to-market value of the portfolio of uncleared OTC derivatives transactions in place between the parties.

VM documentation requirements

ANZ and its counterparties will need to put in place regulatory compliant documentation in the form of a VM credit support annex (**CSA**) to enable exchange of VM by around 1 March 2017.

If ANZ does not already have an ISDA Master Agreement in place with the counterparty it will be necessary to negotiate:

- an ISDA Master Agreement, which defines the terms of trading in derivatives products and;
- a VM CSA which complies with applicable regulatory requirements.

If ANZ does already have an ISDA Master Agreement in place with the counterparty, but no CSA then it will be necessary to negotiate a new VM CSA which complies with applicable regulatory requirements.

Initial Margin

Initial Margin or IM is the amount of margin that is required to be posted and collected that covers ANZ and the counterparty against the potential future exposure that may arise from changes in the value of uncleared derivatives transactions in the event of a counterparty default.

ANZ will need to collect and post IM with all Phase 1 & 2 covered counterparties from 1 September 2017. Other counterparties will be phased in from 2018 through to 2020.

IM documentation requirements

To collect and post IM, parties will need to:

- Enter into an IM CSA with each other
- Enter into an Account Control Agreement with each other and its custodians (one Account Control Agreement for each custodian if there is more than one)
- Appoint at least one custodian for segregated posting of IM requiring new IM custodial agreements

In addition to the above documentation requirements, parties will need to:

- Develop and validate models for calculation of IM exposure (ANZ's intention is to use the industry model)
- Implement processes for movement of IM (posting and collecting) and dispute resolution

Key considerations

The IM collateral holding structure works on a different legal basis to VM and/or existing CSA arrangements. IM is required to be segregated and held by an independent custodian. Posting and collecting of IM is required to occur for a covered entity relationship on a gross two-way basis (i.e. no netting of collateral transfers is allowable).

Further, counterparties that are required to comply with IM rules will need to appoint one or more custodians. This will involve execution of custody agreements between the counterparty and its custodian. It will also involve payment of custody fees to the custodian.

CSA CONSIDERATIONS

When putting in place VM and IM CSAs, the relevant rules in each jurisdiction prescribe, among other things, which types of collateral are eligible, minimum transfer amounts, thresholds, frequency of margining, settlement timings and impact of FX haircuts on collateral.

Eligible collateral

Eligible collateral ranges from government debt, publicly traded debt of a certain quality, equity and gold. Although rule sets are reasonably aligned, there are some differences between definitions of each eligible asset and associated haircuts.

- For VM, ANZ's preference is cash in USD
- For IM, ANZ's preference is for high quality liquid assets in the G4 currencies.

Across the market firms are avoiding the use of cash for IM as it will attract significant capital costs. Cash held for IM by the custodian needs to be treated as a balance sheet liability, requiring capital, whereas non-cash collateral is seen as an asset.

Frequency of margining

Under most rule sets the valuation process is required to be run daily and some jurisdictional rules require settlement of margin calls on a T+1 basis. Eligible collateral and mechanics of transfer may need to be considered to meet this requirement.

FX haircuts

There are slight variances across rule sets, however generally the FX haircut will apply as follows:

- For VM, an additional FX haircut of 8% applies if the non-cash collateral currency differs from the currency of settlement, meaning underlying currency of the trade, CSA agreed currency or termination currency.
- For IM, an additional FX haircut of 8% applies if collateral currency differs from termination currency.

IMPACT ON COUNTERPARTIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Funding implications

For counterparties who do not currently post margin, the new rules will have funding implications. In the case of VM, when ANZ is exposed to counterparties, counterparties will need to post VM to ANZ. This margin will need to be funded.

Where counterparties must post IM, the funding implications are much greater for both ANZ and for the counterparty. IM is held in a segregated account and cannot be re-used.

With respect to regulatory constraints around timing and frequency of margin exchange (i.e. T+ 1 basis under some rules), some counterparties may need to consider prefunding their margin payments.

Risk management and operational impacts

Counterparties will need to put in place operational and risk management processes necessary to comply with the margin rules. For counterparties who do not currently margin, changes in risk management and operations will be significant. For example:

- Counterparties will need the capability to calculate and/or check margin amounts; and
- Operational infrastructure to post margin within the short timeframe allowable will also be required.

IM is a new concept for the industry and could to take substantial effort to put in place.

This includes developing:

- Capability to calculate and agree IM exposure using a risk based model (the 'schedule approach' is significantly more expensive);
- Custodial arrangements to facilitate prompt settlement of segregated margin transfers; and
- Dispute resolution mechanics.

Counterparty disclosures

Counterparties will be asked by ANZ to provide information (in the form of representations) confirming their regulatory status and aggregate notional amount of uncleared OTC derivatives. This may be provided through an industry lead process (similar to those which were used during the Dodd Frank protocol exercises). ANZ's form of self-disclosure letter is expected to be available soon.

The information provided by each party to ANZ will be used to determine whether regulatory compliant CSAs are required and which jurisdictional rule sets apply. ANZ will need to perform due diligence on its counterparties and impacted jurisdictions.

Industry lead document negotiation processes

ISDA protocols are being developed to assist with the VM documentation implementation. It is possible that the protocol may have limited coverage (i.e. US, EU and Japanese rules). As a result, captured counterparties may need to bilaterally negotiate new documentation with ANZ. Unfortunately this will involve additional time and cost for counterparties. ANZ intends to prepare regulatory compliant documentation to start the negotiation process.

SHARING OUR INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE WITH CLIENTS

The FIG, Client Insights & Solutions and Global markets teams in ANZ have been engaged with OTC counterparties to assess implications and potential solutions related to this particular reform. Whilst rules in various jurisdictions have not yet been finalised, draft rules point to potential significant operational requirements and time required to put such in place for affected parties. To ensure that hedging and risk management capabilities of affected counterparties are not disrupted, it is worthwhile for financial institutions to assess your own status with regards to the reforms and commence planning and coordination with your counterparties, given the relative tight timeline of the March 2017 date for VM across multiple jurisdictions.

"Fund managers and insurers that historically were never required to provide margining on a daily basis are facing operational and resource challenges to setup and execute such frequent margin calculations and exchanges", says Niamh Targett, Associate Director in FIG Funds.



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