

# Circular No. 3 - Practice for the Listing of Derivatives

(Circular No. 3, CIR3)

Status on 14 November 2019  
Basis Listing Rules, Additional Rules Derivatives, and implementing decrees

This Circular clarifies practice for the listing of derivatives, and provides additional detail. The Circular is amended and updated continually. 1

## 1 CONNEXOR Events

According to Title 1 Directive Debt Securities Specific Structures (DDSS), and Annex 3 Directive Regular Reporting Obligations, point 2.03, issuers of derivatives with path-dependent structures are obliged to inform SIX Swiss Exchange immediately by telephone of changes to the price parameters of a derivative, or if certain thresholds (e.g. a knock-out level) are reached and, if necessary, to communicate the new data that is to be recorded. 2

Additionally, under Title 1 Directive Debt Securities Specific Structures (DDSS), and Annex 3 Directive Regular Reporting Obligations, point 2.03, an Official Notice must be sent to [listing@six-group.com](mailto:listing@six-group.com). This Official Notice will be published by SIX Swiss Exchange. 3

Following the introduction of Internet Based Events, the two reporting obligations described above may now be fulfilled alternatively via CONNEXOR Events. If the event in question is reported via CONNEXOR Events, the system will automatically generate and publish an Official Notice on the basis of the data that has been submitted. In cases in which the derivative expires immediately, the system will also trigger the suspension of trading in that derivative, without the issuer needing to take any further action. 4

If the issuer uses CONNEXOR Events to fulfil its reporting obligation, it is no longer required either to submit an Official Notice to [listing@six-group.com](mailto:listing@six-group.com), or to notify Exchange Operations at SIX Swiss Exchange by telephone on +41 (0)58 399 24 75. 5

The foregoing is nonetheless conditional on the issuer having successfully completed the test phase associated with the use of CONNEXOR Events. SIX Swiss Exchange must be certain that reports are being transmitted via CONNEXOR Events before the issuer may change to this new method of reporting. 6

## 2 Adjustments to barriers / exercise prices

In March 2004 the Regulatory Board (then the Admission Board) approved the listing of a dynamic derivative<sup>1</sup> with a roll-over effect for the first time. Listing was approved on the condition that, for technical reasons, the adjustments to the derivative – specifically the roll-over process itself – could take place no more than once a week. This practice was communicated in Admission Board Communiqué no. 9/2004, dated 30 August 2004. 7

<sup>1</sup> Dynamic derivatives are derivatives whose underlying or product structure (e.g. setting of new exercise price, adjustments to thresholds in the case of products with path-dependent structures) may be changed or adapted during their term according to previously determined and objectively comprehensible rules (Art. 8 DDSS).

Following applicable SIX Exchange Regulation AG ("SIX Exchange Regulation") practices, to date the principle of weekly amendments only has also applied to periodic amendments to barriers and exercise prices for other dynamic product structures, such as open-end knock-out options. 9

Market participants have increasingly been calling upon SIX Exchange Regulation to provide the facility to list on SIX Swiss Exchange derivatives that feature daily adjustments to barriers and exercise prices. 10

This practice applies to all derivatives whose barriers or exercise prices are amended during their term in accordance with previously defined and objectively comprehensible criteria. 11

With immediate effect, barriers (e.g. stop-loss / knock-out levels) and exercise prices for dynamic derivatives may be amended in accordance with their product terms on a daily basis, by means of the publication of an Official Notice. 12

The following rules must be observed strictly when drawing up an Official Notice:

- Relevant information concerning all of the derivatives that are to be amended must be collated and sent to SIX Exchange Regulation in a single Official Notice;
- The date of entry into force of the actual amendments to barriers and exercise prices must be stated explicitly;
- When the Official Notice is sent, it must be accompanied by a specific note stating that it must be published before the start of trading;
- The Official Notice must be sent to [listing@six-group.com](mailto:listing@six-group.com) by 7.30 a.m. at the latest on the day on which it enters into force.

Issuers' obligations in connection with the listing and the maintenance of listing of such derivatives continue to apply in full even where daily adjustments are made. 13

The most important provisions in this respect are given below (this list is not exhaustive):

- Directive Debt Securities Specific Structures (DDSS), specifically its provisions on the listing of derivatives with path-dependent structures (Art. 4 et seqq. DDSS);
- Reporting obligations in connection with an adjustment to the terms of the security, e.g. with regard to the exercise price (Annex 3 Directive Regular Reporting Obligations, point 2.01, Reporting Obligations regarding the Maintenance of Listing);
- Reporting obligations upon the achievement of threshold values that could impact the price or valuation of the derivative (Annex 3 Directive Regular Reporting Obligations, point 2.03).

### **3 Listing of Collateral Secured Instruments (COSI) (cancelled)**

(cancelled)

### **4 Express charges for the registration and reissuance of derivatives programmes (cancelled)**

(cancelled)

## 5 Requirements for cryptocurrencies as an underlying instrument for derivatives

Cryptocurrencies are permitted as an underlying instrument for derivatives, provided the following criteria have been met. Prior to registering a derivative for provisional admission, the issuer must ascertain whether the following criteria are still being met. 14

Cryptocurrencies are permitted as underlying instruments if they are issued as coins (tokens, in the sense of units from a project, which are often issued as part of an initial coin offering, are not permitted as underlying instruments) which are based on open-source software that functions according to the principles of blockchain technology. Consensus protocol must be applied and transactions must be verified by network participants using a clearly defined process. The issue of further units of the cryptocurrency must be clearly defined and must not systematically favour any individual persons. 15

At the time of applying for provisional admission to trading, the cryptocurrency must be among the 15 largest cryptocurrencies, as measured by market capitalisation in USD. The details on the following website will serve as a reference: <https://coinmarketcap.com/coins/> 16

It must be ensured that the prices for the cryptocurrency used are set regularly and are readily available to the public on the internet. In addition, it must be confirmed that the cryptocurrency can be traded directly against an established fiat currency (e.g. USD or EUR) and that a price feed is available via a reputable information system, such as SIX Financial Information, Bloomberg or Reuters. 17

At least one trading venue must be available, which meets the following criteria: It offers trading against an established fiat currency; It creates transparency by publishing prices. The trading venue provides an Application Programming Interface and the venue's website must be available at least in English. 18

Whenever a cryptocurrency is used for the first time, SIX Exchange Regulation must be informed how the aforementioned criteria have been met prior to submitting the request for provisional admission via e-mail to [listing@six-group.com](mailto:listing@six-group.com). 19

In the event of a fork in the cryptocurrency used as an underlying instrument during the term of a derivative traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange, the derivative, which refers to the new cryptocurrency and is allocated to the existing investors without a countervalue, may also be admitted to trading. Another way of settling such a fork is permitted, for instance, by adding the new cryptocurrency as an extra underlying instrument of the existing product. This may be done provided the new cryptocurrency fulfils all the requirements outlined above, except the one that refers to a placing among the 15 largest cryptocurrencies. 20

The provisional admission of new derivatives to the new cryptocurrency is possible only if all the requirements have been met, including the one that refers to a placing among the 15 largest cryptocurrencies. 21

Furthermore, the prospectus, in accordance with the Federal Financial Services Act dated 15 June 2018 ("FinSA"), or another information document must provide details on the following points relating to cryptocurrencies: 22

- The main differences, and resultant risks, between traditional currencies and the cryptocurrency must be laid down. They include, in particular, intrinsic value unavailable, trading of the cryptocurrency on non-regulated online exchanges, small trading volume and higher volatility.
- The specific risks relating to products in cryptocurrencies, particularly fraud risks and hacker attack risks, must be outlined.

SIX Exchange Regulation reserves the right to request the inclusion of additional information, 23  
provided the cryptocurrency and/or the product structure render it necessary.