



Additional Rules for the Listing of Derivatives

Additional Rules Derivatives, ARD
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I Purpose and scope

Art. 1 Purpose

The purpose of these Additional Rules is to ensure transparency with regard to the listing of derivatives.

Art. 2 Scope

¹ In principle, these Additional Rules are applicable to all derivatives that are issued by Swiss and foreign issuers and that are eligible for listing on SIX Swiss Exchange AG ("SIX Swiss Exchange") in accordance with the provisions set out below.

² In the context of these Additional Rules, derivatives are financial instruments that are issued on a large scale as securities with standard features and are characterised by their value being dependent upon that of some other product ("underlying instrument").

³ Convertible bonds do not fall within the scope of these Additional Rules.

⁴ The Regulatory Board may lay down further requirements for the listing of certain derivatives.

See also:

- Directive Debt Securities Specific Structures (DDSS)

II Powers of the Regulatory Board and Languages

Art. 3 Reference to the LR

¹ The powers of the Regulatory Board are governed by Art. 3–7 LR.

² Permitted languages are laid down in Art. 8 LR.

III Listing

A Listing requirements

Art. 4 Reference to the LR

¹ Unless contradictory or additional regulations are set out below, the requirements for listing derivatives under these Additional Rules are laid down in Art. 9–26 LR.

² However, Art. 12, 13, 15, 19 and 25 LR are not applicable in connection with listings in accordance with these Additional Rules.

1 Requirements for the issuer

Art. 5 Capital resources

¹ On the first day of trading, the issuer's reported equity capital must be at least CHF 25 million, in accordance with the financial reporting standard applied.

² If the issuer is the parent company of a group, the above requirement refers to consolidated reported equity capital.

Art. 5a Annual financial statements

The issuer must have produced annual financial statements that comply with the financial reporting standard applicable to it for the two full financial years preceding the listing application.

Art. 6 Licence obligatory

¹ The issuer must hold a securities firm licence from the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) under Art. 5 of the Federal Act on Financial Institutions (FinIA), or be subject, as a bank, to the Swiss Banking Act (BA).

² If the issuer does not have a securities firm licence as described in Art. 6 para. 1, or if it is not subject to the Swiss Banking Act, it must provide evidence that it is subject to equivalent supervision in another country.

³ Issuers that issue derivatives on their own equity securities or on the equity securities of group companies in the context of broader transactions are exempt from this licence obligation.

⁴ Instead of being fulfilled by the issuer, the requirements of this article may be fulfilled alternatively by:

1. a guarantor for the issuer, provided the guarantor and the issuer are fully consolidated within the same group of companies;
2. a company that belongs to the scope of consolidation of a guarantor organised under Swiss law that is itself also subject to Swiss law.

⁵ The requirements of this article need not be fulfilled in connection with the listing of shareholder or employee share options that entitle the holder to receive or purchase equity securities or their surrogates issued by the issuer itself or by one of the issuer's group companies.

See also:

- Federal Act of 15 June 2018 on Financial Institutions (FinIA) (in German)
- Federal Act of 8 November 1934 on Banks and Savings Banks (Banking Act, BA) (in German)

Art. 7 Applicable law

¹ All derivatives whose terms are subject to Swiss law are eligible for listing on SIX Swiss Exchange.

² Derivatives whose terms are subject to foreign law may, however, be listed on SIX Swiss Exchange only if the foreign legal system in question is one recognised by the Regulatory Board. These recognised legal systems consist of those operating in OECD member states.

³ Upon application, the Regulatory Board may recognise other foreign legal systems, provided the applicant can demonstrate that the legal system in question meets international standards in respect of investor protection and transparency regulations.

Art. 8 Place of jurisdiction

¹ Investors must be able to take their case before a state court in order to assert their rights against the issuer.

² In choosing the place of jurisdiction, the issuer must ensure, as at least one alternative, that the courts in the country whose legal system is applicable to the terms of the issue in question are competent to hear such cases.

Art. 9 Exemption for public-sector issuers

The requirement of a place of jurisdiction in the country to whose law the terms of the derivative are subject may be waived as an exception in the case of derivatives from public-sector issuers, provided both of the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. the national law of the issuer permits only a domestic place of jurisdiction. This law does not necessarily have to be a statute in the formal sense;
2. the issuer waives its immunity to due process and the enforcement of law to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Art. 10 Alternative fulfilment by the guarantor

¹ The requirements imposed on an issuer under Art. 11 LR (duration), Art. 5 and Art. 5a (capital resources and annual financial statements) may be waived if, instead of the issuer, a third party that fulfils those requirements (guarantor) provides a guarantee commitment in respect of the obligations associated with the derivatives.

See also:

- Directive Guarantee Commitments (DGC)

2 Requirements for derivatives

Art. 11 Quality of securities

Only derivatives that constitute securities as defined in Art. 2 lit. b FMIA may be listed on SIX Swiss Exchange.

See also:

- Federal Act of 19 June 2015 on Financial Market Infrastructures and Market Conduct in Securities and Derivatives Trading (Financial Market Infrastructure Act, FMIA)

Art. 12 Minimum capitalisation of issue (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 13 Underlying instruments

¹ Listing is restricted to derivatives that relate to an underlying instrument that is admitted by the Regulatory Board under the terms of Art. 14–18, that have a price that is set regularly, and that are publicly accessible.

² The list of permitted underlying instruments given in these Additional Rules is not exhaustive. The Regulatory Board may permit further underlying instruments.

³ Foreign securities exchanges recognised as having equivalent regulation as described in Art. 14–14bare those that hold full membership of the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) or the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). Further exchanges which have equivalent regulation may be recognised. The Regulatory Board may demand that the issuer provide evidence of equivalent regulation.

See also:

- Federation of European Securities Exchanges website
- World Federation of Exchanges website

Art. 14 Equity securities as underlying instruments

¹ Equity securities such as shares, participation certificates and profit-sharing certificates that are listed or admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange or on a foreign securities exchange with equivalent regulation are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives.

² (cancelled)

Art. 14a Bonds as underlying instruments

Bonds that are listed or admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange or on a foreign securities exchange with equivalent regulation are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives.

Art. 14b Collective investment schemes as underlying instruments

¹ Collective investment schemes are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives provided the collective investment scheme is listed or admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange or on a foreign securities exchange with equivalent regulation. The provisions of the Federal Act of 23 June 2006 on Collective Investment Schemes (CISA), and its implementing provisions, remain reserved.

² Collective investment schemes that are neither on SIX Swiss Exchange nor on a foreign securities exchange with equivalent regulation listed or admitted to trading are permitted as underlying instruments if they hold an approval or sale authorisation of FINMA.

See also:

- Federal Act of 23 June 2006 on Collective Investment Schemes (Collective Investment Schemes Act, CISA)
- Directive Debt Securities Specific Structures (DDSS)

Art. 15 Derivatives and futures as underlying instruments

¹ All derivatives that are listed or admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange are permitted as underlying instruments for other derivatives. Also permitted are derivatives that are listed or admitted to trading on a foreign securities exchange with equivalent regulation and that would also be eligible for listing on SIX Swiss Exchange.

² Also permitted are standardised options and futures contracts that are traded on a regulated futures market such as Eurex or the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). Other exchanges with equivalent regulation may be recognised upon application. The Regulatory Board may demand that the issuer provides evidence of equivalent regulation.

³ Forwards are permitted as underlying instruments provided the underlying instrument of the forward is a permitted underlying instrument under these Additional Rules, there is a reference page for the price of the forward, and the counterparty risk is not transferred to the investor in the derivative.

Art. 16 Indices as underlying instruments

Indices are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives, provided the issuer ensures compliance with both of the following requirements:

1. the index is composed of permitted underlying instruments, as defined in these Additional Rules;
2. the index sponsor has index regulations in place.

Art. 17 Foreign currencies, reference rates, precious metals and commodities as underlying instruments

The following reference rates are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives:

1. freely convertible foreign currencies: the requirement that a currency must be freely convertible may be waived provided that payouts in currencies that are not freely convertible are prohibited;
2. standard market interest and swap rates, such as the three-month Libor or Euribor;
3. precious metals, specifically gold, silver, platinum and palladium;
4. commodities that are traded on a Regulatory Board-recognised exchange and for which spot prices are published.

Art. 17a Crypto-assets as underlying instruments

¹ Crypto-assets are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives.

² Crypto-assets are assets (coins or tokens) that run on Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT).

³ Crypto-assets that are not permitted as underlying instruments are those that

- facilitate private and anonymous blockchain transactions (privacy coins); or
- qualify as asset tokens or hybrid asset tokens if they represent an equity security in their economic function.

⁴ The Directive on Crypto-Assets as Underlying Instruments governs technical details and other requirements.

See also:

- Directive Crypto-Assets as Underlying Instruments (DCA)
- Guidelines for enquiries regarding the regulatory framework for initial coin offerings (ICOs) of the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA dated 16 February 2018

Art. 18 Baskets as underlying instruments

Baskets composed of the underlying instruments described in Art. 14–17a are permitted as underlying instruments for derivatives.

Art. 19 Paying agents, exercise agents and corporate actions

¹ The issuer must ensure that services pertaining to interest and capital, as well as all other corporate actions, including the receipt and handling of exercise notices, are provided in Switzerland.

² The issuer may assign the activities referred to in Art. 19 para. 1 to a third party, if the latter has the necessary professional and technical capabilities available in Switzerland.

³ The assigned party must be a bank, a securities firm, some other institution that is subject to supervision by FINMA, or the Swiss National Bank.

B Obligations with respect to listing**Art. 20 Reference to the LR**

¹ Unless contradictory or additional regulations are set out below, obligations with respect to the listing of derivatives are governed by Art. 27–41 LR.

² (cancelled)

Art. 21 Prospectus in accordance with the Federal Financial Services Act dated 15 June 2018 ("FinSA")

¹ The issuer must provide evidence in the listing application that it has a prospectus that has been approved by a Prospectus Office in accordance with the FinSA or that is deemed to be approved in accordance with the FinSA. SIX Exchange Regulation can exempt the issuer from providing this proof, in so far as this information can be obtained from the competent Prospectus Office in an automated way and in electronic form.

² In the event that the issuer in accordance with the FinSA, is exempt from the preparation of a prospectus, this must be explained in the listing application

Art. 22 Form of the listing prospectus (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 23 Registration of issuance programmes (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 24 Issuer declaration (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 25 Supplements (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 26 Abridgement of the listing prospectus/exemption from duty to produce a prospectus (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 27 Incorporation by reference (cancelled)

(cancelled)

Art. 28 "Official Notice"

¹ The provisions of Art. 40a and 40b LR do not apply to listings in accordance with these Additional Rules.

Art. 29 Fulfilment by the guarantor

All of the obligations laid down in Art. 20–27 must be fulfilled by both the issuer and the guarantor.

C Listing procedure

Art. 30 Reference to the LR

Unless contradictory or additional regulations are set out below, the listing procedure is governed by Art. 42–48 LR.

See also:

- Directive Procedures Debt Securities (DPDS)

Art. 30^{bis} Submission of listing applications

¹ Applications for the listing of derivatives may be submitted electronically by means of one of the applications provided by SIX Swiss Exchange.

² It is possible to submit one listing application for all derivatives to be listed in the future. If this option is used, the issuer declaration must state that this applies to all derivatives to be listed in the future in accordance with Art. 45 LR.

See also:

- Directive CONNEXOR Listing Enhancement (DCLE)

Art. 31 Fulfilment by the guarantor

¹ The disclosure and procedural obligations laid down in Art. 44 and 45 LR apply to both the issuer and to any guarantor.

² (cancelled)

See also:

- Directive Guarantee Commitments (DGC)

D Provisional admission to trading**Art. 32 Requirements**

¹ In order that the derivatives that are to be listed can be admitted provisionally to trading, the applicant must describe the derivatives in the application for provisional admission, and must give an assurance that all of the listing requirements laid down in the LR and these Additional Rules are fulfilled, that the derivatives are structured in a way that has already been approved by the Regulatory Board, and that a listing application will follow.

² Furthermore, the application for provisional admission to trading must be submitted to the Regulatory Board in good time using the electronic platform made available by SIX Swiss Exchange.

³ Derivatives from new issuers will not be granted provisional admission to trading until the issuer itself has been approved.

⁴ Provided the application for provisional admission to trading has been submitted in due time, provisional trading will generally begin from the date requested by the applicant.

See also:

- Directive Procedures Debt Securities (DPDS)

Art. 33 New issuer

¹ In the context of Art. 32 para. 3, a new issuer is an issuer which, at the time the application for issuer approval is submitted, has never had derivatives provisionally admitted to trading or listed.

² The following are not deemed to be new issuers within the meaning of Art. 32 para. 3:

1. an issuer whose derivatives issue is guaranteed by a guarantor that either:
 - a. acts as guarantor for other securities that are already listed or provisionally admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange; or

- b. has itself securities listed or provisionally admitted to trading on SIX Swiss Exchange, provided the requirements of Art. 6 are fulfilled.
2. an issuer of shareholder or employee share options that entitle the holder to receive or purchase equity securities or their surrogates which are issued by the issuer itself or by a company that is associated with the issuer as part of a group of companies, and that are listed on SIX Swiss Exchange.

Art. 34 Time limit for provisional admission

- ¹ Provisional admission to trading will lapse automatically if the listing application is not lodged within a maximum of two months from the start of trading.
- ² The applicant may be fined if the application for the listing of the derivatives that have provisionally been admitted to trading is not submitted, or if it is rejected on the grounds of non-fulfilment of the listing requirements. In addition, the applicant may be excluded from submitting applications for provisional admission for a period of up to three years.
- ³ The sanctions referred to in Art. 34 para. 2 may be imposed only if the applicant's conduct is judged to have been in breach of important professional obligations.

IV Conditions for maintaining listing

Art. 35 Reference to the LR

The conditions for maintaining listing are governed by Art. 49–55 LR. However, Art. 50 and 52 LR are not applicable to listings in accordance with these Additional Rules.

Art. 36 Fulfilment by the guarantor

- ¹ In principle, the conditions for maintaining listing must be fulfilled by both the issuer and the guarantor.
- ² The obligation to disclose potentially price-sensitive facts pursuant to Art. 53 LR applies to the guarantor alone if the issuer is a subsidiary that is fully consolidated with the guarantor.
- ³ The annual reporting duties pursuant to Art. 49 LR apply to the guarantor alone if a guarantee commitment pursuant to the Directive on Guarantee Commitments has been issued.
- ⁴ Exemptions to the aforementioned requirements may be granted upon application in cases in which the issuer or guarantor itself fulfils all listing requirements.

See also:

- Directive Guarantee Commitments (DGC)

V Exemptions

Art. 37 Granting of exemptions

- ¹ The Regulatory Board may authorise exemptions from certain provisions of the LR and these Additional Rules, provided this is not against the interests of the public or those of SIX Swiss Exchange, and provided the applicant can provide evidence that the purpose of the provisions in question can be served satisfactorily by other means in the specific case at hand.
- ² Approval may be subject to further requirements and/or conditions.

VI Suspension of trading, termination and delisting

Art. 38 Reference to the LR

Unless contradictory or additional regulations are set out below, suspension of trading and delisting are governed by Art. 57 and 58 LR.

See also:

- Directive Delisting (DD)

Art. 39 Termination of listing

Listing will be terminated ordinarily by SIX Swiss Exchange without prior notice when the derivative expires.

VII Sanctions

Art. 40 Reference to the LR

Sanctions are governed by Art. 59–61 LR.

VIII Appeals

Art. 41 Reference to the LR

Appeals against decisions by the Regulatory Board are governed by Art. 62 LR.

IX Fees

Art. 42 Reference to the LR

Fees are governed by Art. 63 LR.

See also:

- List of Charges under the Listing Rules

X Final provisions

Art. 43 Entry into force

These Additional Rules were approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority on 23 April 2009 and enter into force on 1 July 2009. They replace the Directives for the Listing of Derivatives of 1 June 2000 and 1 June 2006, as well as the Directive on the Listing of Standard Warrants of 1 March 2003.

Art. 44 Transitional provision

In accordance with Art. 116a and 116b LR, the transitional provisions apply mutatis mutandis.

Art. 45 Revisions

- ¹ The revision of Art. 23 that was decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 21 April 2010 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 26 April 2010 enters into force on 1 May 2010.
- ² The revision of Art. 4, 10, 20 and 28 Additional Rules Derivatives and the enactment of Art. 5 that were decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 6 May 2015 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 9 June 2015 enter into force on 1 August 2015.
- ³ Amendments due to the entry into force of the Financial Market Infrastructure Act and related ordinances in Art. 11 as of 1 April 2016.
- ⁴ The revision of Art. 4, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 27, 28, 31, 33 and 36, the cancellation of Art. 12 and the enactment of Art. 5a, 14a and 14b that were decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 4 November 2016 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 20 January 2017 enter into force on 1 May 2017.
- ⁵ The revision of Art. 30^{bis} that was decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 25 August 2017 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 16 October 2017 enters into force on 1 March 2018.
- ⁶ The revision of Art. 5, 20, 21, 29, 30^{bis}, 44 and the repeal of Art. 22-27 that were decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 11 July 2019 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 14 November 2019 enter into force on 2 January 2020.
- ⁷ The revision of Art. 6 and 19 that was decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 9 March 2020 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 14 May 2020 enters into force on 22 June 2020.
- ⁸ The revision of Art. 18 and the enactment of Art. 17a that were decreed by the Regulatory Board in its resolution of 27 April 2022 and approved by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA on 26 October 2023 enter into force on 1 April 2024.