International Capital Market Association



Briefing note

Liquidity assessments of individual bonds for trade reporting (updated) (22 December 2017)

On 6 December 2017, ESMA published the transitional transparency calculations (TTCs) for equity and bond instruments. ESMA subsequently updated the TTCs on 22 December 2017. According to ESMA: "[T]his updated version mainly reflects changes in the classification of the instruments and the related parameters and resubmission of data by some trading venues." However, the changes in the TTCs for bonds are relatively minor.

In total, 561 bonds or 0.9% out of 61,656 fixed income instruments have been classed as liquid according to the MiFIR criteria (excluding Exchange Traded Commodities and Exchange Traded Notes).

<u>Corporate bonds</u> constitute the largest category with almost 39,000 (out of 61,761) instruments, of which 0.4% are deemed liquid. In other words, 99.6% of corporate bonds are eligible for pre-trade transparency waivers and post-trade publication deferrals due to their illiquid trading status.

The calculations are subject to future amendments by ESMA if deemed necessary and are applicable from 3 January 2018 until 15 May 2018. The next version of the liquidity assessments for bonds will be published on 1 May 2018, applicable from 16 May 2018 to 15 August 2018. Subsequently, the liquidity assessments will be revised on a quarterly basis.

Latest updates of the FAQ document issued by ESMA in relation to the TTCs can be found here

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