



Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index Guide

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1 Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index

The Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index family is designed to reflect the performance of USD denominated bonds issued by entities domiciled in the Asia ex-Japan region. The index rules aim to offer a broad coverage of the universe for USD denominated bonds from Asian issuers, whilst upholding minimum standards of investability and liquidity. The indices are an integral part of the global Markit iBoxx index families, which provide the marketplace with accurate and objective reference indices by which to assess the performance of bond markets and investments.

The index family is split into three major indices covering sovereign, sub-sovereign and corporate debt. These are further broken down into sub-indices based on country, rating and maturity. All iBoxx indices are priced based on multiple data inputs. The Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index uses multi-source prices as described in the document *Markit iBoxx Pricing Rules* publically available under methodology on www.markit.com/Documentation/Product/iBoxx. Additionally, the index rules and their application are governed by two Index Advisory Committees.

This document covers the index family structure, rules and calculation methodology.

1.1 Index Family Structure

The table below shows the Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index structure: Its divided into 2 broad categories Sovereigns & Non-Sovereigns

Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Overall

Sovereign	Non-Sovereign		
	Sub-Sovereign	Corporate	Collateralized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Indices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies Public Banks Regions Supranationals Other Sub-Sovereigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financials Non-Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Materials Consumer Goods Consumer Services Health Care Industrials Oil & Gas Technology Telecom Utilities Corporate market sector indices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered

Country, Rating, Maturity and Large Cap Indices

- Ratings (IG, HY, AAA, AA, A, BBB, BB, B, CCC, Rated Only)
- Maturity (0, 1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, 7-10, 1+, 10+)
- Large Cap (IG, HY)

The corporates index is divided into indices for financial and non-financial issuers. In addition, sector indices are calculated for financials and non-financials. Industry, super sector and sector indices are also calculated. The financial sector indices, including banks, insurance, financial services, guaranteed & wrapped and real estate are also split into senior and subordinated debt.

Separate country indices, including breakdowns into Investment grade and high yield are calculated.

1.2 Publication of the Index

All indices are calculated at the end of each business day and re-balanced at the end of each month. The indices are calculated on the basis of end-of-day prices on each trading day defined in the iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index calculation calendar. The index calculation calendar is available in the indices section on www.markit.com/Documentation/Product/iBoxx under Calendar for data subscribers. The approximate publication time for the Asian end-of-day is 7 pm HKT/SGT and for the US end-of-day at 6 pm EST. Index data and bond price information is also available from the main information vendors. The Asian end-of-day indices are rebalanced using the Asian end-of-day prices from the last business day of the month and the US end-of-day indices are rebalanced using the corresponding US end-of-day prices.

The index calculation calendar conforms to the recommendations of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA):

- Pricing for domestic and global bonds takes place on each SIFMA recommended US trading day
- Pricing for Eurodollar bonds takes place on each SIFMA recommended UK trading day (additional holidays to the US calendar: Easter Monday, May Day, Summer Bank Holiday and Boxing Day)
- The indices are calculated on each SIFMA recommended US trading day and on the last calendar day of each month

2 Bond Selection rules

The Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Overall index captures USD-denominated debt from issuers domiciled in the Asia ex-Japan region. Further the selection criteria used to determine the index constituents follows broadly below two categories.

- Country selection
- Bond selection

2.1 Country selection

2.1.1 Issuer domicile

Only issuers from countries/territories belonging to the Asia ex-Japan region are eligible for the indices. As of 31 January 2018, the following countries/territories are represented in the index:

Country / Territory

• Bangladesh	• Malaysia	• South Korea
• China	• Maldives	• Sri Lanka
• Hong Kong	• Mongolia	• Taiwan
• India	• Pakistan	• Thailand
• Indonesia	• Philippines	• Vietnam
• Macao	• Singapore	

2.1.2 Defaulted countries and sovereign debt rating

Issuers that are domiciled in countries in default on their external debt or that do not have a long term foreign debt rating from at least one of Fitch, Moody's or S&P are excluded from the indices. A default is determined based on information from the rating agencies, either through rating reports or ratings of D or RD from Fitch, C or Ca from Moody's and D or SD from S&P.

In addition, a country is considered to be in default in case one of the 6 credit events as defined by ISDA occurs:

- Bankruptcy
- Obligation Acceleration
- Obligation Default
- Failure to pay
- Repudiation / Moratorium
- Restructuring

2.1.3 Countries on financial sanctions regimes

Issuers which are domiciled in countries that are on the financial sanctions' lists of the European Union or the US are excluded from the indices, unless:

- Sanctions are applied to specific individuals only, or
- Funds, funding and financial transactions of the government and government-related entities are unaffected by the sanctions

When a country is placed on the EU or the US sanctions lists, IHS Markit will assess the likely impact on international bondholders. IHS Markit may consult with the Asian iBoxx Oversight Committee to review the applicability of specific sanctions. Any decision will be published and the index rules updated accordingly.

The information about the sanctions regime is compiled from:

- For the European Union from the Common Foreign & Security Policy at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/docs/measures_en.pdf
- For the US from the Office of Asset Control (OFAC) at <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/>

Based on current information, the following countries are excluded from the indices because of applicable sanctions:

- North Korea

2.2 Bond selection

The following selection criteria are used to determine the index constituents from the USD denominated bond universe:

2.2.1 Issuer type

Only bonds issued by corporate, sovereign or sub-sovereign issuers are eligible for the index. The sub-sovereign issuers include (but are not limited to) agencies and local governments as well as certain state-owned enterprises depending on the level of state support and commitment. All new issuers are classified according to the classification scheme.

2.2.2 Bond type

General inclusion criteria:

- Bonds with known cash-flows are eligible for the indices

In particular, the following bond types are eligible:

- Fixed coupon bonds
- Zero coupon bonds
- Callable and puttable bonds
- Covered bonds
- Step-ups and event-driven bonds such as rating-driven or registration-driven bonds
- Amortizing bonds and sinking funds with fixed sinking schedules
- Perpetuals and fixed-to-float bonds with a reset date at or after the first call date
- Contingent convertible and other basel III compliant AT1 and T2 capital with mandatory conversion / write down with pre-specified objective trigger
- Preference share-style AT1s

The following bond types are specifically excluded:

- Floating Rate Notes
- 144As and private placements
- Retail bonds
- Inflation and other index-linked bonds
- Structured notes
- Other collateralized bonds (excl. covered)brady bonds
- Catastrophe bonds
- Payment-In-Kinds (PIKs)
- Optional and mandatory convertible bonds
- Perpetuals and fixed-to-float bonds with a reset date prior to the first call date
- Subordinated bank or insurance debt with non-regulatory conversion options before the first call date
- Bonds cum- or ex-warrant
- New bonds entering the index that have already been called prior to rebalancing

For retail bonds and private placements, publicly available information is not always conclusive and the classification of a bond as a retail bond or a private placement will be made at IHS Markit's discretion based on the information available at the time of determination. IHS Markit may consult with the specific Index Advisory Committees to review potential retail bonds or private placements. Any bond classified as retail or private placement is added to the list of excluded private placements and retail bonds. The list is published on <https://ihsmarkit.com/products/indices.html> under *Indices News* for future reference and to ensure decision's consistency.

In instances where a new bond type is not specifically excluded or included according to the published index rules, IHS Markit will analyse the features of such securities in line with the principles set out in 2.1 of this guide. IHS Markit may consult the specific Index Advisory Committees. Any decision as to the eligibility or ineligibility of a new bond type will be published and the index rules will be updated accordingly.

2.2.3 Time to maturity

There is no minimum remaining time to maturity rule. Newly issued bonds must meet the minimum initial time to maturity rule. The minimum initial time to maturity as measured from the first settlement date to the maturity date of the bond, must be 18 months or more.

Dated and undated fixed-to-floater bonds are removed from the index on the last rebalancing prior to the reset date unless they have already been called.

2.2.4 Credit rating

There is no rating requirement. Unrated bonds are eligible for the index.

Defaulted bonds are ineligible for the index. Bonds that are in default or that trade flat of accrued are removed from the index at the first rebalancing following the default/start of trading flat of accrued.

Ratings from the following three credit rating agencies are considered for the calculation of the iBoxx Rating for rated bonds:

- Fitch Ratings
- Moody's Investor Service
- S&P Global Ratings

If a bond is rated by more than one of the above agencies, then the iBoxx rating is the average of the provided ratings. The rating is consolidated to the nearest rating grade. Rating notches are not used. For more information on how the average rating is determined, please refer to the iBoxx Rating Rules. The methodology can be found on www.ihsmarkit.com under *Methodology*.

For senior debt, if a bond is not rated by any of the three credit rating agencies, the bond's issuer rating applies to the bond if available. Long-term foreign currency issuer ratings will be applied to bonds issued by foreign issuers and long-term local currency issuer ratings will be applied to bonds issued by domestic entities.

Unrated bonds are assigned an implied credit quality based on their yield spreads. The implied credit quality will be used to differentiate bonds into investment grade and high yield as well as to individual rating indices. The implied credit quality methodology is available in a separate document on www.ihsmarkit.com under *Documentation – iBoxx → Methodology*.

2.2.5 Amount Outstanding

All the eligible bonds must be denominated in USD and the minimum outstanding amount required is USD 250m.

In the case of 144A/RegS securities that are registered as global securities, the remaining amount of the 144A/RegS version and the registered version are recombined if the bond is not exchanged in full.

RegS bond tap issue amounts, regardless of fungibility status will be added to existing RegS versions to maintain consistency with the treatment of tap issues as reflected under existing 144A versions.

2.2.6 International clearability

Bonds need to be clearable via one of the following three clearing venues:

- Clearstream
- Euroclear
- Hong Kong CMU

2.3 Bond selection rules for the iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Large Cap Indices

2.3.1 iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Large Cap Investment Grade indices

In addition to the selection rules detailed in chapter 2.2, each issuer (as defined by the ticker) needs to have an aggregate notional outstanding in the iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Overall index of at least USD 1 bn. Only bonds with an iBoxx rating of investment grade are eligible for the indices.

2.3.2 iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Large Cap BB/B index

In addition to the selection rules detailed in chapter 2.2, each issuer (as defined by the ticker) needs to have an aggregate notional outstanding in the iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Overall index of at least USD 500 m. Only bonds with an iBoxx rating of BB or B are eligible for the index.

3 Bond classification

All bonds are classified based on the principal activities of the issuer and the main sources of the cash flows used to pay coupons and redemptions. In addition, a bond's specific collateral type or legal provisions are evaluated. Hence, it is possible that bonds issued from different subsidiaries of the same issuer carry different classifications.

The issuer classification is reviewed regularly based on updated information received by IHS Markit, and status changes are included in the indices at the next rebalancing if necessary.

Where the sector classification of a specific entity is not very clear due to the diversified business of the entity, decision will be made at IHS Markit's discretion. IHS Markit will assign the IHS Markit classification according to its evaluation of the business risk presented in the security prospectus and annual reports, if available. IHS Markit will also compare the classification to peers in the potential sectors and may consult with the Index Advisory Committees. Membership lists including classification are published on the FTP server and in the *Indices* section on www.ihsmarkit.com for registered users.

3.1 Sovereigns

Bonds issued by a central government and denominated in USD.

3.2 Sub-sovereigns

Bonds issued by entities with explicit or implicit government backing due to legal provision, letters of comfort or the public service nature of their business. The issuer requires a strong central government ownership/relationship if its bonds are not explicitly guaranteed by the central government.

The two main sub-sovereign sectors are:

- **Agencies:** Bonds issued by entities whose major business is to fulfil a government-sponsored role to provide public, non-competitive services (e.g. Fannie Mae). Often, such business scope is defined by a specific law, or the issuer is explicitly backed by the government. Agency bonds are further broken down into US Agencies and Non-US Agencies.
- *Supranationals:* Bonds issued by supranational entities, i.e. entities that are owned by more than one central government (e.g. World Bank, EIB).
- *Local Government:* Bonds issued by local governments (e.g. Province of Manitoba Canada).
- **Other Sub-Sovereigns:** All remaining bonds considered sub-sovereign. There are three main types of bonds and issuers falling into this category:
 - > *Non-Financials:* An issuer from a non-financial sector with explicit or strong implicit debt guarantee from the state, whose credit rating is closely correlated with the sovereign rating and expresses a strong credit uplift based on a high level of support from the government. iBoxx would expect the issuer credit rating reflected as no worse than on par or 2 notches below the sovereign rating. A 'strong implicit guarantee' is defined as an issuer being 100% owned by the

state or public-sector, and their debt being consolidated into state public debt, or the issuer has pre-existing access to government financing, or funding derived from tax revenues. The local regulatory and political framework will be considered when assessing the classification of state-owned companies

- > *Guaranteed Financials*: A specific bond issued by a private sector financial institution that is irrevocably guaranteed by a government. Most of these bonds are issued under programmes set-up after the 2008 financial crisis.
- > Bonds issued by unguaranteed institutions with an irrevocable and explicit guarantee by a central government that covers amount and timeliness of all interest and principal payments until the maturity of the bond.

3.3 Collateralized

3.3.1 Covered bonds

Bonds which are secured by a general pool of assets in case the issuer becomes insolvent, in particular bonds conforming to the criteria specified in UCITS 22.4 or similar directives, e.g. CAD III. In addition, bonds with a structure affording an equivalent risk and credit profile that are considered by the market as covered bonds are also included in the indices.

3.4 Corporates

Bonds issued by public or private corporations. Bonds secured by a ‘floating charge’ over some or all assets of the issuer are considered corporate bonds. Corporate bonds are further classified into Financials and Non-Financials bonds and then into their multiple-level economic sectors, according to the issuer’s business scope. The category insurance wrapped is added under Financials Services for corporate bonds whose timely coupon and/or principal payments are guaranteed by a special monoline insurer such as AMBAC or MBIA. The category Guaranteed & Wrapped is added under Financials for corporate bonds whose timely coupon and/or principal payments are guaranteed by a non-affiliated insurer or through a letter of credit from a non-affiliated bank. Each bond in the index is assigned to one of the following sectors.

Overview of Markit iBoxx Corporates Sectors

	Economic Sector	Market Sector	Market Sub-Sector
Financials	Core Financials	Banks	Banks
		Insurance	Life Insurance
			Nonlife Insurance
	Financial Services	Financial Services	General Financial
			Equity Investment Instruments
			Nonequity Investment Instruments
		Insurance wrapped	*

		Guaranteed & Wrapped	*
	Real Estate	Real Estate	Real Estate Investment & Services Real Estate Investment Trusts
Non-Financials	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas Producers Oil Equipment / Services & Distribution Alternative Energy
	Basic Materials	Chemicals Basic Resources	Chemicals Industrial Metals Mining Forestry & Paper
	Industrials	Construction & Materials Industrial Goods & Services	Construction & Materials Aerospace & Defense Electronic & Electrical Equipment General Industrials Industrial Engineering Industrial Transportation Support Services
	Consumer Goods	Automobiles & Parts Food & Beverage Personal & Household Goods	Automobiles & Parts Beverages Food Producers Household Goods Personal Goods Tobacco Leisure Goods
	Health Care	Health Care	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology Health Care Equipment & Services
	Consumer Services	Retail Media Travel & Leisure	Food & Drug Retailers General Retailers Media Travel & Leisure
	Telecommunications	Telecommunications	Integrated Telecommunications Wireless Telecommunications
	Utilities	Utilities	Electricity Gas / Water & Multiutilities

Technology	Technology	Software & IT Services
		Technology Hardware & Equipment

3.5 Additional classification

Corporate debt is further classified into senior and subordinated debt. Bank senior debt structure additionally differentiates between Bail-in and Preferred bonds.

The Bail-in classification captures all senior bank debt which is :

- Subject to write-down or conversion into a subordinated instrument on the occurrence of a resolution event.
- Senior bank debt issued by bank holding companies

Hybrid capital issued by banking institutions is further detailed into the respective tiers of subordination.

The market information on the tier of subordination for insurance capital is often less standardized and clear than the equivalent issues by banks. In these cases, the classification is based on the maturity, coupon payment and deferral provisions of the bond from the offering circulars of the bonds. Table below displays the seniority classification of debt issued by both financial and non-financial sectors.

Overview of seniority levels for Markit iBoxx Senior & Subordinated indices

Market Sector	Seniority Level 1	Seniority Level 2	Seniority Level 3
Bank	SEN	Preferred	*
		Bail-in	*
	SUB (Pre Jan-13 issuance's)	T2	LT2 callable
		T2	LT2 non-callable
		T2	UT2
	SUB (Post Jan-13 issuance's)	T2	T2 callable
		T2	T2 non-callable
	SUB	T1	T1 step
		T1	T1 non-step
	Insurance	SEN	*
SUB		T1	*
		T2 perpetual	*
		T2 dated	T2 dated callable
		T2 dated	T2 dated non-callable
	T3	*	
Other Financial Sectors	SEN	*	*

	SUB	Other	Hybrid
			Non-Hybrid
Non-Financial Sectors	SEN	*	*
	SUB	Other	Hybrid
			Non-Hybrid

4 Index calculation

4.1 Static data

Information used in the index calculation is sourced from offering circulars and checked against standard data providers.

4.2 Bond prices

For more details please refer to the *Markit iBoxx Pricing Rules* document, available in the *Methodology* section of the iBoxx Documentation page on www.ihsmarkit.com.

4.3 Rebalancing process

The index is rebalanced monthly on the last business day of the month. Any inclusion after the index cut-off day (t-3) will not be considered in the re-balancing process, but will become effective at the end of the following month. New bonds issued are taken into account if they are publicly known to settle until the last calendar day of the month, inclusive, and if their rating and amount outstanding has become known at least three trading days before the end of the month.

A preliminary membership list is published on 12th calendar day of the month (or the next business day in case of holiday/weekend).

Two business days before the end of each month, the rating and amount information for the constituents is updated and the list is adjusted for all rating and amount changes which are known to have taken place three business days before the end of the month which could also result in exclusion of the bond. However, if bonds which are part of broader USD indices become eligible into the index two business days prior to rebalancing because of rating and/or amount changes, will be included in the index.

Two business days before the end of the month the final index membership list for the following month is published at the close of business.

4.3.1 Weekly Previews

In addition to the regular monthly rebalancing, a preview list (including sector classification for new bonds) is published each Friday with predicted changes to the index constituents at the next rebalancing. The preview list includes the next month's index constituents based on information available on such Fridays. First weekly preview will be published on the Friday that is three business days after the previous month-end rebalance.

4.4 Index data

The calculation of the indices is based on bid prices. New securities are included in the indices at their respective ask prices when they enter the index family. In the event that no price can be established for a particular security, the index continues to be calculated based on the last available price. This might be the case in periods of market stress, or disruption as well as in illiquid or fragmented markets. If the required inputs become impossible to obtain, IHS Markit may consult market participants prior to the next rebalancing date. Decisions are made publicly available on a timely basis and IHS Markit may refer back to previous cases.

A sub-index is calculated if at least one bond matches all inclusion criteria. If no bonds qualify for an index, then its level remains constant. If at least one bond becomes available again, the index calculation resumes and is chained to the last calculated level. All bonds are assigned to sub-indices according to their classification. The assignment of a bond to a certain maturity bucket is based on its expected remaining life. All bonds remain in their maturity bucket for the entire month. All top-level indices are computed and disseminated Monday to Friday (except during common US trading holidays). They are based on US end of day prices. The indices are also calculated on the last calendar day of each month irrespective of holidays and weekends. If the indices are calculated on a day that is a non-business day, then the prices from the previous trading day will be carried forward and the index will be calculated using those prices and the current accrued interest and coupon payment data.

On the last trading day of a rebalancing month, the rebalancing takes place after close of market.

4.5 Index calculus

For specific index formulas please refer to the *Markit iBoxx Bond Index Calculus* document, available in the *Methodology* section of the iBoxx Documentation page on www.ihsmarkit.com.

4.6 Treatment of the special intra-month events

Data for the application of corporate actions in the indices may not be fully or timely available at all times, e.g. the final call prices for make-whole calls or the actual pay-in-kind percentage for PIK-payment options. In such cases, IHS Markit will estimate the approximate value based on the available data at the time of calculation.

4.6.1 Index and analytics weights

The Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index are market-value-weighted, with the bond's amount outstanding as the weighting factor. The amount outstanding of a bond is only adjusted at the monthly rebalancing process at the end of each month. However, scheduled redemption payments for amortizing bonds and sinking funds are taken into account from the date they occur, as they have a significant influence on index return and analytical values. In addition, bonds that are fully redeemed

intra-month are also taken into account immediately. Therefore, the indices are based on adjusted amount outstanding, derived from the amount issued and closely related to the amount outstanding of a bond. The concept is summarized below.

Definitions:

- *Amortizing bonds*: Bonds whose face value is redeemed according to a schedule at more than one redemption date. Interest payments are made on the basis of the remaining value of the bond.
- *Sinking funds*: Bonds, for which money is applied periodically to redeem part of the outstanding before maturity. At the redemption dates the appropriate amount of bonds may either be retired randomly from the outstanding bonds, or purchased on the open market and thus retired. Interest payments are made on the remaining outstanding bonds.
- *Fully redeemed bonds*: Bonds that are fully called or completely repurchased prior to or at the calculation date.

The amount issued of a bond does not change when coupons are paid and bonds are redeemed. However, additional tranches and unscheduled repurchases have to be taken into account to arrive at a suitable basis for index and analytics calculations. Therefore the adjusted amount outstanding is the common basis on which all calculations are based.

In addition, incoming bond prices are linked to the amount outstanding, rather than to the amount issued. This ensures a common basis (to the nominal value of 100), on which all bonds are priced and the indices are calculated.

4.6.2 Funged bonds

Bonds may be issued in several tranches. The different tranches are initially legally separate and therefore trade independently for a certain period. On and after the fudge date, the tranches will be combined into one bond, i.e. the parent tranche will contain the original security, as well as the additional notional(s) from the new tranche(s). After the fudge date, the prices for both the securities are the same, because they constitute one uniform bond. This is reflected in the indices as follows:

4.6.2.1 Parent and new tranche are both index constituents

- After the fudge date, the price from the parent tranche is used for the funged tranche; no price for the funged bond
- Funged tranche leaves the index at the next rebalancing and parent amount outstanding increases accordingly

4.6.2.2 Parent is an index constituent, but the new tranche is not

- No special intra-month treatment necessary
- Parent amount outstanding increases at the next rebalancing

4.6.2.3 Parent is not an index constituent but the new tranche is

- No special intra-month treatment necessary
- Funged tranche leaves the index; parent tranche enters the index at the next rebalancing

4.6.3 Full redemptions: exercised calls, puts and buybacks

If a bond is fully redeemed intra-month, the bond effectively ceases to exist. In all calculations, the redeemed bond is treated as cash based on the last price, the call price or repurchase price, as applicable. The redemption factor, redemption and the redemption price are used to treat these events in the index and analytics calculation. In addition, the clean price of the bond is set to the redemption price, and the interest accrued until the redemption date is treated as an irregular coupon payment.

4.6.4 Bonds trading flat of accrued

If a bond is identified as trading flat of accrued, the accrued interest of the bond is set to 0 in the total return index calculation and is excluded from the calculation of all bond and index analytical values.

Bonds will be considered trading flat of accrued in any of the following situations:

- a bond has been assigned a default rating and/or
- issuer has announced a failure to pay a coupon and/or
- issuer has announced an intention not to make a payment on an upcoming coupon (grace period).

4.6.5 Multi-coupon bonds

Some bonds have pre-defined coupon changes that lead to a change in the annual coupon over the life of the bond. In all instances, the coupon change must be a fixed amount on top of a fixed coupon, i.e. floating coupon bonds are not eligible for the indices. The two main categories of bonds are step-up bonds and event-driven bonds.

- **Step-up bonds:** These are bonds with a pre-defined coupon schedule that cannot change during the life of the bond. The coupon schedule is used in all bond calculations.
- **Event-driven bonds:** These are bonds whose coupon may change upon occurrence (or non-occurrence) of pre-specified events, such as rating changes, e.g. rating-driven bonds, failure to register (register-driven bonds), or failure to complete a merger (merger-driven bonds). In the calculation of the indices and the analytics, the coupon schedule as of the calculation date is used. That is to say, any events occurring after the calculation date are ignored in the determination of the applicable coupon schedule. *Example of an event-driven bond:* A bond's rating changes on 31 December 2003 from A- to BBB+ and the coupon steps up from 6% to 6.25% from 1 March 2004 onward. The coupon dates are 1 October and 1 April each year. The correct coupon schedule for the bond and index calculations is date dependent. The index calculation on 20 December 2003 uses the 6% coupon for the whole life of the bond, while the calculation on 31 January 2004 uses a 6% coupon for the current coupon period to 29 February 2004, and a 6.25% coupon for all later interest payments. The index calculation on 20 March uses a 6% coupon until 29 February, a 6.25% coupon for the remainder of the current coupon period and a 6.25% coupon for all future coupon payments. The index calculation after 1 April uses a 6.25% coupon.

4.6.6 Ex-dividend conventions

Some markets have ex-dividend conventions. Ex-dividend means that the next coupon is detached from the bond several days in advance of the coupon payment date. The date on which the next

coupon is detached is the ex-dividend date and the period between the ex-dividend date and the coupon payment date is the ex-dividend period. If a bond is in the ex-dividend period, the next coupon payment will not be paid to a buyer of this bond, but will be paid to the original bond holder.

The indices and analytics calculations take ex-dividend conventions into account. During the ex-dividend period, the accrued interest of the bond is negative, while the next coupon payment is held separate in the variable coupon adjustment. If the bond enters the index during the ex-dividend period, then the next coupon payment and the coupon adjustment will not accrue to the index. However, if the bond was already in the index, the next coupon payment needs to be included in the total return calculations. This is controlled via the ex-dividend indicator which is 0 if the bond enters the index during the current ex-dividend period and 1 if not. The same treatment is also applied to all analytics calculation, i.e. the first cash flow is excluded from the calculations if the bond enters during the current ex-dividend period.

4.7 Index history

The Index history starts on 31 December 2005. The indices have a base value of 100 on that date.

4.8 Settlement conventions

All iBoxx indices are calculated using the assumption of T+0 settlement days.

4.9 Calendar

IHS Markit publishes an index calculation calendar in the *iBoxx Calendars* section of the iBoxx Documentation page on www.ihsmarkit.com. This calendar provides an overview of the index calculation holidays of the iBoxx bond index families in a given year.

4.10 Data publication and access

The table below summarizes the publication of Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index in the *Indices* section of the IHS Markit website www.ihsmarkit.com for registered users and on the FTP server.

Table 1: Data publication frequency, file types and access

Frequency	File Type	Access
Daily	Underlying file – Bond level	FTP Server
	Indices files – Index level	FTP Server / IHS Markit website / Bloomberg (index levels only)
Daily from the 12 th calendar day of the month (or the next index publication day if the 12th calendar day	Forwards files	FTP Server / IHS Markit website

Frequency	File Type	Access
falls on a non-business day)		
Weekly (On Friday)**	Preview components	FTP Server / IHS Markit website
T - 4	Preview components	FTP Server / IHS Markit website
T - 3	Preview components	FTP Server / IHS Markit website
Monthly	End of month components	FTP Server / IHS Markit website
	XREF files	FTP Server

**Previews will be published on the first Friday that is three business days after the previous month-end rebalance.

4.11 Index review

The rules for the Index are reviewed on a periodic basis during the public review and consultation process to ensure that the index provides a balanced representation of the USD denominated debt market. Decisions made following feedback from market participants, the index review and External Advisory Committees (EAC) will be published on www.ihsmarkit.com shortly after the EACs have been held. The publication will contain a detailed overview and timelines for implementation of any rules changes.

5 Governance and Regulatory Compliance

IHS Markit Benchmark Administration Limited (IMBA UK) is the Index Administrator of iBoxx indices. Information on IMBA UK's governance and compliance approach can be found [here](#). This document covers:

- Governance arrangements, including external committees
- Input data integrity
- Conflicts of interest management
- Market disruption and Force Majeure
- Methodology changes and cessations
- Complaints
- Errors and restatements
- Reporting of infringements and misconduct
- Methodology reviews
- Business continuity

The rules for the index are reviewed at least once per year during the public annual index review consultation process to ensure that the index provides a balanced representation of the respective debt market. Decisions made following feedback from market participants, the annual index review and External Advisory Committees will be published on www.ihsmarkit.com shortly after the EACs have been held. The publication will contain a detailed overview and timelines for implementation of any rules changes.

6 Changes to Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index

28 Feb 2021	<p>Implementation of Annual Index Review 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Insurance classification • RegS and 144A tap issuance update
31 Jan 2021	Governance and Regulatory Compliance section added
31 Jul 2020	<p>Implementation of Annual Index Review 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of updated corporate classification schema • Implementation of updated Bank Tier Classification • Updates as part of the changes in definition and treatment of hybrid bonds
31 Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition update of Guaranteed and Wrapped • Definition update of Other Sub-Sovereign classification as part of Annual Index Review 2019
31 March 2019	Launch of the iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Large Cap indices and iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan (Far East)
28 Nov 2018	Inclusion of Preference share-style AT1s based on the Annual Index Review 2018
31 Jan 2018	<p>Implementation of Annual Index Review 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unify amount outstanding criteria to USD 250m for all bonds • Update of International tradability • Inclusion of unrated bonds in the index • Review of Inclusion rules for perpetuals, contingent convertibles and other subordinated debt
21 Sep 2016	Clarification on amount outstanding of the exchanged bonds
16 Aug 2016	Addition of covered bonds in inclusion list as per AIR 2015
22 Mar 2016	Addition of classification for Guaranteed & Wrapped
17 Mar 2016	Rebalancing process
31 Dec 2014	Launch of the Markit iBoxx USD Asia ex-Japan Index Family

7 Further information

Glossary of key terms

The Markit iBoxx Glossary document of key terms is available in the *Methodology* section of the iBoxx *Documentation* page on www.ihsmarket.com.

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