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Legal act = Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

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Title	Submission Date
ESMA_QA_2282	17-09-2024
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ESMA_QA_1897	14-11-2018
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ESMA_QA_1943	05-02-2018
ESMA_QA_1896	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1895	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1894	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1893	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1934	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1923	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1922	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1917	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1916	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1915	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1914	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1913	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1911	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1908	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1958	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1957	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1956	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1955	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1954	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1953	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1949	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1948	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1929	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1941	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1940	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1939	29-01-2013
ESMA_QA_1933	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1932	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1931	10-10-2012
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Title	Submission Date
ESMA_QA_1920	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1919	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1918	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1912	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1905	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1904	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1947	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1930	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1928	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1927	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1926	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1925	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1924	10-10-2012
ESMA_QA_1892	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1891	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1890	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1889	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1888	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1910	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1909	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1907	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1959	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1906	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1903	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1902	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1952	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1951	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1900	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1899	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1946	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1945	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1944	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1942	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1938	13-09-2012
ESMA_QA_1937	13-09-2012
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Submission Date

17/09/2024

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Calculation of Net Short Positions in case of issuers with non-listed shares

Question

When calculating net short positions in relation to issuers having both listed and non-listed shares, should the issued share capital also include non-listed shares?

ESMA Answer

17-09-2024

Original language

Answer provided by the European Commission in accordance with Article 16b(5) of the ESMA Regulation

Yes, non-listed shares should be included in the calculation of the issued share capital of a company and included in the denominator of the ratio. For reasons of consistency, non-listed shares should also be included in the numerator, where relevant. This interpretation aligns with previous interpretations that the EU Short Selling Regulation (Regulation (EU) 236/2012) refers to issued share capital of issuers, irrespective of any features attached to the issued shares.

“Disclaimer:

The answers clarify provisions already contained in the applicable legislation. They do not extend in any way the rights and obligations deriving from such legislation nor do they introduce any additional requirements for the concerned operators and competent authorities. The answers are merely intended to assist natural or legal persons, including competent authorities and Union institutions and bodies in clarifying the application or implementation of the relevant legal provisions. Only the Court of Justice of the European Union is competent to authoritatively interpret Union law. The views expressed in the internal Commission Decision cannot prejudge the position that the European Commission might take before the Union and national courts.”

ESMA_QA_1901

Submission Date

21/09/2023

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Notifications of net short positions existing prior to the application of the Regulation

Question

In Member States where a national transparency regime was already in place before the Regulation applies, do holders of existing short positions already notified to the concerned competent authority and/or publicly disclosed under that regime

have to make new notifications and (if applicable) disclosures according to European regime?

If so, how should the “position date” field in the form be filled in if the threshold has been crossed before the entry into application of the Regulation?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.3]

Yes they do. Notifications, and where relevant, disclosures of net short positions need to comply with the format specified in the Regulatory and Implementing Technical Standards adopted under the new European regime. This applies to existing notifiable or disclosable positions obtained before 1 November 2012 as well as those created on or after that date.

The “position date” field in the form to use for notification or for disclosure should be filled in with either 1st November 2012 Or 2nd November 2012, depending on the trading calendar of the Member State for the concerned financial instrument. (See Q&A 1900).

ESMA_QA_1897

Submission Date

14/11/2018

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Identification of the relevant competent authority

Question

Which is the Relevant Competent Authority (RCA) for the financial instruments mentioned in point v) of Article 2(1)(j) of the SSR (and in particular, for shares) following the application start date of MiFID II/MiFIR?

ESMA Answer

14-11-2018

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.10]

In relation to the financial instruments referred to in point v) of Article 2(1)(j) of the SSR (that encompasses shares), when the MiFID I regime was applicable, the relevant competent authority used to be determined by Commission Regulation No 1287/2006, supplementing MiFID I, that specified Article 25(3) of that Directive.

With the application of MiFID II / MiFIR regime, whereas the formal reference in SSR to Commission Regulation 1287/2006 has not changed, Article 25(3) of MiFID I has been substituted by Article 26(1) and (2) of MiFIR, supplemented by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/590. Therefore, the reference to Commission Regulation 1287/2006 has to be read as referring to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/590 for the reporting of transactions to competent authorities.

As a consequence, the RCA for SSR purposes coincides with the national competent authority of the most liquid market in terms of liquidity for transaction reporting purposes that is published by ESMA under the [Financial Instrument Reference Data](#) (FIRDS) section of its website, as required by Article 27 of MiFIR and Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 MAR.

Therefore, the notification of net short positions in shares (Article 5 SSR), the public disclosure of significant net short positions in shares (Article 6 SSR) and the restrictions on uncovered short sales in shares (Article 12 SSR) have to be submitted to the national competent authority of the jurisdiction that appears in FIRDS as “Upcoming RCA”.

ESMA_QA_1950

Submission Date

28/05/2018

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Easy-to-borrow list and locate arrangement

Question

Is it permitted - in the context of Article 12, first paragraph, (c) of the Regulation - to meet the requirement to have a locate arrangement by simply referring to an existing “easy-to-borrow or purchase list”?

ESMA Answer

28-05-2018

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.13]

In order to meet the requirement to have a locate arrangement contained in Article 12(1)(c) of the Regulation as further specified in Article 6 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 827/2012 (ITS), all the relevant conditions therein contained must be met.

Therefore, the practice of simply referring to an “easy-to-borrow or purchase” list of shares does not *per se* meet Article 12(1)(c) of the Regulation.

When specifying Article 12(1)(c) of the Regulation, Article 6 of the ITS identifies three different categories of locate arrangements: ‘*standard locate arrangements*’, ‘*standard same day locate arrangements*’ and ‘*easy to borrow or purchase arrangements*’ for liquid shares or shares included in the main national equity index that are the underlying of derivatives traded on a trading venue.

In relation to ‘*standard same day locate arrangements*’ and ‘*easy to borrow or purchase locate arrangements*’, Article 6(3)(c) and 6(4)(b) of the ITS lay down that, among other conditions, a third party should give the person intending to enter into a short sale an “easy to borrow or purchase confirmation for the quantity of shares affected by the possible short sale, taking into account the market conditions at the time of providing the confirmation. As an alternative to such confirmation, the third party can provide a confirmation that it has put on hold the requested number of shares for the person intending to enter into a short sale.

Therefore, ESMA deems that an “easy-to-borrow or purchase list” can be considered as an “easy to borrow or purchase confirmation” only where it is complemented for each share in the list with an assessment of:

- the maximum amount of shares affected by the possible short sale;
- the market conditions at the time of providing the list, including the liquidity of the shares concerned, and any other information available on the supply of the shares.

For the above list to be used as a “easy to borrow or purchase confirmation” for subsequent short sales, the above assessment has to be reviewed to consider the relevant quantity and any a change in the market conditions.

ESMA_QA_1943

Submission Date

05/02/2018

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Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Shares - Covering a short sale with claims to as yet unissued shares (subscription rights, convertible bonds)

Question

Can claims to as yet unissued shares (subscription rights, convertible bonds) cover a short sale?

ESMA Answer

05-02-2018

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.6]

Claims to as yet unissued shares (subscription rights, convertible bonds) may only cover a short sale if the availability of the new shares for settlement by the arrangement is ensured when settlement is due e.g. the concerned rights or convertible bonds can be converted into shares that would be available in time for ensuring the settlement.

Rights to subscribe for new shares cannot be used to cover a short sale in accordance with Article 5(1)(e) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 827/2012 where, at the time of entering into the short sale, there is uncertainty as to whether the new shares subscribed for will be available for settlement in due time.

That would be the case at least where:

1. taking into account that the procedure for capital increase may vary in the Member States, the successful conclusion of the capital increase is not yet known and certain as it would be where the capital increase is subject to conditions (e.g. minimum level of subscriptions);
2. it is not certain that the new shares resulting from the capital increase are fungible with the existing shares sold short;
3. there is uncertainty as to whether a sufficient number of new shares will be allocated to the subscriber that undertakes the short sale of the existing shares;
4. the delivery of the new shares in accordance with the applicable national law in the context of the concerned capital increase cannot be effective before or

on the date of settlement of the short sale of the existing shares.

ESMA_QA_1896

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Meaning of debt instruments issued by a sovereign issuer

Question

What is meant by debt instruments issued by a sovereign issuer (Article 2(1)(f) of the Regulation)? In particular, are bank loans or bonds issued by a company wholly owned by a Member State included?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.9]

Debt instruments issued means transferable securities as defined under Directive 2004/39/CE (MiFID) i.e. money market instruments and bonds issued by the Member State, including those issued by a government department, an agency or a SPV of the Member State as well as the other cases provided for by Article 2(1)(d) of the Regulation.

Therefore, bank loans borrowed by a Member State and bonds issued by companies owned by a Member State (except SPV) are excluded from the definition. Moreover, according to Recital 9 of the Regulation, debt instruments issued by regional or local bodies or quasi-public bodies in a Member State are excluded as well.

This definition would apply to the calculation of the outstanding issued sovereign debt as well as to the calculation of net short positions and, needless to say, to the restrictions on uncovered short sales in sovereign debt.

ESMA_QA_1895

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Shares pledged as collateral

Question

How should shares pledged as collateral be considered in terms of ownership and how should given collateral be treated for the uncovered short sale prohibition and position reporting?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.8]

In line with Article 3(1) of the DR, the ultimate beneficial owner of a share is deemed to be the investor who assumes the economic risks of acquiring the shares in question and the beneficial owner is defined by reference to the applicable national laws. In the case of shares pledged as collateral or given as collateral, the rules relating to collateral vary across the EU. Beneficial ownership should then be considered on a case by case basis taking into account the national rules and laws as well as the specific terms of the collateral contracts to determine whether such shares pledged as collateral or any given collateral amounts to ownership for the purpose of the short sale prohibition and consequently for the purpose of position reporting through the connection between owning and holding set out in Article 4 of the above mentioned DR.

ESMA_QA_1894

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

ETFs

Question

Should ETFs be included in the definition of shares for the purposes of Article 12 of the Regulation?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.7]

ETFs are not per se subject to Article 12 of the Regulation, unlike shares of a company (on restriction on uncovered short sales).

However, the position held through an ETF should be taken into account when calculating the net short position in an issuer which is represented in that ETF (Articles 5 and 6 supplemented by Annex I and Annex II of the DR).

ESMA_QA_1893

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

GDRs and ADRs

Question

Should Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and American Depository Receipts (ADR) be included in the definition of shares for the purposes of article 12 of the Regulation?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.6]

No, GDR and ADR are not shares for the purpose of Article 12 of the Regulation.

However, for the purpose of notification of net short position GDR and also ADR should be taken into account for the calculation (Articles 5 and 6 supplemented by Annex I of the DR)

ESMA_QA_1934

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29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Meaning of position holder and reporting entities

Question

Is there a definition of the terms "position holder" and "reporting person", in order to establish for instance if the position holder is the fund, i.e. the legal entity which owns the short position, or the discretionary investment manager who makes the

decision to take the short position.

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.11]

In principle the position holder is the person, natural or legal which owns the position.

Nevertheless the DR develop specific approaches to calculation and reporting of net short positions for, on one hand, management entities of several funds or managed portfolio and group constituted of several legal entities on the other hand.

With respect to management activities as defined in Article 12(1)(b) of the DR, the position holder when several funds pursue the same investment strategy is the management entity. ESMA considers that the position holder should also be the management company in cases when only one fund has reportable positions.

With respect to group of legal entities, the position holder can be, depending on the situation set out in Art 13 of the DR, either a legal entity within the group or the group itself. In general, the position holder and the reporting person (i.e. the legal or natural person who makes the notification to the competent authority) should be the same entity. However in the case of a group, another legal entity (reporting entity) which is part of the group can be appointed to report the group's net short position when a regulatory threshold is crossed (see Q&A 8.6 above).

In addition, there is in all cases the possibility to engage or mandate an external third party, including an investment firm on behalf of its clients, to report and disclose the net short position of the position holder but this does not affect the way the field "*position holder*" is filled in.

ESMA_QA_1923

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Credit Linked Notes

Question

Would the issuance of a Credit Linked Note be subject to the duration adjustment or to the delta adjustment?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.6]

Unless a Credit Linked Note is issued directly by a sovereign issuer, it should be treated as any other derivative on a sovereign debt (see Q&A1922).

ESMA_QA_1922

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Calculation of net short positions held through derivatives on sovereign debt

Question

For the purpose of calculating the net short position in the sovereign debt of a sovereign issuer, is a duration adjustment required to be applied to derivative positions referenced in that sovereign debt?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.5]

For the purpose of calculating the net short position in a sovereign debt, ESMA considers that the text of Part 2 of Annex II of the DR only suggests that the positions held through derivative instruments in the sovereign debt of a sovereign issuer (e.g. options, futures, CDS...) should be delta adjusted.

ESMA_QA_1917

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Delta adjusted positions in derivatives

Question

Could the meaning of the following statements included in point 2 of Part I of Annex II of the DR be clarified:

a. "a nominal cash short position may not be offset by an equivalent nominal long

position taken in derivatives”?

b. “Delta-adjusted long positions in derivatives may not compensate identical nominal short positions taken in other financial instruments due to the delta adjustment”?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.12]

In ESMA’s view, the two mentioned statements are ways to illustrate that persons taking positions through derivatives need to adjust the nominal/notional value of these positions by the relevant delta in order to calculate net short positions in the underlying.

ESMA_QA_1916

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Positions in UCITS

Question

Can we include a long position in a UCITS fund in the calculation of the net short position? And if the position in the UCITS fund has to be included in the calculation, and taking into account that Article 3(3) of the Regulation specifies that “no person

shall be required to obtain any real-time information as to such composition from any person”, is there a requirement to update its composition on a daily basis?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.11]

If the concerned UCITS fund is an ETF or similar instrument included in Annex I, Part 1, of the DR, and if its composition is publicly available for look-through purposes, then it should be included in the calculation of net short position. Otherwise, it should be excluded. In this last case, in fact, the net short position calculation should be conducted at the level of the fund management entities.

If the position has to be included in the calculation of net short position, the fact that the Regulation does not require the investor to obtain real time information should not prevent them from checking the composition on a daily basis if this information is publicly available and if it is likely that the composition can change on a daily basis. As stated in Q&A 1914, once information on index composition has been obtained, investors have to process that information for conducting the calculation of the net short position.

ESMA_QA_1915

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Futures on a basket of sovereign bonds

Question

In calculating a net short position in sovereign debt for purposes of notification to the relevant competent authorities, it would seem that "single sovereign bond futures" need to be included. A number of sovereign debt futures contracts

reference an underlying basket of securities. Would these futures be excluded from such calculations or is there an expectation that there is a need to look through to, say, the cheapest-to-deliver bond (see bund futures, for example)?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.10]

For futures on a basket of sovereign bonds of the same sovereign issuer, the following calculation should be performed: N^o of futures contracts x nominal of each contract x delta. If the basket underlying the future is composed of bonds issued by different sovereign issuers, and provided that the basket composition is freely available, then the futures position will have to be broken down for each individual sovereign issuer following the general rules for index look-through.

ESMA_QA_1914

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

“Publicly available information” on an index, basket of securities or ETF composition

Question

Under Article 3(3) of the Regulation and Annex II Part 1.3 & 2.4 of the DR, firms need only to look-through indices, baskets and ETFs to the extent that doing so is reasonable having regard to publicly available information. How should this

condition be understood?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.9]

ESMA understands “publicly available information” on an index, basket of securities or ETF composition as information which is easy to access on the market operator’s or issuer’s website and which is obtainable free of charge. Such information, notably on indices, is generally available free of charge when provided with a certain delay.

ESMA is aware that the provision of a real time index, basket or ETF’s composition is likely to be charged. However, it should be recalled that there is no requirement under the Regulation to obtain information on the composition of the above on a real time basis. ESMA considers that market participants should strive to use the most recent publicly available information for look-through purposes.

ESMA would like to specify that “acting reasonably” relates only to obtaining information about the composition and not to how investors process that information for conducting the calculation of the net short position. The Regulation is straightforward and requires that the index weighting, the composition of the basket of securities and the interests held in ETFs are considered and used in this calculation including when such information could not be integrated as such in the firm’s monitoring system.

ESMA_QA_1913

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Offsetting a net long position in a sovereign issuer with a net short position in another sovereign to which it is highly correlated

Question

Article 8(3) of the DR states that “provided always that they are highly correlated in accordance with Article 3(5) of the Regulation and with paragraphs 4 and 5, all net

holdings of sovereign debt of a sovereign issuer which is highly correlated with the pricing of the sovereign debt in any short position shall be included in the calculation of the long position”. Does the use of the language “shall be” imply that it is a mandatory requirement to net long positions in sovereign debt of one Member State which are “highly correlated” with a short position in another Member State?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.8]

ESMA considers that there is no obligation to assess systematically all long positions in sovereign debt which are highly correlated with another sovereign debt i.e. forcing the investor to compare all possible correlation pairs.

However, when deciding to offset the net long position in a sovereign issuer with the net short position in another sovereign to which it is highly correlated, the investor should comply with the requirements of the DR No 918/2012 (Annex II, Part 2, Article 11(10) sentence 2 and 3), in particular the requirement that a given long position shall only be used once to offset a short position in cases where the investor maintains several short positions in different sovereign issuers.

ESMA_QA_1911

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Issued share capital and saving shares

Question

The Regulation defines the “issued share capital” as “total of ordinary and any preference shares issued by the company”. It is correct to suppose that the scope of this Regulation does not include shares that do not give to the stockholder any

right to vote (so called saving shares)?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.6]

All classes of issued shares should be considered in the calculation of the net short position (both numerator and denominator) irrespective of their characteristics (common stock, preferred, saving, etc.) as the regulation refers to the issued share capital of an issuer, in particular irrespective if voting rights are included or not.

ESMA_QA_1908

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Instruments giving claims to shares not yet issued (Subscription rights, convertible bonds)

Question

To what extent are instruments which give claims to shares not yet issued (subscription rights, convertible bonds) taken into account in the calculation of a net

short position?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.3]

Instruments that give a claim to shares that are not issued yet should not be taken into account as long positions when calculating a net short position. In particular, subscription rights, convertible bonds and other comparable instruments are not long positions within the meaning of Article 3(2)(b) of the Regulation.

If a convertible bond converts into new shares rather than shares already in issue where possible under national law, the holding cannot be treated as a long position in determining whether there is a net short position in the share. However, if the bonds (often known as exchangeable bonds) convert into shares already in issue, it would be legitimate to take the equity component of the bond into account in the net short position calculation, subject to the condition set by Article 3(2)(b) of the Regulation being met and to the method of calculation set by article 10 of the DR.

If the convertible bondholder does not know what kind of shares (new shares or shares already issued) the bond will convert into, then the bond should not be taken into account as a long position for the sake of calculation of net short positions.

ESMA_QA_1958

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Exemptions: market makers and primary operations

Subject Matter

Equivalence decision for third countries

Question

In order for any non-EEA entity to be able to use the market making activities exemption as defined in the Regulation, the market in its home jurisdiction should be subject to a legal and supervisory regime which is equivalent to the MiFID, MAD

and Transparency directive and should be declared “equivalent”. Has such a determination of “equivalence” already taken place? Will non-EEA entities be able to use the exemption for their market making activities under the Regulation in time for 1 November, 2012?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 12.1]

According to Article 17(2) of the Regulation, the legal and supervisory framework of a third country is considered equivalent when the European Commission has adopted a decision to that effect.

The Commission has not issued any equivalence decision; thus, at this stage, no third country entity can claim the use of the exemption in relation to a third country market.

ESMA_QA_1957

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Replacement trades on sovereign CDS concluded before 25 March 2012

Question

A replacement trade is a practice used in compression service for CDS. They aims partially terminate a CDS and subsequently replace with new swap corresponding

in economic terms with the trades they replace. With respect to sovereign CDS concluded before 25 March 2012, are replacement trades on these CDS deemed to fall under the transitional measures set out in Art 46(2) of the Regulation (sovereign CDS concluded before 25 March 2012 may be held until the maturity date of the contract even if such CDS result in an uncovered position)? Or should such replacement trades be subject to Article 14 of the Regulation (restriction to enter into an uncovered CDS)?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.7]

Provided that the replacement trade does not extend the life or value of the sovereign CDS position beyond what they were when originally taken out before 25 March 2012, ESMA considers that it would be legitimate to treat the trade as an existing rather than a new contract and so not encompassed by the Regulation's prohibition on entering into uncovered sovereign CDS transactions.

ESMA_QA_1956

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Use of sovereign CDS index

Question

Article 15(2)(a) of the DR provides that “where the exposure being hedged relates to the Union or the Member States which have the euro as their currency, it shall be permissible to hedge it with an appropriate European or Euro area index of

sovereign bond credit default swaps". In cases where such indices are used, is it necessary to undertake a look through assessment of correlation and proportionality to each underlying long position and reference obligation that underlies the index being used?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.6]

ESMA's understanding is that where the risks being hedged are in each of the 27 EU Member States or of the members of the Euro area, the correlation and proportionality tests would need to be met in each of the components of the sovereign CDS index. So there would therefore need to be a full look through. However, if the asset being hedged was Union debt or debt of a Euro area institution such as the EFSF or ESM, this would be treated as a single asset which could be hedged by the appropriate sovereign CDS index.

ESMA_QA_1955

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Use of a sovereign CDS position to hedge different risks

Question

Can a sovereign CDS position be used to hedge against the risk not only of default in respect of an exposure but also against the risk of credit spreads widening e.g.

by maintaining different durations in static or dynamic hedges to hedge against spread widening risk?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.5]

ESMA considers that this would be permissible as long as the sovereign CDS position never became uncovered. Article 19(3) of the DR recognises that the same sovereign CDS position can be used to hedge different risks i.e. when one risk is liquidated another risk could be substituted provided it met the tests.

ESMA_QA_1954

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Static hedging through the holding of a sovereign bond

Question

Should the holding of a sovereign bond be treated as a static or dynamic hedge for the purposes of Articles 19 and 20 of the DR?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.4]

Article 20(2) of the DR specifies that direct exposures to sovereign or public sector bodies in the sovereign are examples of static hedging. The holding of a sovereign bond should therefore be treated as a static hedge.

ESMA_QA_1953

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Differences in durations of the sovereign CDS position and the hedged exposure

Question

Is it legitimate for an investor to hedge a risk through a CDS position which is either longer or shorter in duration than the term of the asset/liability being hedged? As

examples, could a 12 year sovereign bond be hedged by 5 year sovereign CDS contract which was then rolled until the maturity date for the bond or a 2 year bond be hedged with a 5 year sovereign CDS contract?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.3]

Article 19(3) of the DR states that the duration of the sovereign CDS position is aligned as closely as practicable given market conventions and liquidity with the duration of the exposures being hedged or the period during which the person intends to hold the exposure. ESMA recognises that the term of liquid sovereign CDS contracts may not be aligned with the term of the hedged exposure. Differences in duration (to be understood as meaning length of time) would therefore be permitted subject to the overriding condition that the person's sovereign CDS position should never be uncovered as defined in the DR. Hence it would be legitimate to purchase a 5 year sovereign CDS to hedge a 12 year sovereign bond and 'roll' the contract every quarter while the position was held. It would also be legitimate to use a 5 year sovereign CDS position to hedge a holding of a 2 year sovereign bond provided that, on maturity of the bond, it was either replaced by an equivalent exposure or the CDS position was reduced or otherwise disposed of as required.

ESMA_QA_1949

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Put on hold confirmation in the context of intra-day short sales

Question

Under Article 6 of the ITS, if the intention is to execute a short sale and cover intra-day, a locate and easy to borrow confirmation is sufficient provided that the broker is informed that the short sale will be covered by purchases during the same day as

the short sale takes place. However, if a put on hold confirmation is sought (even if not strictly required for liquid shares), is there still a requirement to provide a same-day request for confirmation to the third-party that the short sale will be covered by purchases during the same day?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.12]

A put on hold confirmation is not required for intra-day short sales provided that the conditions specified in Article 6(3) of the ITS are met. However, if a put on hold confirmation is nevertheless sought for an intra-day short sale, ESMA considers that it is not necessary for the party intending to undertake the short sale to provide a confirmation that the short sale will be covered by purchases during the same day. It would, however, be necessary to comply with all the other applicable requirements laid down in the implementing technical standards, including in particular seeking a locate confirmation for the shares.

ESMA_QA_1948

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Main national indices for the purpose of Article 6(4) of the ITS

Question

What are the main national indices identified by the competent authorities for the purpose of Article 6(4) of the ITS?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.11]

List of the main national indices identified by the NCAs for the purpose of locate rules for liquid shares under Regulation No 236/2012

Member State	Country Code	Main national index	Index code
<i>Austria</i>	<i>AT</i>	Austrian Traded Index	ATX
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>BE</i>	BEL20	BE0389555039
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>BG</i>	SOFIX	
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>CY</i>	GENERAL INDEX	GEN_IN_C
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>CZ</i>	PX	PX
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>DK</i>	OMX C20	DX0000001376
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>EE</i>	OMX Baltic 10 Tradable – PI	
<i>Finland</i>	<i>FI</i>	OMX Helsinki 25	FI0008900212
<i>France</i>	<i>FR</i>	CAC 40	
<i>Germany</i>	<i>DE</i>	DAX 30	
<i>Greece*</i>	<i>GR</i>	FTSE/Athex Large Cap	FTSE
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>HU</i>	BUX index – the official index of BSE	BUX
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>IE</i>	ISEQ® Overall	IE0001477250
<i>Italy</i>	<i>IT</i>	FTSE MIB	FTSE MIB
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>LV</i>	na	na
<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>LT</i>	OMX Vilnius	OMXV
<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>LU</i>	Indice LuxX cours (base 1.000 au 4.01.99)	LuxX
<i>Malta</i>	<i>MT</i>	MSE share index	
<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>NL</i>	NYSE Euronext Amsterdam - AEX	AEX-INDEX
<i>Poland</i>	<i>PL</i>	WIG20	PL9999999987
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>PT</i>	Portuguese Stock Index 20	PSI20
<i>Romania</i>	<i>RO</i>	BET-Bucharest Exchange Trading	BET
<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>SK</i>		
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>SI</i>	Slovenski blue chip indeks	SBITOP
<i>Spain</i>	<i>ES</i>	IBEX-35	
<i>Sweden</i>	<i>SE</i>	OMXS30	OMXS30
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>GB</i>	FTSE 100	

(*): The main index of Athens Exchanges FTSE/ATHEX 20 has been renamed to FTSE/ATHEX Large Cap index and is consisted of 25 shares instead of 20

ESMA_QA_1929

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Reporting by groups

Question

In line with Article 13(2) of the DR, the group shall report, and disclose where relevant, the net short position in a particular issuer when it reaches or exceeds a relevant notification disclosure threshold. Provided that a group is not a legal entity,

which legal entity within a group shall submit a notification?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.6]

A definition of a group is provided in Article 2(a) of the DR. However, the DR does not provide for the necessary information to determine which legal entity within a group is empowered to represent the said group when the latter has to notify a net short position to a competent authority.

Article 13(3) of the DR only prescribes that a legal entity shall be designated for this purpose. Where a legal entity within a group is designated to report on behalf of the group, ESMA strongly encourages that the same legal entity is used for all such reports.

Even if no further requirement on this matter can be imposed, ESMA nevertheless recommends that, where a group has to notify a net short position to a competent authority, a good practice would be to consider that the head company of the group is the relevant legal entity to represent the group. Indeed, the head company of a group generally is the legal entity that controls all undertakings within the group.

ESMA_QA_1941

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Record keeping of the relevant evidence on a durable medium

Question

How long should the durable medium under Article 5, 6 and 7 of the ITS (Commission Implementing Regulation EU No 827/2012) be stored as evidence of the existence of the agreement to borrow or other enforceable claim?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.4]

Although Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the ITS do not specify the length of time for retaining the relevant evidence, ESMA recommends that the durable medium used should allow the evidence to be kept unaltered, accessible and retrievable for 5 years.

ESMA_QA_1940

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Telephone call registrations as adequate durable medium for retaining evidence

Question

Can telephone call registrations be considered as a durable medium for the purpose of evidencing the existence of an agreement to borrow or other enforceable claim under Article 5 of the ITS, or of arrangements, confirmations and

instructions under Article 6 and 7 of the ITS (Commission Implementing Regulation EU No 827/2012)?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.3]

Telephone call registrations are considered an adequate durable medium under Article 5, 6 or 7 of the ITS.

ESMA_QA_1939

Submission Date

29/01/2013

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Covering a short sale and rolling of a repo

Question

In case of a short sale and a same time cover through a repo transaction, Article 5 of the ITS requires this being “for the duration of the short sale”. However, in practise, the duration of the short position resulting from that the short sale is

unknown and that position is covered by a repo that is rolled at maturity as long as the short position exists. Would such an extension of the repo be possible and cover the requirement of the Regulation?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.2]

According to Article 5(1)(c) of the ITS, the investor has to enter into the repo contract prior or at the same time as the short sale. The repurchase date specified in that repo has to ensure that settlement of the short sale can be effected when due. Therefore, the expiry date of this has to be consistent with the settlement date.

However, the resulting short positions may exist well after the short sale has been settled. In this respect, ESMA considers that nothing in the ITS precludes the rolling of the repo after the short sales have been executed and settled.

ESMA_QA_1933

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Reporting by a legal entity within a group when the group no longer cross a threshold

Question

In the case of a group, both the group and the legal entity within the group acquire positions that exceed the 0.2% threshold simultaneously. Subsequently, only the

group's position falls below the 0.2% threshold. Should the legal entity within the group then report even though it has not crossed up or down another threshold?

ESMA Answer

29-01-2013

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.10]

The overall net short position of a group should be reported according to Article 5 of the Regulation. In this regard, it is recalled that the group is required to report its net short position when it falls below, reaches or exceeds applicable notification thresholds.

According to Article 13(3) of the DR, the legal entity within this group does not have to report as the said group has a reportable position on that date.

However, this article prescribes that a net short position has to be reported at a legal entity level in the case where the group overall net short position is under the minimum notification threshold (e.g. 0.2% for equities).

It results from the DR that if on the trading day following the notification by the group, the legal entity within the group still holds a net short position reaching or exceeding a notification threshold, then the legal entity should notify its net short position even though such position was already taken into account in the notification previously submitted at group level.

In such a case, the position date that has to be specified in the legal entity's notification (date on which the position was created, changed or ceased to be held as provided by RTS 1[1], should be the trading day on which the group's last notification (i.e. the one crossing down the threshold) was submitted.

Example:

- **Day 1:** The group has an overall net short position of 1.0%. One of its legal entities has a net short position of 0.5% that was taken into account by calculating the group's overall net short position. The group's overall net short position has to be notified/disclosed by 15.30h of the next trading day (day 2).
 - **Day 2:** The group notifies/discloses its overall net short position of 1.0% before 15.30h (reporting date: day 2; position date: day 1); there is no further notification requirement for the one legal entity. On that day 2 the group's overall net short position falls below the applicable notification thresholds and is 0.1%. One of the group's legal entities has a net short position of 0.5% that was taken into account by calculating the group's overall net short position for that day 2. Again the group's overall net short position has to be notified/disclosed by 15.30h of the next trading day (day 3).
 - **Day 3:** The group notifies/discloses its overall net short position of 0.1% until 15.30h (reporting date: day 3; position date: day 2). There is no further notification requirement for the one legal entity. On that day 3 the group's overall net short position stays below the applicable notification thresholds and is still 0.1%. But the one legal entity of that group has a net short position of 0.5% (that was taken into account by calculating the group's overall net short position for that day 3). Now the legal entity net short position has to be notified/disclosed by 15.30h of the next trading day (day 4). But there is no notification requirement for the group's overall net short position.
 - **Day 4:** The legal entity notifies/discloses its net short position of 0.5% (reporting date: day 4; position date: day 3). The group has no overall net short position to report.
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[1] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N0 826/2012.

ESMA_QA_1932

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Simultaneous crossing of thresholds at group and legal entities levels

Question

In the case of a group,

a) What if the group and the legal entity within the group cross different thresholds,

or they cross the same threshold in different directions?

b) If the legal entity within the group exceeds the 0.5% threshold and, at the same time, the group exceeds the 0.2% threshold, would the legal entity within the group still have reporting/disclosing obligation?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.9]

According to the conditions laid down in Article 13(3) of the DR,

- (a) In both situations, only the position at the group level should be reported.
- (b) The legal entity within the group does not have to report/disclose its net short position; only the net short position at group level is reported/disclosed.

ESMA_QA_1931

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Net short positions arising from non-management activities and calculation at group level

Question

In a group constituted of several legal entities, including management entities, should the short positions of the management entities arising from their 'non-

management activities' be aggregated with those of the legal entities not performing management activities as part of the 'group position' for reporting, or should they be reported separately?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.8]

According to Articles 12(5) and 12(6), a legal entity within a group that performs both management activities and non-management activities should calculate separately, and report where relevant, the net short position resulting from its management activities in a particular issuer from the net short position resulting from its non-management activities.

The latter should be calculated at the concerned legal entity level. It should be aggregated and netted at group level with the net short and long positions of the other legal entities of the group that do not perform management activities.

ESMA_QA_1921

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Change in the duration of the position held and notification requirements

Question

If I reach or cross a notification threshold just because the duration of my position increased or decreased, without having taken any investment decision and without changes in the nominal position, should I update my notification to the competent

authority?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.4]

Yes. The net short position should be calculated taking into account any change in the duration of the position held, and be notified to the relevant competent authority if it results in this net short position reaching a threshold.

ESMA_QA_1920

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Calculation of the amount of outstanding debt on a duration adjusted basis

Question

How will ESMA calculate the amount of outstanding sovereign debt of sovereign issuers on a duration adjusted basis?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.3]

Every quarter, the relevant national competent authorities will provide ESMA with a duration adjusted figure of the outstanding amount of sovereign debt for their respective Member States or federated states. The figures for all sovereign issuers will be published on the ESMA website together with the notification thresholds applicable.

On each reference date (end of quarter) for calculation, the method to calculate this figure will be to multiply the Modified Duration of each individual debt instrument issued by the concerned sovereign issuer by its outstanding volume (i.e. nominal amount issued and not redeemed) and add up all these individual results.

For each instrument (i) and being D=Modified Duration of each issued instrument and V=Outstanding volume (in €) of each issued debt instrument, the “nominal value duration adjusted” (NVDA) would be:

$$NVDA = \sum_{i=1}^n (D_i \times V_i)$$

ESMA_QA_1919

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Calculation of the duration-adjusted net short position

Question

How should an investor calculate the duration-adjusted net short positions on sovereign debt?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.2]

For a particular sovereign issuer, the method to calculate the net short position is to multiply the duration of each individual issued debt instrument in which the investor has, at the end of the day, a long or short position by the nominal value of each of those positions, with a positive sign for long positions and a negative one for short positions, and add up all the products.

For each short and long position held on sovereign debt instruments (i) and being D= Modified Duration of each instrument held and V=Nominal volume (in €) of each position debt instrument held, the “nominal value duration adjusted” (NVDA) would be:

$$NVDA = \sum_{i=1}^n (D_i \times \pm V_i)$$

For example, an investor with a short position of 10 million € in a bond with Modified Duration 5 and a 1 million € short position in a bond with Modified Duration 3,5 will have a net short position equivalent to -53,5 million € (-10 x 5) +(- 1 x 3,5).

Since only net short positions are to be communicated, the negative sign shall not be included in the official notification.

ESMA_QA_1918

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Duration formula to use in the calculation of net short positions

Question

The DR (Commission Delegated Regulation regarding definitions, calculation of net short positions, covered sovereign CDS, notification thresholds, liquidity thresholds for suspending restrictions, significant falls in the value of financial instruments and

adverse events (DR), adopted by EU Com on 5 July 2012) specifies in the Annex II part 2 para. 1 that positions should be calculated in “nominal value duration adjusted”. What duration definition should be used in the calculation?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 7.1]

The duration formula to use is the Modified Duration. Information about the Modified Duration for a specific debt issue by a sovereign issuer is easily available from data providers. Modified Duration can also be computed from other available “duration” or sensitivity indicators such as the Macaulay duration or PV01.

ESMA_QA_1912

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Interest rate swaps

Question

Can a short position in sovereign debt be offset against an interest rate swap trade?
(For example, Sell 10 year German Bund and receive Fixed (pay floating) 10 year interest rate swap denominated in Euro)

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.7]

No. An interest rate swap is not per se an instrument related to the concerned sovereign debt in the meaning of Article 8(2) of the Regulation unlike derivative instruments on the sovereign debt itself.

ESMA_QA_1905

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Change in a net short position already notified

Question

What to do when a net short position that has already be notified is changing?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.7]

A notification is required where the position reaches, exceeds or falls below a relevant notification threshold that equals 0.2 % of the issued share capital of the issuer concerned and each 0.1 % above that. If there is a change of net short position which remains within the relevant notification threshold, for which a notification has already been made, there is no requirement for a further notification, e.g. if first a notification threshold was reached and then exceeded.

For example, if the first notified net short position is 0.30 % on a rounded basis and then that net position increases but remains below 0.4% (e.g. to 0.312% or 0.3989%), no further notification is required.

ESMA_QA_1904

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Rounding net short positions expressed in percentages

Question

For the purpose of the reporting and disclosure of net short position in shares, what should be the approach to rounding a net short position expressed in percentage?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.6]

The net short position resulting from the calculation to be performed by an investor and expressed in percentage of the issued share capital of a particular issuer should be reported when a relevant notification threshold (e.g. for net short positions in shares: 0.2 %, 0.3 %, 0.4 %, 0.5 %, 0.6 %, etc.) is reached, exceeded or crossed downwards. In such case, the position to report should be rounded to the first two decimal places by truncating the other decimal places.

For instance, if the net short position is 0.3199 %, a notification is required and should indicate the 0.31% position.

However, for a net short position of 0.1987% of the issued share capital, no notification is required.

ESMA_QA_1947

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Correlation test between two sovereign issuers

Question

When firms are comparing the correlation between two sovereign issuers (under Article 3(5) of the Regulation and Article 8(5) of the DR) should they do this on an issue per issue basis, or by comparing the yield curve of the two issuers?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.10]

Since net short positions are to be calculated on a sovereign issuer basis, ESMA considers that the calculation of correlation should be undertaken on the basis of the issued sovereign debt. So it would be a matter of comparing the yield curves of the two sovereign issuers to determine whether the test of high correlation as defined in the DR was met.

Reminder on the locate requirements

The requirements for the “locate” vary according to the financial instrument concerned and to the fact that the short sale will be covered by same day purchases (i.e. intraday short selling), as follow:

1. for sovereign debt, at least one of the conditions set out in Article 7 of ITS has to be satisfied;
2. for MiFID liquid shares and shares included in the main national index, all the conditions set out in Article 6(4) of ITS have to be satisfied; alternately, the person can meet the conditions set out in Article 6(3) – in case of intraday short selling - or Article 6(2) of ITS;
3. for other shares and in case of intraday short selling, all the conditions set out in Article 6(3) of ITS have to be satisfied; alternately, the person can meet the conditions set out in Article 6(2) of ITS;
4. for other shares and cases, all the conditions set out in Article 6(2) of ITS have to be satisfied

ESMA_QA_1930

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Reporting by a legal entity within a group

Question

In the case of a group, should a legal entity that is a part of this group always report/disclose its position when it reaches a threshold?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

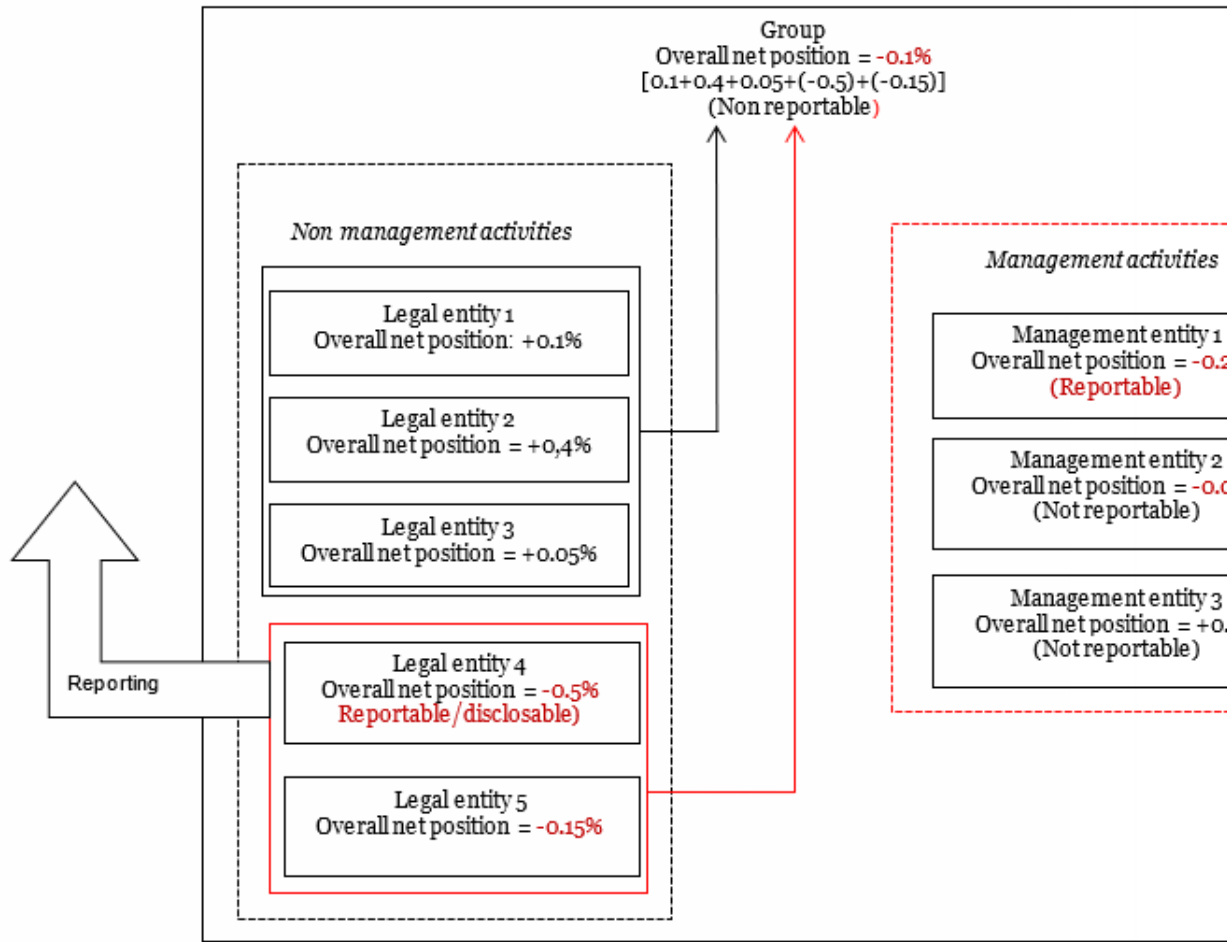
Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.7]

No, not always. Any legal entity within a group that reaches or crosses a threshold would only have to report its net short position in a particular issuer when the aggregated net short position at the group level (aggregating and netting the net positions, long and short, of all the entities within the group, with the exception of the net positions resulting from management activities by one or more of the legal entities) does not simultaneously reach or cross a notification threshold (see below).

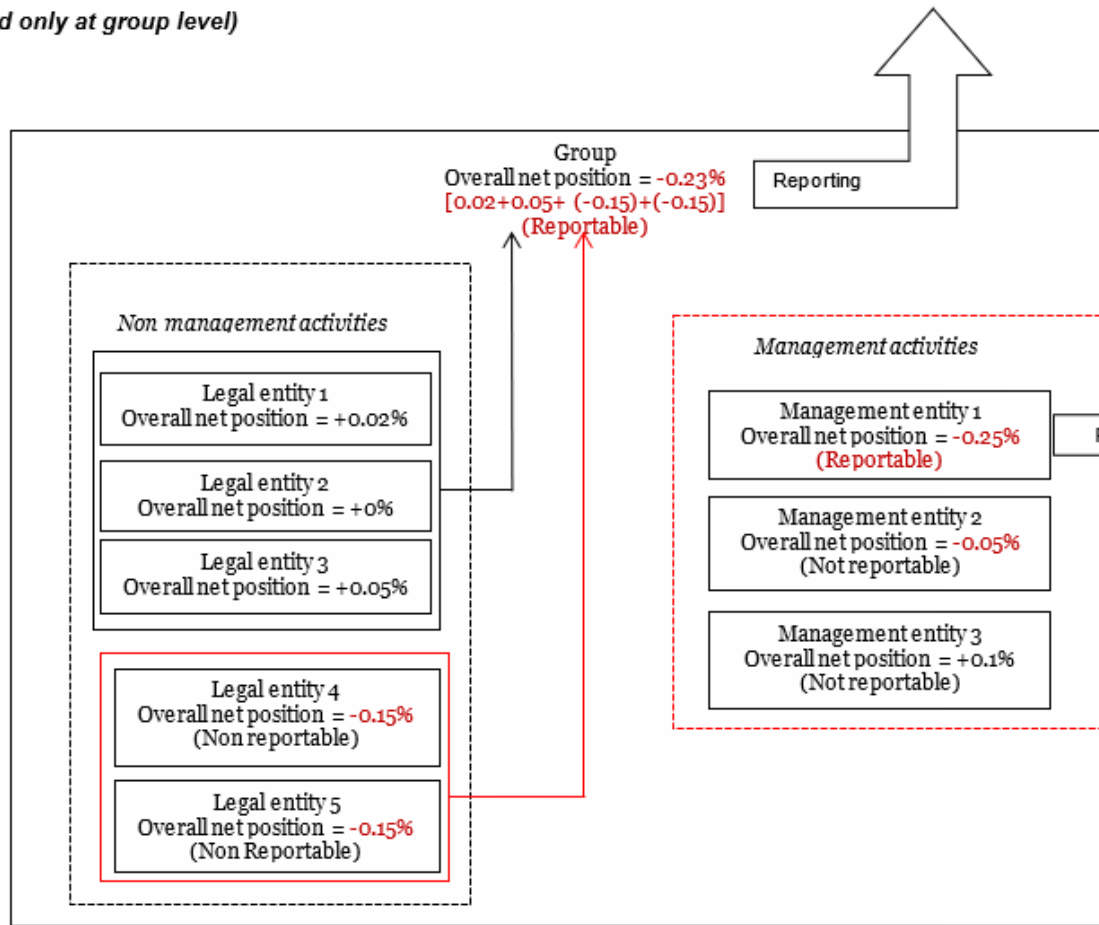
Examples of calculation within a group:

1/ Only the legal entity belonging to the group reports/discloses

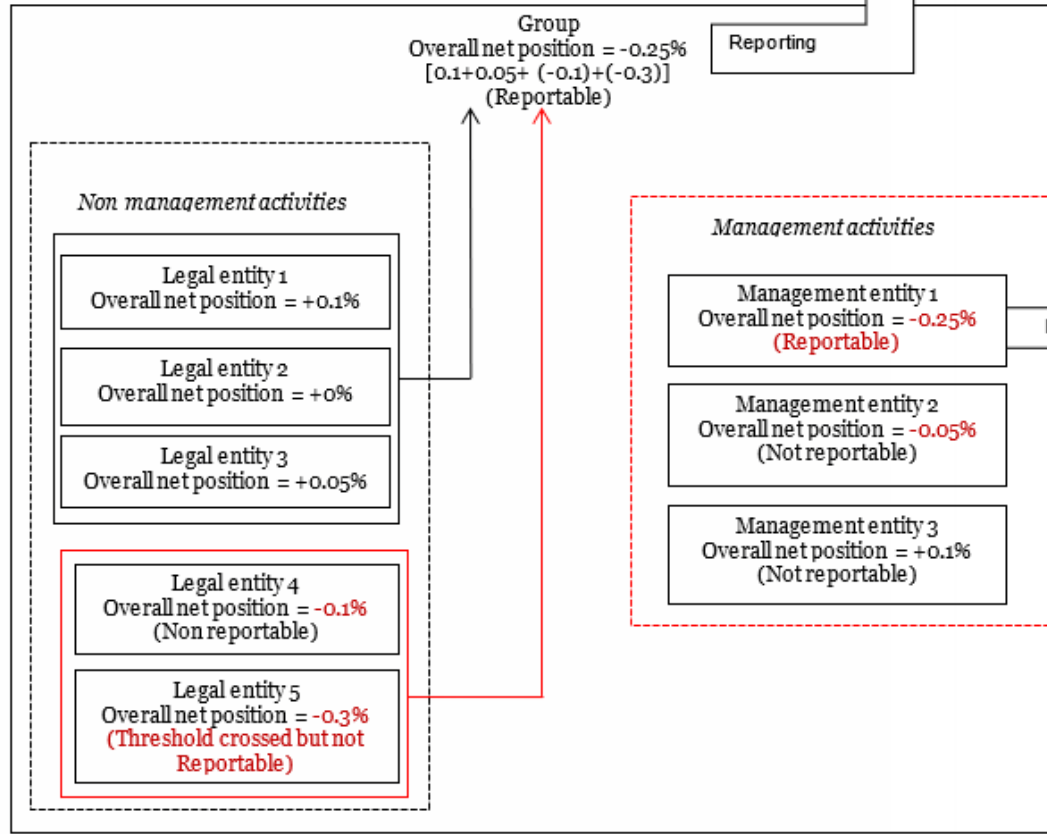


2/ Only the net short position at group level is reported/disclosed

Case 1 (threshold crossed only at group level)



Case 2 (simultaneous crossing of thresholds)



ESMA_QA_1928

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Calculation and reporting for a group constituted only of legal entities performing exclusively management activities

Question

In a group constituted only of legal entities performing exclusively management activities, how should calculation and reporting be conducted? Who should report?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

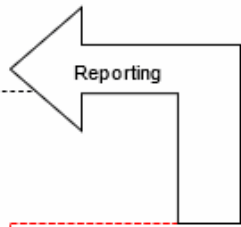
Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.5]

As described above in Q&A 1924, positions are calculated at fund or portfolio level. The positions of funds (or portfolios) which are net short in a particular issuer are then aggregated at the level of the management entity managing these funds (or portfolios). The management entity or another entity on its behalf should report the net short position when a threshold is reached.

The funds having net long position in this particular issuer should not be considered in the aggregation.

No aggregation and netting of the short and long positions of the several management entities constituting the group is required.



GROUP

Management Entity 1
Net short position: **-0.3%**
[(-0.25)+(-0.05)]

Fund 1 Net position = -0.25%
Fund 2 Net position = +0.1%
Fund 3 Net position = -0.05%

Management Entity 2
Net short position: **-0.16%**
[(-0.01)+(-0.05)+(-0.1)]

Portfolio 1 Net position = -0.01%
Portfolio 2 Net position = +0.01%
Portfolio 3 Net position = -0.05%
Portfolio 4 Net position = -0.1%

Management Entity 3
Net short position: **-0.43%**
[(-0.05)+(-0.1)+(-0.05)+(-0.08)+(-0.15)]

Fund (or portfolio) A Net position = -0.05%
Fund (or portfolio) B Net position = -0.1%
Fund (or portfolio) C Net position = -0.05%
Fund (or portfolio) D Net position = -0.08%
Fund (or portfolio) E Net position = -0.15%

ESMA_QA_1927

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Meaning of investment strategies

Question

Being a global fund manager of funds, I use derivative instruments that may result in net short positions in particular issuers when calculated as described in the DR though the strategies being implemented do not, however, relate to particular

issuers but aim at increasing or reducing exposure to markets or sectors. An example of the type of strategies that may be employed is: selling exposure to European bank equity through the EuroStoxx Banks index (SX7E) using futures contracts.

In light of the definition of investment strategy under Article 12(2)(a) of the DR and considering that such strategies are aimed at reducing my exposure to sectors or markets and do not relate to particular issuers, are they subject to short position reporting requirements ?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.4]

Yes, they are subject to the net short position reporting requirement.

According to the DR, the calculation of the net short position should be performed at each individual fund level. For a particular issuer, it should include not only cash positions but also positions held by the individual fund through indices where that issuer is represented and in accordance with its weight in the index.

The concept of investment strategy is used to determine whether the fund position is net short or net long. In the former, the net short position of that fund should be aggregated at the level of the management entity with the other funds having a net short position in the concerned issuer.

ESMA_QA_1926

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Delegation to calculate the net short position by single legal entities performing both management and non-management activities

Question

According to Article 12(4) of the DR, the management entity level report specifically excludes from the calculation the positions of funds and portfolios the management

of which is delegated to a third party and includes those of funds and portfolios the management of which has been delegated by a third party. Should the same approach apply to the single legal entity level report when that entity is performing both management activities and non-management activities, even though Article 12(5) of DR does not explicitly refer to Article 12(4) on delegation of management?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.3]

Article 12(4) of the DR clarifies the method set out in Article 12(1) to (3). Therefore, ESMA considers that the approach to delegation for calculating the net short position (excluding mandates delegated away and including received mandates) applies to the management activities of a legal entity also performing non-management activities.

ESMA_QA_1925

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Calculation and reporting by single legal entities performing both management and non-management activities

Question

How should net short position calculation and reporting be conducted when the same single legal entity performs both management and non-management

activities?

ESMA Answer

10-10-2012

Original language

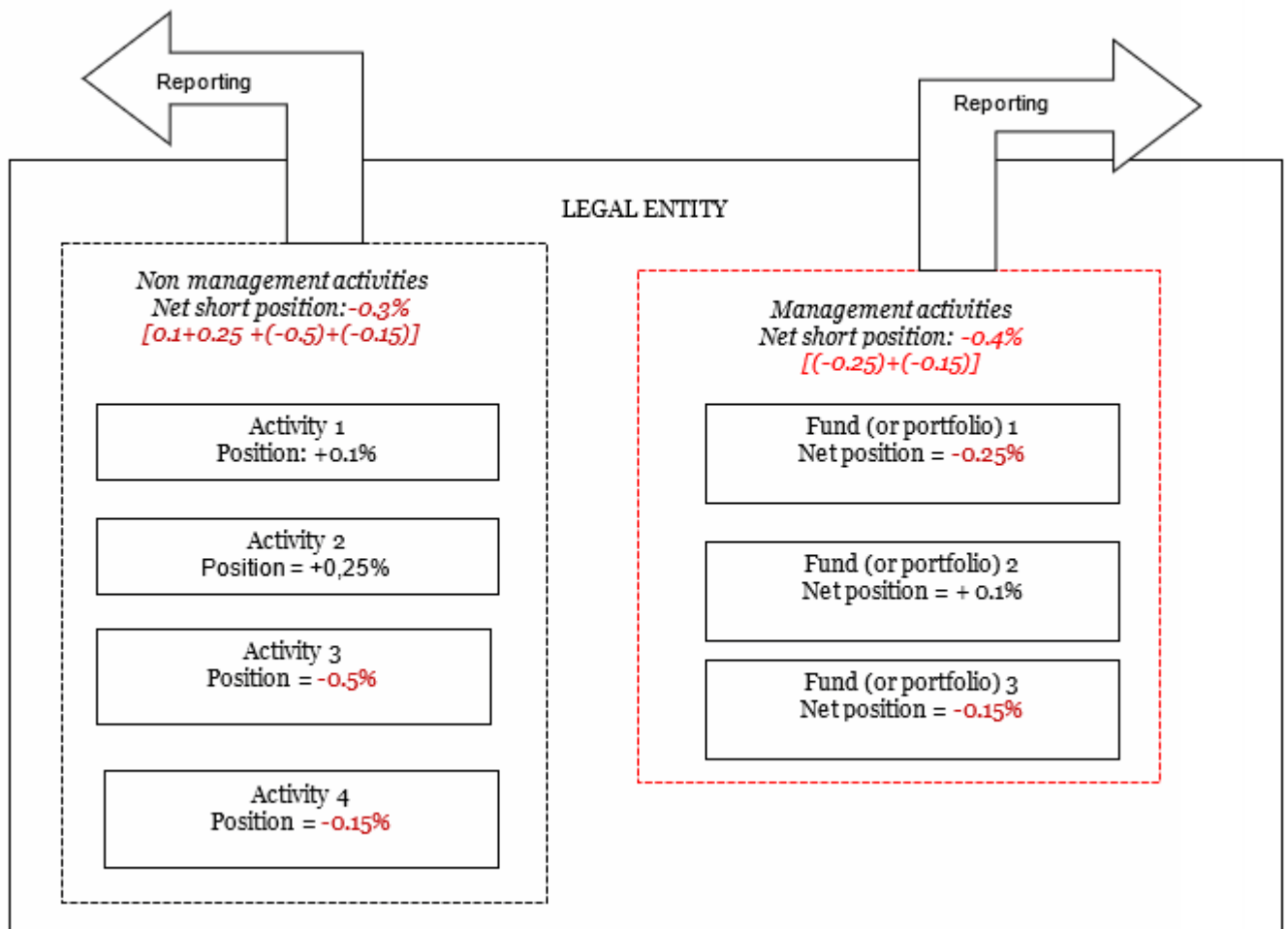
[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.2]

According to Article 12(5) and 12(6), when a single legal entity performs both management and non-management activities, it should conduct two different and separate calculations, one for each activity.

For the management activities, the net short position of each individual fund or portfolio under management should first be calculated for each issuer in which a position is held. The second step consists in aggregating, for each issuer, only the positions of the funds and/or portfolios that are net short at the level of the entity/division/unit/department that manages these funds and/or portfolios. If this aggregated net short position reaches a notification threshold, then the aggregated net short position should be reported.

For non-management activities, the legal entity should calculate its net short position in each particular issuer, excluding the management activities, and report (or disclose) when a relevant threshold is reached.

Potentially, on the same issuer, a legal entity may report two net short positions, one for the management activities and the other for the non-management activities.



ESMA_QA_1924

Submission Date

10/10/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Net short positions - Reporting by funds managed by the same management entity

Question

Are funds (or portfolios under management) managed by the same management entity expected to report net short positions?

ESMA Answer

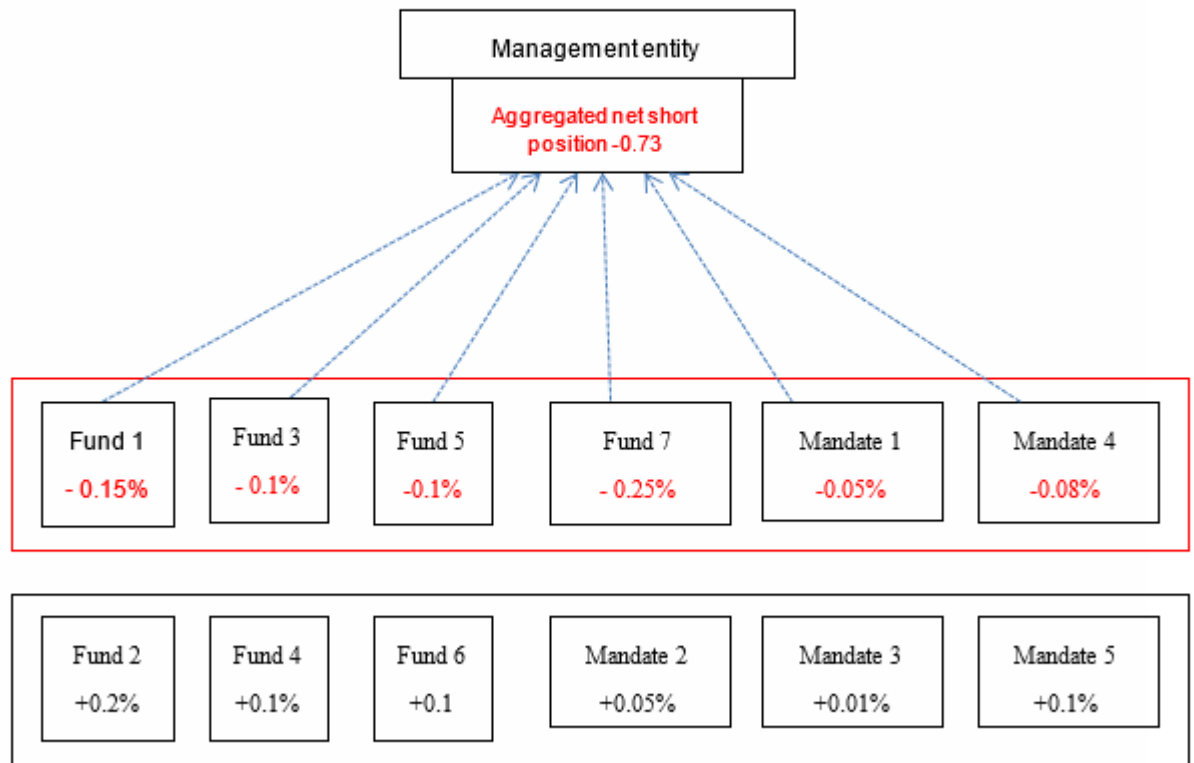
10-10-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 8.1]

No. At individual fund (portfolio) level, only the calculation of the net short position for each particular issuer takes place. Only the positions of the funds that are net short in the particular issuer i.e. pursuing the same investment strategy (i.e. being short), should be aggregated to determine the net short position at the management entity level and whether a threshold is reached warranting thus reporting and, where relevant, disclosure of the aggregated net short position in that particular issuer (see below).

Annex 1: Example of calculation within a management entity



For the purposes of the Regulation, an investment strategy is whether the fund (portfolio) is long or short in a particular issuer.

ESMA_QA_1892

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Financial instruments covered

Question

What financial instruments are covered by the net short position notification and disclosure requirements, and the restrictions on uncovered short sales? Is there a list available and where can it be found?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.5]

The financial instruments concerned by the net short position notification and disclosure requirements, and the restrictions on uncovered short sales are:

- shares admitted to trading on a European regulated market or MTF, provided that, in case they are also traded on a third country venue (outside the EU/EEA), their principal trading venue is not located in that third country;
- sovereign debt issued by a sovereign issuer as defined by the Regulation;
- CDS on sovereign debt of a sovereign issuer as defined by the Regulation.

With respect to shares, the Regulation on short selling and certain aspects of CDS requires that a list of exempted shares is published by ESMA on its website on the basis of the information provided by national competent authorities. Therefore, any share not mentioned in that list that is admitted to trading on a regulated market in the EEA or traded on a MTF in the EEA is subject to the requirements of the Regulation.

It should be noted that ESMA has already published a list of shares admitted to trading on an EEA regulated market ([Financial Instrument Reference Data](#)) which identifies the relevant competent authority for each share for the purpose of the Regulation.

With respect to sovereign debt and CDS on sovereign debt, ESMA is required to publish on its website the net short position notification thresholds applicable for each sovereign issuer falling under the scope of the transparency requirements set

out by the Regulation. This publicly available list will identify the relevant competent authority for each sovereign issuer (<http://www.esma.europa.eu/page/Short-selling>).

ESMA_QA_1891

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Shares of companies in scope

Question

Do shares of all companies traded on markets in the Union fall under the net short position notification and disclosure requirements under Articles 5 and 6, and the restriction on uncovered short sales of Article 12 of the regulation?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.4]

When determining whether the shares of an issuer fall under the regime, two cumulative conditions have to be taken into account:

- the shares are admitted to trading/traded on a trading venue (i.e. regulated market or MTF) in the Union;
- the principal trading venue for the share is in the Union (and not in a third country in case of multiple trading).

For instance, shares of a company domiciled in the USA which are admitted to trading on a trading venue in Germany but whose principal trading venue is located in the USA are exempt from the notification/disclosure requirements (Articles 5 and 6 of the Regulation), the restrictions on uncovered short sales (Article 12) and from the buy-in procedures (Article 15 of the Regulation).

ESMA_QA_1890

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Third country branches

Question

How do the net position requirements impact on third country branches where there is not a distinct legal entity in the EU or no relationship with subsidiaries in other EU jurisdictions except having the same parent?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.3]

Article 10 of the Regulation specifies that the notification and disclosure requirements apply to any legal person irrespective of where that person is domiciled or established. Therefore, there is no distinction to be drawn between a legal entity or a group in the EU or in a third country as to how they have to calculate their net short position in a given issuer and report it when a notification/disclosure threshold is reached or crossed.

ESMA_QA_1889

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

EU Sovereign CDS trades booked outside the EU

Question

Does the Regulation impact EU sovereign CDS trades booked outside the EU (e.g. Head Office in NY or Tokyo) but executed by traders in the EU (where a single global CDS book is run)?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.2]

Recital 3 of the Regulation states that it is appropriate and necessary for the rules to take the legislative form of a regulation in order to ensure that provisions directly imposing obligations on private parties are applied in a uniform manner throughout the Union. Therefore, the legislative act taking a form of regulation excludes the possibility of any discretion by a national competent authority when applying the rules. Recital 16 of the Regulation specifies that in order to be effective, it is important that the transparency regime applies regardless of where the natural or legal person is located, including in a third country. Where that person has a significant net short position in a company that has shares admitted to trading on a trading venue in the Union or a net short position in sovereign debt issued by a Member State or by the Union, they need to be reported wherever these are executed or booked.

It should be noted that 'regime' is to be understood not as a mere set of rules for submission of a net short position notification, but as a broad concept encompassing as well rules applicable to entering into or acquiring a net short position.

ESMA_QA_1888

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Scope

Subject Matter

Application outside the EU and to non-EU persons

Question

Do the provisions of the Regulation also apply outside the EU and to non-EU natural or legal persons?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 4.1]

Article 1 of the Regulation defines the scope of the Regulation by listing the financial instrument to which the provisions of the Regulation apply. For financial instruments referred to in Article 1(a) of the Regulation, the only decisive criterion is the admission of the instrument in question to trading on a trading venue in the Union (except where the principal trading venue of that instrument is in a third country), including when they are traded outside a trading venue. For debt instruments referred to in Article 1(c) of the Regulation, the main defining element is that these financial instruments are issued by a Member State or the Union. The same applies to sovereign CDS as defined under Article 1(e) of the Regulation. Neither the domicile or establishment of the person entering into transaction on these financial instruments nor the place where these transactions take place, including in third countries, are of any relevance in this regard.

ESMA_QA_1910

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Shares received under a bonus share issue or a share dividend distribution

Question

Do shares received as a consequence of a bonus share issue or share dividend distribution fall to be treated as a long position for the purposes of calculating a net short position?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.5]

Yes, as shareholders receive shares that can be used to offset short positions taken in the same issuer with other financial instruments. This may happen when, for instance, a net short position is constituted by having a long position in cash and a short position in derivatives.

ESMA_QA_1909

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Share dividend distribution and lending agreements

Question

Should dividends in the form of shares that must be returned by a borrower to the lender (as a result of a lending agreement) be taken into account to calculate short positions?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.4]

No. Those shares which the lender is entitled to receive under the terms of a stock lending agreement as a result of a share dividend distribution and that must be reimbursed by the borrower shall not be included by the latter in calculating their net short position. The mere conclusion of a lending agreement does not confer in itself any financial advantage in the event of a decrease in price of the share borrowed.

ESMA_QA_1907

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Umbrella structures and master feeder structures

Question

what level is the net short position to be calculated in the case of umbrella structures and master feeder structures?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.2]

In the case of umbrella structures, the calculation of the net short position must take place at the level of the respective subfunds. In the case of master-feeder structures, it takes place at the level of the respective master fund.

ESMA_QA_1959

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Enforcement - Sanctioning of violations

Question

How will any violations of the provisions of the Regulation be sanctioned?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 13.1]

Pursuant to Article 41 of the Regulation, rules on penalties and administrative measures shall be established by Member States and notified to ESMA.

In addition, ESMA has to publish a list of the existing penalties and administrative measures applicable in Member States on its website (<http://www.esma.europa.eu/page/Short-selling>).

ESMA_QA_1906

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Determination of net short position

Subject Matter

Shares in funds

Question

Do shares in funds have to be taken into account when calculating net short positions?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 6.1]

Shares in funds which are managed on a discretionary basis by a management entity are not required to be taken into account since the calculation takes place at fund or fund manager level.

However, shares in ETFs are within the scope and should be taken into account when calculating net short positions to the extent to which the underlying shares are represented in the ETF.

ESMA_QA_1903

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Management of first time notifications

Question

How will competent authorities manage cases of legal or natural persons notifying for the first time a net short position?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.5]

According to the Regulation, competent authorities or the operator of the central website supervised by the competent authority need to implement mechanisms for authenticating the source of notifications to them.

It should be emphasised that a position holder or the notifying entity remains responsible for the information that it reports to the relevant competent authority and, where relevant, that is publicly disclosed.

However, in order to ensure that disclosures are only made in respect of authenticated sources, competent authorities or the operator of the central website supervised by the competent authority can delay, unless it is not technically feasible, the publication of relevant net short positions until the authentication process has been completed.

Competent authorities or the operator of the central website supervised by the competent authority that have already implemented a strong and robust authentication process under their national transparency regime in force prior to the application of the Regulation will be able to rely on it for those legal or natural persons that have already been accepted under this process.

ESMA_QA_1902

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Submission of the notifications to competent authorities

Question

How is a notification and/or disclosure to be submitted?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.4]

Regulatory and implementing technical standards have been published specifying the div of the information on net short positions to be provided to the competent authorities and disclosed to the public.

The reporting channel (e.g. via fax, electronic systems, web-based solutions) will be specified by each competent authority on its website or on a website it supervises. ESMA will publish on its website the links to the relevant web page (<http://www.esma.europa.eu/page/Short-selling>).

ESMA_QA_1952

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Using a sovereign CDS position to hedge the risk related to another CDS position

Question

May a sovereign CDS be used to hedge the risk under another CDS referring to the same sovereign debt?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.2]

Yes, it would be legitimate to use a sovereign CDS position to hedge a risk related to another CDS position in so far as the conditions prescribed in Chapter V (in particular Articles 18 and 19) of the DR (Commission Delegated Regulation No 918/2012) are fulfilled.

ESMA_QA_1951

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Other SSR-related topics

Subject Matter

Uncovered Credit Default Swap - Uncovered CDS restriction and protection seller

Question

Do the restrictions on uncovered sovereign credit default swaps also apply to the protection seller?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 11.1]

No, the restriction on uncovered sovereign credit default swaps applies only to the protection buyer of a CDS.

ESMA_QA_1900

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Trading days to use for the notifications or disclosures

Question

Which trading days should be used for the purpose of the timetable for making a notification or disclosure?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.2]

The time specified in Article 9(2) of the Regulation for the notification (i.e. not later than 15:30h of the following trading day) is the one of the Member State of the relevant competent authority (RCA) for the purpose of notification. By analogy, it is assumed that the trading days would be the one of the Member State of the RCA for the purpose of the notification.

ESMA_QA_1899

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Date and time of first notification and/or publication

Question

When and for which trading day must the first notification and/or publication pursuant to Articles 5 to 10 of the regulation be submitted?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 5.1]

The Regulation shall apply from 1 November 2012. The first notification or, as the case may be, disclosure relates to all net short positions existing or having arisen on 1 November 2012 unless it is not a trading day in the Member State of the financial instrument concerned.

Therefore, in Member States where 1st of November 2012 is a trading day^[1], net short positions should be notified not later than at 15:30h on 2 November 2012 and, to the extent they are subject to a publication requirement, also disclosed within such period.

In Member States where 1st of November 2012 is not a trading day^[2], the first net short positions to consider should be the ones held at the end of 2nd November 2012 (5 November for Hungary) and, where relevant, these net short positions should be notified not later than at 15.30 on 5 November 2012 (6 November for Hungary). To the extent they are subject to a publication requirement, they should also be disclosed within the same time period.

[1] Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, *United Kingdom*.

[2] Austria, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

ESMA_QA_1946

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Sovereign debt - Market operators considered as third parties with whom arrangements can be made

Question

A market operator who manages a regulated market for sovereign debt can be considered a third party in accordance with Article 8(1)(f) of ITS?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.9]

Yes, a market operator can be considered a third party according to Article 8(1)(f) of ITS if:

- it *“is subject to the authorization or registration requirements in accordance with Union law”* (Article 8(1)(f));
- it *“participates in the management of borrowing or purchasing of [...] the sovereign debt”* (Article 8(2)(a)), for example by managing a repo platform (for borrowing the debt) or a cash platform (for purchasing the sovereign securities);
- it is able to *“provide evidence of such participation”* and, *“on request, to provide evidence of its ability to deliver or process the delivery of [...] sovereign debt on the dates it commits to do so to its counterparties including statistical evidence”* (Article 8(2)(b)-(c)) (e.g. with official statistics of market activity)

Such a third party can provide an “Easy to purchase sovereign debt confirmation” according to Article 7(5) of the ITS (pursuant Article 13(1)(c) of the Regulation), confirming that the sovereign debt is liquid on the platform so that there is a reasonable expectation that the securities can be borrowed or purchased in due time to ensure the settlement of the short sale.

ESMA_QA_1945

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Covering of a short sale on sovereign debt with a repo contract

Question

Could a short sale on sovereign debt be considered covered by a repo contract executed in the days following the short sale but with the same settlement date as the short sale (e.g. a spot next repo for a T+3 cash sale)?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.8]

Yes, it is possible to cover a short sale by entering into a repo contract afterwards provided that:

1/ prior to the short sale, the short seller entered into one of the arrangements with a third party under Article 13(1)(c) of the Regulation and Article 7 of the ITS (e.g. obtained an “easy to purchase sovereign debt confirmation” according to Article 7(5));

2/ the repo contract has an earlier or the same settlement date as the short sale, so that the delivery of the relevant sovereign debt can be effected when it is due.

ESMA_QA_1944

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Sovereign debt securities in foreign currency

Question

Are foreign currency bonds of EU Member States also covered by the restrictions on uncovered short sales in sovereign debts?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.7]

Yes, the prohibition provision covers sovereign debt securities irrespective of the currency in which they are issued.

ESMA_QA_1942

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Shares - Restriction on uncovered short sales in shares and instruments giving claims to as yet unissued shares (subscription rights, convertible bonds)

Question

To what extent are instruments which give claims to as yet unissued shares (subscription rights, convertible bonds) affected by the restriction?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.5]

According to Article 12(1) of the Regulation, the provisions of the restriction on uncovered short sales of shares relate only to shares admitted to trading on a trading venue. That means that transactions in instruments such as subscription rights and convertible bonds e.g. performed as part of a capital increase do not fall within the scope of Article 12(1) of the Regulation.

ESMA_QA_1938

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Uncovered short sales

Subject Matter

Covering a short sale with an agreement entered into by another legal entity of the same group

Question

Can a legal person within a group enter into an uncovered short sale provided that another legal entity within the same group has fulfilled one of the conditions set out

in Article 12(1) of the Regulation with regards to the same instrument?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 10.1]

No, short sales cannot be covered with an agreement, pursuant to Article 12(1) of SSR, entered into by another legal entity within the same group. The same entity carrying out the short sale has indeed to cover it with an agreement pursuant to Article 12(1) of SSR, including a locate agreement concluded with another legal entity within the group.

ESMA_QA_1937

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Late publication of a timely submission of a disclosable net short position

Question

What happens if a person has made a disclosure before 15.30 but, because of regulatory checks or other issues outside the person's control, the disclosure is not published until after that time?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 9.3]

The person has met its obligation under the Short Selling Regulation by making the disclosure by no later than 15.30h local time even if the notification is published by the competent authority or the operator of the central website supervised by the competent authority at a later point.

ESMA_QA_1936

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Publication of late submission of disclosable net short positions

Question

How will late submissions of disclosable short positions be dealt with by competent authorities? When will publication of such late disclosures take place?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 9.2]

A person with a disclosable net short position is required to make the disclosure by the officially specified method no later than 15:30h on the trading day following that on which the position reached or crossed the relevant publication threshold. If the disclosure is made after that time, the competent authority or operator of the central website supervised by the competent authority will aim to publish it as soon as possible after its receipt, provided this is during normal business hours. Depending on the checking process implemented by the competent authority, the disclosure may occur on the following trading day. Disclosures received after normal business hours will normally only be published the following trading day. Late disclosures will constitute breaches of the Regulation and, as such, competent authorities will pursue cases of late disclosures in line with their stated investigation and enforcement policies.

ESMA_QA_1935

Submission Date

13/09/2012

Status: Answer Published

Additional Information

Level 1 Regulation

Short Selling Regulation (SSR) Regulation (EU) No 236/2012

Topic

Transparency of net short positions

Subject Matter

Late submissions of notifications, cancellations or modifications of net short positions

Question

Should competent authorities accept handling late submissions i.e. notification, modification or cancellation submitted days, weeks or months after the date of the

crossed threshold?

ESMA Answer

13-09-2012

Original language

[ESMA70-145-408 SSR Q&A, Q&A 9.1]

Without prejudice to sanctions that could be applied for breaching the Regulation, a competent authority should handle such late submissions relating to net short positions in shares, sovereign debt and sovereign CDS for supervisory purposes including ensuring consistency over time of the information. Where relevant, for proper information of the public, the net short position in shares should also be publicly disclosed. To avoid confusion of the public in such a case, the position date field of the notification form must include the date on which the position was effectively created, changed or ceased to be held, no matter how far back in the past, and not refer to the date when the notification is made.

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