



Index Administration Services (IAS) EQUITIES BENCHMARK STATEMENT

1. General Disclosures	
Benchmark family name	IAS Equity
Date of initial publication of this document	9 July 2018
Date of last update to this document	9 July 2018
ISIN (where available)	There are presently no ISINs available or accessible for the benchmarks covered by this Benchmark Statement
Determination by contributions of input data	No, the administrator does not receive contributions of “input data” (as defined by the BMR) in relation to this family of benchmarks.
Qualification of the benchmark family	Benchmarks within the IAS Equity family are administered as “significant” (as defined by the BMR).
2. Key terms relating to the benchmark or family of benchmarks	
General description of the market or economic reality	<p>The IAS Equity benchmark family measures the performance of equity-based investment strategies.</p> <p>The administrator uses primary and secondary sources of data provided by exchanges and vendors. The material data inputs in the IAS Equity benchmarks are equity prices supplemented by FX and derivatives data as well as company fundamental data for smart beta products.</p>

	All benchmarks in the family are comprised of a selection of equities (or derivatives thereof). Those constituents are selected and weighted in accordance with the relevant index rules and smart beta strategies such as dividend and low volatility strategies as well as risk premia strategies involving equity derivatives.
Geographical boundaries of the market or economic reality	Equities used in the benchmarks are listed on multiple exchanges in different regions of the world: e.g. NYSE, NASDAQ, LSE. The exchanges where constituents of the IAS Equity benchmarks are listed must comply with the eligible list of exchanges as per Market Standard Treatment (MIST) methodology which is publicly available on the IHS Markit website. Any deviation from the list must be approved by the Index Administration Committee (IAC).
Other relevant information relating to the market or economic reality	The IAS Equity benchmarks generally include equity components which are traded on regulated exchanges only, unless explicitly specified in the respective index manual and therefore subject to approval by the IAC. At present, the IAS Equity benchmarks are comprised exclusively of equity components traded on regulated exchanges with the exception of one Equity benchmark series which contains a number of shares traded over the counter; these are scheduled to be excluded during the next index rebalance in June 2018.
3. The potential limitations of the benchmark and the circumstances in which the measurement of the market or economic reality may become unreliable	
Circumstances in which we would lack sufficient input data to determine the benchmark according to the methodology	Underlying data is provided by third party data providers. Failure of those providers may impact the administrator's ability to determine benchmarks in accordance with the applicable methodology. In the case of a market or data source disruption, the administrator will either proceed with or defer the determination of the respective index levels in accordance with the relevant index manual and the relevant Markit Disruption Events Policy.
Circumstances in which the degree of liquidity of the underlying market becomes insufficient to ensure the integrity and	An underlying equity component may be suspended, disrupted, or illiquid due to reasons including: corporate events (including delisting, merger, acquisition or consolidation); price change exceeding limits set by the relevant exchange; disparity in bid/ask quotes relating

reliability of the benchmark determination according to the methodology	to the equity component; and/or closure of relevant exchange. Any single underlying equity component subject to reasons stated above could impact the benchmark calculation and may result in a disruption event.
4. The controls and rules that govern the exercise of judgment or discretion in the calculation of the benchmark or family of benchmarks	
Position of each function or body that may exercise discretion in the calculation of a benchmark and governance thereof	<p>The administrator's indices are rules based and do not typically permit the use of discretion unless there are exceptional circumstances that are not addressed by either the index rules or an administrator policy. Such scenarios may include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure of data providers; - Significant changes to the underlying market; - Complex corporate events; - Action by governmental or regulatory bodies that causes market disruption; - Events beyond human control. <p>In the event that the administrator needs to take action or make a decision that has not been foreseen by the methodology or associated policy, senior members of the administration team will consult with the applicable IAC to arrive at a decision that is consistent with the objective of the index in question and that causes minimal disruption to index stakeholders. Where appropriate, and reasonably practicable, the administrator may consult with stakeholders. In any event the administrator will make all reasonable efforts to ensure stakeholders are aware that discretion or judgement has been used and how.</p>
Ex-post evaluation process	As above, the exercise of judgment or discretion in the calculation of the IAS Equity benchmarks would need to be approved by the IAC prior to the publication of any benchmark to ensure that no conflict of interest arises and the benchmark continues to reflect the underlying economic reality. The decision of the IAC would be recorded and notes on the nature of the judgment or discretion that have been exercised would be published on made available to the public. To the extent there is feedback or comment on the use of judgment or discretion, the IAC will review those comments at the earliest opportunity.

5. Review of the methodology and changes to, or cessation of, the benchmark or family of benchmarks

The methodology

IAS Equity benchmarks seek to objectively measure the performance of a specific underlying market or economic reality based on a market, market segment, theme or investment strategy – for example smart beta strategies such as dividend or volatility focused or risk premia strategies involving equity derivatives. The IAS Equity benchmarks are constituted by a selection of equities (or derivatives thereof and those constituents are selected and weighted in accordance with the relevant rule set. The indices are used in structured products, investment funds and other financial products. The IAS Equity indices cover equity markets globally. Many of the indices are designed to reflect the performance of markets or market segments in a specific currency such as EUR, GBP and USD

Each IAS Equity benchmark or group of IAS Equity benchmarks is documented in a corresponding index manual which is made available to stakeholders upon request.

Generally, IAS benchmarks are administered and calculated by IAS on behalf of a third party which retains the intellectual property rights in the index. The initial idea and rationale for a given benchmark methodology is provided to IAS by the relevant third party and undergoes a process of review and approval by the IAS IAC prior to implementation. Any subsequent changes to the determination methodologies or proposed termination of the index are subject to the IAS change management and consultation process.

All benchmark methodologies are assessed prior to their implementation by IAS with respect to their methodological and operational complexity and risks associated with the required data inputs. IAS has put in place policies and procedures applicable to all IAS-administered indices ensuring appropriate level of risk management, error identification resolution, handling of market disruptions, escalation to the IAS IAC, periodic review of the fitness of the benchmarks. Additional benchmark-specific governance and control arrangements may be put in place as deemed appropriate by the IAS IAC. Policies and procedures are documented in the administrator Control Framework.

<p>Possible impacts of changes to, or the cessation of the benchmarks upon the financial contracts, financial instruments that reference the benchmark or the measurement of the performance of investment funds</p>	<p>Generally, IAS will publicly consult on any planned material change or the cessation of an IAS Equity benchmark to allow stakeholders to indicate where changes to or the termination of a benchmark are expected to have adverse impacts. IAS will make reasonable efforts to address stakeholder concerns expressed in response to such consultation and to allow for reasonable advance notice for stakeholders in order to unwind existing contracts or instruments or seek an appropriate substitute benchmark. However, there may be circumstances where external factors beyond the control of the administrator could lead to short-term changes to or the termination of an IAS Equity index without proper consultation or adequate notice period, e.g. where a continuous disruption of the underlying market or an underlying data point requires a change to the methodology or impacts the viability of a benchmark. This may have a direct impact on investors with positions in financial contracts or financial instruments referencing the benchmark.</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>For more information, including to request index specific methodologies, please visit https://ihsmarkit.com/products/index-administration-services.html or contact us support@markit.com.</p>

IMPORTANT:

This Benchmark Statement will be updated whenever the information it provides is no longer correct or sufficiently precise and at least where:

- (a) there is a change in the type of the benchmark;
- (b) there is a material change in the methodology for determining the benchmark or, where the benchmark statement refers to a family of benchmarks, in the methodology for determining any benchmark within the family of benchmarks.

This Benchmark Statement will be updated at least every two years.

ABOUT US

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CONTACT US

For more information, including to request index specific methodologies, please visit <https://ihsmarkit.com/products/index-administration-services.html> or contact us support@markit.com.

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