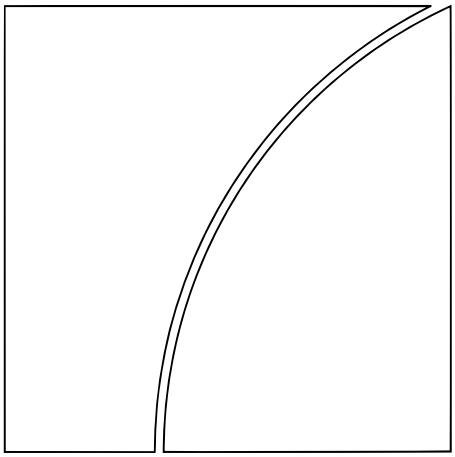
Basel Committee on Banking Supervision

LEX

Large exposures

LEX30

Exposure measurement



This chapter describes the value of exposures to counterparties used in the large exposures framework, including those for which a specific treatment is deemed necessary.

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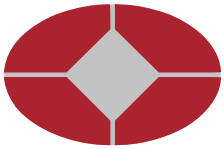
First version in the format of the consolidated framework.



BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

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General measurement principles

30.1

The exposure values a bank must consider in order to identify large exposures to a counterparty are all those exposures defined under the risk-based capital framework. It must consider both on- and off-balance sheet exposures included in either the banking or trading book and instruments with counterparty credit risk under the risk-based capital framework.

30.2

An exposure amount to a counterparty that is deducted from capital must not be added to other exposures to that counterparty for the purpose of the large exposure limit.

Definition of exposure value

30.3

The exposure value must be defined as the accounting value of the exposure. As an alternative, a bank may consider the exposure value gross of specific provisions and value adjustments

30.4

The exposure value for instruments that give rise to counterparty credit risk and are not securities financing transactions must be the exposure at default according to the standardised approach for counterparty credit risk (SA-CCR).

30.5

Banks should calculate the exposure value for their securities financing transaction (SFT) exposures applying either:

1. the method specified by national supervisors for calculating risk-based capital requirements for SFT exposures, so long any such method was applied by banks prior to 2019; or
2. in jurisdictions that implement the comprehensive approach with supervisory haircuts before the Basel Committee’s implementation deadline of 2022, this comprehensive approach (set out in the credit risk mitigation requirements for the standardised approach for credit risk).

30.6

For the purpose of the large exposures framework, off-balance sheet items will be converted into credit exposure equivalents through the use of credit conversion factors (CCFs) by applying the CCFs set out for the standardised approach for credit risk for risk-based capital requirements, with a floor of 10%.

Eligible credit risk mitigation techniques

30.7

Eligible credit risk mitigation (CRM) techniques for large exposures purposes are those that

meet the minimum requirements and eligibility criteria for the recognition of unfunded credit protection and financial collateral that qualify as eligible financial collateral under the standardised approach for risk-based capital requirement purposes.

30.8

Other forms of collateral that are only eligible under the internal-ratings based approach in accordance with CRE32.7 (receivables, commercial and residential real estate and other collateral) are not eligible to reduce exposure values for large exposures purposes.

30.9

A bank must recognise an eligible CRM technique in the calculation of an exposure whenever it has used this technique to calculate the risk-based capital requirements, and provided it meets the conditions for recognition under the large exposures framework.

30.10

In accordance with provisions set out in the risk-based capital framework, hedges with maturity mismatches are recognised only when their original maturities are equal to or greater than one year and the residual maturity of a hedge is not less than three months.

30.11

If there is a maturity mismatch in respect of credit risk mitigants (collateral, on-balance sheet netting, guarantees and credit derivatives) recognised in the risk-based capital requirement, the adjustment of the credit protection for the purpose of calculating large exposures is determined using the same approach as in the risk-based capital requirement.

30.12

Where a bank has in place legally enforceable netting arrangements for loans and deposits, it may calculate the exposure values for large exposures purposes according to the calculation it uses for capital requirements purposes – ie on the basis of net credit exposures subject to the conditions set out in the approach to on-balance sheet netting in the risk-based capital requirement.

Recognition of CRM techniques in reduction of original exposure

30.13

A bank must reduce the value of the exposure to the original counterparty by the amount of the eligible CRM technique recognised for risk-based capital requirements purposes. This recognised amount is:

1. the value of the protected portion in the case of unfunded credit protection;
2. the value of the portion of claim collateralised by the market value of the recognised financial collateral when the bank uses the simple approach for risk-based capital requirements purposes;
3. the value of the collateral as recognised in the calculation of the counterparty credit risk exposure value for any instruments with counterparty credit risk, such as over-the-counter derivatives;
4. the value of collateral adjusted after applying the required haircuts, in the case of financial collateral when the bank applies the comprehensive approach. The haircuts

used to reduce the collateral amount are the supervisory haircuts under the comprehensive approach. Internally modelled haircuts must not be used.

Recognition of exposures to CRM providers

30.14

Whenever a bank is required to recognise a reduction of the exposure to the original counterparty due to an eligible CRM technique, it must also recognise an exposure to the CRM provider. The amount assigned to the CRM provider is the amount by which the exposure to the original counterparty is reduced (except in the cases defined in LEX30.29).

Calculation of exposure value for trading book positions

30.15

A bank must add any exposures to a single counterparty arising in the trading book to any other exposures to that counterparty that lie in the banking book to calculate its total exposure to that counterparty.

30.16

The exposures considered in this section correspond to concentration risk associated with the default of a single counterparty for exposures included in the trading book. Therefore, positions in financial instruments such as bonds and equities must be constrained by the large exposure limit, but concentrations in a particular commodity or currency need not be.

30.17

The exposure value of straight debt instruments and equities must be defined as the accounting value of the exposure (ie the market value of the respective instruments).

30.18

Instruments such as swaps, futures, forwards and credit derivatives must be converted into positions following the risk-based capital requirements. These instruments are decomposed into their individual legs. Only transaction legs representing exposures in the scope of the large exposures framework need be considered.

30.19

In the case of credit derivatives that represent sold protection, the exposure to the referenced name must be the amount due in the case that the respective referenced name triggers the instrument, minus the absolute value of the credit protection. For credit-linked notes, the protection seller needs to consider positions both in the bond of the note issuer and in the underlying referenced by the note. For positions hedged by credit derivatives, see LEX30.25 to LEX30.28.

30.20

The measures of exposure values of options under this framework differ from the exposure value used for risk-based capital requirements. The exposure value must be based on the change(s) in option prices that would result from a default of the respective underlying instrument. The exposure value for a simple long call option would therefore be its market

value and for a short put option would be equal to the strike price of the option minus its market value. In the case of short call or long put options, a default of the underlying would lead to a profit (ie a negative exposure) instead of a loss, resulting in an exposure of the option’s market value in the former case and equal the strike price of the option minus its market value in the latter case. The resulting positions will in all cases be aggregated with those from other exposures. After aggregation, negative net exposures must be set to zero.

30.21

Exposure values of banks' investments in transactions (ie index positions, securitisations, hedge funds or investment funds) must be calculated applying the same rules as for similar instruments in the banking book (see LEX30.42 to LEX30.54). Hence, the amount invested in a particular structure may be assigned to the structure itself, defined as a distinct counterparty, to the counterparties corresponding to the underlying assets, or to the unknown client, following the rules described in LEX30.42 to LEX30.47).

30.22

Covered bonds held in the trading book are subject to the treatment described in LEX30.38 to LEX30.41.

Offsetting long and short positions in the trading book

30.23

Banks may offset long and short positions in the same issue (two issues are defined as the same if the issuer, coupon, currency and maturity are identical). Consequently, banks may consider a net position in a specific issue for the purpose of calculating a bank's exposure to a particular counterparty.

30.24

Positions in different issues from the same counterparty may be offset only when the short position is junior to the long position, or if the positions are of the same seniority.

30.25

Similarly, for positions hedged by credit derivatives, the hedge may be recognised provided the underlying of the hedge and the position hedged fulfil the provision of LEX30.24 (the short position is junior or of equivalent seniority to the long position).

30.26

In order to determine the relative seniority of positions, securities may be allocated into broad buckets of degrees of seniority (for example, "Equity", "Subordinated Debt" and "Senior Debt").

30.27

For those banks that find it excessively burdensome to allocate securities to different buckets based on relative seniority, they may recognise no offsetting of long and short positions in different issues relating to the same counterparty in calculating exposures.

30.28

In addition, in the case of positions hedged by credit derivatives, any reduction in exposure to

the original counterparty will correspond to a new exposure to the credit protection provider, following the principles underlying the substitution approach stated in LEX30.14, except in the case described in LEX30.29.

30.29

When the credit protection takes the form of a credit default swap (CDS) and either the CDS provider or the referenced entity is not a financial entity, the amount to be assigned to the credit protection provider is not the amount by which the exposure to the original counterparty is reduced but, instead, the counterparty credit risk exposure value calculated according to the SA-CCR. For the purposes of this paragraph, financial entities comprise:

1. regulated financial institutions, defined as a parent and its subsidiaries where any substantial legal entity in the consolidated group is supervised by a regulator that imposes prudential requirements consistent with international norms. These include, but are not limited to, prudentially regulated insurance companies, broker/dealers, banks, thrifts and futures commission merchants; and
2. unregulated financial institutions, defined as legal entities whose main business includes: the management of financial assets, lending, factoring, leasing, provision of credit enhancements, securitisation, investments, financial custody, central counterparty services, proprietary trading and other financial services activities identified by supervisors.

30.30

Netting across the banking and trading books is not permitted.

30.31

When the result of the offsetting is a net short position with a single counterparty, this net exposure need not be considered as an exposure for large exposure purposes (see LEX30.16).

Sovereign exposures and entities connected with sovereigns

30.32

As set out in LEX10.7, banks' exposures to sovereigns and their central banks as set out in CRE20.4 to CRE20.7 are exempted. This exemption also applies to public sector entities treated as sovereigns according to CRE20. Any portion of an exposure guaranteed by, or secured by financial instruments issued by, sovereigns would be similarly excluded from the scope of this framework to the extent that the eligibility criteria for recognition of the credit risk mitigation are met.

30.33

Where two (or more) entities that are outside the scope of the sovereign exemption are controlled by or economically dependent on an entity that falls within the scope of the sovereign exemption defined in LEX30.32, and are otherwise not connected, those entities need not be deemed to constitute a group of connected counterparties (pursuant to LEX10.9 to LEX10.18).

30.34

However, as specified in LEX20.4, a bank must report exposures subject to the sovereign

exemption if these exposures meet the criteria for definition as a large exposure (see LEX10.8).

30.35

In addition, if a bank has an exposure to an exempted entity which is hedged by a credit derivative, the bank will have to recognise an exposure to the counterparty providing the credit protection as prescribed in LEX30.14 and LEX30.29, notwithstanding the fact that the original exposure is exempted.

Interbank exposures

30.36

To avoid disturbing the payment and settlement processes, intraday interbank exposures are not subject to the large exposures framework, either for reporting purposes or for application of the large exposure limit.

30.37

In stressed circumstances, supervisors may have to accept a breach of an interbank limit ex post, in order to help ensure stability in the interbank market.

Covered bonds

30.38

Covered bonds are bonds issued by a bank or mortgage institution and are subject by law to special public supervision designed to protect bond holders. Proceeds deriving from the issue of these bonds must be invested in conformity with the law in assets which, during the whole period of the validity of the bonds, are capable of covering claims attached to the bonds and which, in the event of the failure of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of the principal and payment of the accrued interest.

30.39

A covered bond satisfying the conditions set out in LEX30.40 may be assigned an exposure value of no less than 20% of the nominal value of the bank's covered bond holding. Other covered bonds must be assigned an exposure value equal to 100% of the nominal value of the bank's covered bond holding. The counterparty to which the exposure value is assigned is the issuing bank.

30.40

To be eligible to be assigned an exposure value of less than 100%, a covered bond must satisfy all the following conditions:

1. it must meet the general definition set out in LEX30.38;
2. the pool of underlying assets must exclusively consist of:
    1. claims on, or guaranteed by, sovereigns, their central banks, public sector entities or multilateral development banks;
    2. claims secured by mortgages on residential real estate that would qualify for a 35% or lower risk weight under CRE20 and have a loan-to-value ratio of 80% or lower; and/or

3. claims secured by commercial real estate that would qualify for the 100% or lower risk-weight under CRE20 and with a loan-to-value ratio of 60% or lower;

3. The nominal value of the pool of assets assigned to the covered bond instrument(s) by its issuer should exceed its nominal outstanding value by at least 10%. The value of the pool of assets for this purpose does not need to be that required by the legislative framework. However, if the legislative framework does not stipulate a requirement of at least 10%, the issuing bank needs to publicly disclose on a regular basis that their cover pool meets the 10% requirement in practice. In addition to the primary assets listed in LEX30.40(2), the additional collateral may include substitution assets (cash or short term liquid and secure assets held in substitution of the primary assets to top up the cover pool for management purposes) and derivatives entered into for the purposes of hedging the risks arising in the covered bond programme.

30.41

In order to calculate the required maximum loan-to-value ratio for residential real estate and commercial real estate refered to in LEX30.40, the operational requirements included in CRE36.127 regarding the objective market value of collateral and the frequent revaluation must be used. The conditions set out in LEX30.40 must be satisfied at the inception of the covered bond and throughout its remaining maturity.

Collective investment undertakings, securitisation vehicles and other structures

30.42

Banks must consider exposures even when a structure lies between the bank and the exposures, that is, even when the bank invests in structures through an entity which itself has exposures to assets (hereafter referred to as the "underlying assets"). Banks must assign the exposure amount, ie the amount invested in a particular structure, to specific counterparties following the approach described below. Such structures include funds, securitisations and other structures with underlying assets.

30.43

A bank may assign the exposure amount to the structure itself, defined as a distinct counterparty, if it can demonstrate that the bank's exposure amount to each underlying asset of the structure is smaller than 0.25% of its Tier 1 capital, considering only those exposures to underlying assets that result from the investment in the structure itself and using the exposure value calculated according to LEX30.49 and LEX30.50. In this case, a bank is not required to look through the structure to identify the underlying assets.

30.44

A bank must look through the structure to identify those underlying assets for which the underlying exposure value is equal to or above 0.25% of its Tier 1 capital. In this case, the counterparty corresponding to each of the underlying assets must be identified so that these underlying exposures can be added to any other direct or indirect exposure to the same counterparty. The bank's exposure amount to the underlying assets that are below 0.25% of the bank's Tier 1 capital may be assigned to the structure itself (ie partial look-through is permitted).

30.45

If a bank is unable to identify the underlying assets of a structure:

1. where the total amount of its exposure does not exceed 0.25% of its Tier 1 capital, the bank must assign the total exposure amount of its investment to the structure;
2. otherwise, it must assign this total exposure amount to the unknown client.

30.46

The bank must aggregate all unknown exposures as if they related to a single counterparty (the unknown client), to which the large exposure limit would apply.

30.47

When the look-through approach (LTA) is not required according to LEX30.43, a bank must nevertheless be able to demonstrate that regulatory arbitrage considerations have not influenced the decision whether to look through or not - eg that the bank has not circumvented the large exposure limit by investing in several individually immaterial transactions with identical underlying assets.

30.48

If the LTA need not be applied, a bank's exposure to the structure must be the nominal amount it invests in the structure.

30.49

When the LTA is required according to the paragraphs above, the exposure value assigned to a counterparty is equal to the pro rata share that the bank holds in the structure multiplied by the value of the underlying asset in the structure. Thus, a bank holding a 1% share of a structure that invests in 20 assets each with a value of 5 must assign an exposure of 0.05 to each of the counterparties. An exposure to a counterparty must be added to any other direct or indirect exposures the bank has to that counterparty.

30.50

When the LTA is required according to the paragraphs above, the exposure value to a counterparty is measured for each tranche within the structure, assuming a pro rata distribution of losses amongst investors in a single tranche. To compute the exposure value to the underlying asset, a bank must:

1. first, consider the lower of the value of the tranche in which the bank invests and the nominal value of each underlying asset included in the underlying portfolio of assets
2. second, apply the pro rata share of the bank's investment in the tranche to the value determined in the first step above.

30.51

Banks must identify third parties that may constitute an additional risk factor inherent in a structure itself rather than in the underlying assets. Such a third party could be a risk factor for more than one structure that a bank invests in. Examples of roles played by third parties include originator, fund manager, liquidity provider and credit protection provider.

30.52

The identification of an additional risk factor has two implications.

1. The first implication is that banks must connect their investments in those structures with a common risk factor to form a group of connected counterparties. In such cases, the manager would be regarded as a distinct counterparty so that the sum of a bank's investments in all of the funds managed by this manager would be subject to the large exposure limit, with the exposure value being the total value of the different investments. But in other cases, the identity of the manager may not comprise an additional risk factor - for example, if the legal framework governing the regulation of particular funds requires separation between the legal entity that manages the fund and the legal entity that has custody of the fund's assets. In the case of structured finance products, the liquidity provider or sponsor of short-term programmes (asset-backed commercial paper conduits and structured investment vehicles) may warrant consideration as an additional risk factor (with the exposure value being the amount invested). Similarly, in synthetic deals, the protection providers (sellers of protection by means of CDS/guarantees) may be an additional source of risk and a common factor for interconnecting different structures (in this case, the exposure value would correspond to the percentage value of the underlying portfolio).
2. The second implication is that banks may add their investments in a set of structures associated with a third party that constitutes a common risk factor to other exposures (such as a loan) it has to that third party. Whether the exposures to such structures must be added to any other exposures to the third party would again depend on a case-by-case consideration of the specific features of the structure and on the role of the third party. In the example of the fund manager, adding together the exposures may not be necessary because potentially fraudulent behaviour may not necessarily affect the repayment of a loan. The assessment may be different where the risk to the value of investments underlying the structures arises in the event of a third-party default. For example, in the case of a credit protection provider, the source of the additional risk for the bank investing in a structure is the default of the credit protection provider. The bank must add the investment in the structure to the direct exposures to the credit protection provider since both exposures might crystallise into losses in the event that the protection provider defaults (ignoring the covered part of the exposures may lead to the undesirable situation of a high concentration risk exposure to issuers of collateral or providers of credit protection).

30.53

It is conceivable that a bank may consider multiple third parties to be potential drivers of additional risk. In this case, the bank must assign the exposure resulting from the investment in the relevant structures to each of the third parties.

30.54

The requirement set out in LEX30.48 to recognise a structural risk inherent in the structure instead of the risk stemming from the underlying exposures is independent of whatever the general assessment of additional risks concludes.

Exposures to central counterparties

30.55

Banks' exposures to qualifying central counterparties (QCCPs) related to clearing activities are exempted from the large exposures framework. However, these exposures are subject to the regulatory reporting requirements as defined in LEX20.4.

30.56

In the case of non-QCCPs, banks must measure their exposure as a sum of both the clearing exposures described in LEX30.58 and the non-clearing exposures described in LEX30.60, and must respect the general large exposure limit of 25% of the Tier 1 capital.

30.57

The concept of connected counterparties described in LEX10.9 to LEX10.18 does not apply in the context of exposure to central counterparties (CCPs) that are specifically related to clearing activities.

30.58

Banks must identify exposures to a CCP related to clearing activities and sum together these exposures. Exposures related to clearing activities are listed in the table below together with the exposure value to be used:

Exposures related to clearing activities — Table 1

Type of exposure	Exposure value
Trade exposures	The exposure value of trade exposures must be calculated using the exposure measures prescribed in other parts of this framework for the respective type of exposures (eg using the SA-CCR for derivative exposures).
Segregated initial margin	The exposure value is zero.
Non-segregated initial margin	The exposure value is the nominal amount of initial margin posted.
Pre-funded default fund contributions	Nominal amount of the funded contribution.
Unfunded default fund contributions	The exposure value is zero.
Equity stakes	The exposure value is the nominal amount.

30.59

Regarding exposures subject to clearing services (the bank acting as a clearing member or being a client of a clearing member), the bank must determine the counterparty to which exposures must be assigned by applying the provisions of the risk-based capital requirements.

30.60

Other types of exposures that are not directly related to clearing services provided by the CCP, such as funding facilities, credit facilities, guarantees etc, must be measured according to the rules set out in this chapter of this framework, as for any other type of counterparty. These exposures will be added together and be subjected to the large exposure limit.