



Cessation of a Benchmark

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1 Cessation of a benchmark

1.1 Responsibilities and approvals

SIX publishes together with the benchmark statement referred to in Article 27 (Benchmark statement) of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/1011 (EU Benchmark Regulation), a procedure concerning the actions to be taken in the event of the cessation of a benchmark. The procedure may be drafted, where applicable, for families of benchmarks and shall be updated and published whenever a material change occurs.

Due to changing economic or regulatory realities, market demand or internal product offering strategies, SIX must periodically evaluate the need for the following:

- benchmark transition: Launching of a new benchmark that is supposed to replace an old benchmark;
- benchmark cessation: Permanent discontinuation of the dissemination and publication of a benchmark without offering a replacement.

In general, any function in the department can identify the need and submit a proposal for the decommissioning of a benchmark to Index Management. Index Management evaluates the request for a cessation according to the above criteria.

Before the cessation of a benchmark, SIX must always determine whether there are any listed financial products issued on that benchmark as the underlying.

SIX will only terminate benchmarks provided that:

- All existing (to SIX knowledge) commercial clients have been consulted and commercial relationships have been terminated or transitioned accordingly.
- Consultations with stakeholders have not led to the decision to continue the benchmark.

SIX must give sufficient notice in order to ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient time to adjust accordingly. SIX is not responsible for determining or offering an alternative benchmark when a benchmark is decommissioned.

Approval by the Local Leadership Team Nordic is needed for the cessation or transition of a benchmark. The rationale for the cessation or transition of a benchmark must be documented.

The Oversight Function is involved according to their Terms of Reference and reviews and approves the process for the cessation of a benchmark, including a consultation about a cessation.

1.2 Nomination of alternative indices

When ceasing a benchmark without transition, SIX must consider whether to nominate other alternative credible benchmarks to clients and other stakeholders. Index Operations is responsible for evaluating and making such nominations. Index Operations must consider such criteria as the characteristics of the discontinued benchmark, differences between benchmarks, the extent to which an alternative benchmark meets the needs of the client or other stakeholder, whether the alternative benchmark is deemed to be investable, availability of transparent transaction data, impact on clients and other stakeholders and impact of existing benchmark regulation.

1.3 Transition of a benchmark

1.3.1 External consultation (transition)

For the transition of a benchmark, a consultation with the involved clients and other stakeholders must be initiated by SIX.

Index Operations is responsible to plan and coordinate the consultation phase. The duration of the consultation phase must be approved by Index Management.

A summary of the clients and stakeholders' comments and SIX' summary response to those comments must be made available upon request to all clients and stakeholders after any given consultation period, except where the commenter has requested confidentiality.

1.3.2 Launch of a new benchmark (transition)

For the launch of a new benchmark due to transition, the same principles apply as for developing of a new benchmark.

1.4 Cessation of a benchmark

1.4.1 Benchmark without listed financial products

For the cessation of a benchmark or benchmark family for which, to the knowledge of SIX, no listed financial products are issued in the market, no consultation is required.

Index Operations is responsible to plan and coordinate the communication of the benchmark decommissioning. Index Operations is responsible for informing clients or other stakeholders about a cessation or transition of a benchmark at least three months in advance if feasible.

1.4.2 Benchmark with listed financial products

For the cessation of a benchmark or benchmark family for which, to the knowledge of SIX, listed financial products are issued in the market, a market consultation is required, if possible, in which SIX approaches clients and stakeholders and proposes alternative indices.

Index Operations is responsible to plan and coordinate the consultation. An appropriate duration of the consultation must be approved by Index Management.

A summary of the clients and stakeholders' comments and SIX summary response to those comments, must be made available upon request to all clients and stakeholders after any given consultation period, except where the commenter has requested confidentiality.

1.4.3 Contractual fallback provisions

It must be ensured that all contracts with third-parties indicate that SIX has the right to materially change or decommission a benchmark at any time and that, for such cases, clients or other stakeholders who have financial instruments that refer to the benchmark are responsible for implementing robust fallback provisions (e.g. early redemption of the financial instruments issued on the benchmark).

2 Publication

2.1 Publication about cessation of a benchmark

Index Operations is responsible for informing clients and other stakeholders about a cessation or transition of a benchmark at least three months in advance if feasible. A publication on the website and an email to clients and other stakeholders must be issued giving detailed information about the nature and rationale of the cessation and transition as well as the date on which a benchmark is decommissioned. Clients or other stakeholders must be informed that there will be no replacement of the benchmark and whether SIX suggests the use of alternative benchmarks.