

FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index

v1.2



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Section 1

Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1 FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index

- 1.1.1 This document sets out the Ground Rules for the construction and management of the FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index.
- 1.1.2 The FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index is designed to apply additional entry and exit index quality criteria on top of tracking the universe of Chinese corporate securities that meet the eligibility criteria for the FTSE Chinese (Onshore CNY) Broad Investment-Grade Bond Index (CNYBIG) through to maturity.
- 1.1.3 The FTSE Chinese (Onshore CNY) Broad Investment-Grade Bond Index (CNYBIG) measures the performance of onshore Chinese yuan-denominated investment-grade bonds issued in mainland China. The CNYBIG includes bonds issued by the Chinese government, policy bank, regional and other governments, agencies, and corporations.
- 1.1.4 FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index does not take account of ESG factors in its design.

1.2 FTSE Russell

FTSE Russell is a trading name of FTSE International Limited, Frank Russell Company, FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Limited (and its subsidiaries FTSE Global Debt Capital Markets Inc. and FTSE Fixed Income Europe Limited), FTSE Fixed Income LLC, The Yield Book Inc. and Beyond Ratings

- 1.3 FTSE Russell hereby notifies users of the index that it is possible that factors, including external factors beyond the control of FTSE Russell, may necessitate changes to, or the cessation, of the index and therefore, any financial contracts or other financial instruments that reference the index or investment funds which use the index to measure their performance should be able to withstand, or otherwise address the possibility of changes to, or cessation of, the index.
- 1.3.1 Index users who choose to follow this index or to buy products that claim to follow this index should assess the merits of the index's rules-based methodology and take independent investment advice before investing their own or client funds. No liability whether as a result of negligence or otherwise is accepted by FTSE Russell or any members of the FTSE Russell Policy Advisory Board (or any person concerned with the preparation or publication of these Ground Rules) for any losses, damages, claims and expenses suffered by any person as a result of:
 - any reliance on these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any inaccuracies in these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any non-application or misapplication of the policies or procedures described in these Ground Rules, and/or
 - any inaccuracies in the compilation of the Index or any constituent data.

Section 2

Management responsibilities

2. Management responsibilities

2.1 FTSE International Limited (FTSE)

2.1.1 FTSE is the benchmark administrator of the index series.¹

2.1.2 FTSE is responsible for the daily calculation, production and operation of the index series and will:

- maintain records of all the constituents
- be responsible for the addition and deletion of bonds and changes of nominal amounts, in accordance with the Ground Rules
- disseminate the indices.

2.2 Amendments to these Ground Rules

2.2.1 These Ground Rules shall be subject to regular review (at least once a year) by FTSE Russell to ensure that they best reflect the aim of the index series. Any proposals for significant amendments to these Ground Rules will be subject to consultation with FTSE Russell advisory committees and other stakeholders if appropriate. The feedback from these consultations will be considered by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board before approval is granted.

2.2.2 As provided for in the Statement of Principles for FTSE Russell Fixed Income Indices, where FTSE Russell determines that the Ground Rules are silent or do not specifically and unambiguously apply to the subject matter of any decision, any decision shall be based as far as practical on the Statement of Principles. After making any such determination, FTSE Russell shall advise the market of its decision at the earliest opportunity. Any such treatment will not be considered as an exception or change to the Ground Rules, or to set a precedent for future action, but FTSE Russell will consider whether the Ground Rules should subsequently be updated to provide greater clarity.

¹ The term administrator is used in this document in the same sense as it is defined in [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds](#) (the European Benchmark Regulation) and [The Benchmarks \(Amendment and Transitional Provision\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (the UK Benchmark Regulation).

Section 3

FTSE Russell index policies

3. FTSE Russell index policies

These Ground Rules should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents which can be accessed using the links below or by contacting fi.index@lseg.com. These policies are reviewed annually and any changes are approved by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board.

3.1 **Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indices (the Statement of Principles)**

Indices need to keep abreast of changing markets and the Ground Rules cannot anticipate every eventuality. Where the Ground Rules do not fully cover a specific event or development, FTSE Russell will determine the appropriate treatment by reference to the Statement of Principles for FTSE Fixed Income Indices which summarises the ethos underlying FTSE Russell's approach to index construction. The Statement of Principles is reviewed annually and any changes proposed by FTSE Russell are presented to the FTSE Russell Policy Advisory Board for discussion before approval by the FTSE Russell Index Governance Board.

The Statement of Principles for Fixed Income Indices can be accessed using the following link:

[Statement of Principles Fixed Income Indices.pdf](#)

3.2 **Queries and Complaints**

FTSE Russell's complaints procedure can be accessed using the following link:

[Benchmark Determination Complaints Handling Policy.pdf](#)

3.3 **Recalculation Policy and Guidelines**

The Recalculation Policy and Guidelines for Fixed Income Indices document is available from the FTSE Russell website using the link below or by contacting fi.index@lseg.com.

[Fixed Income Recalculation Policy and Guidelines.pdf](#)

3.4 **Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes**

Details of FTSE Russell's policy for making benchmark methodology changes can be accessed using the following link:

[Policy for Benchmark Methodology Changes.pdf](#)

3.5 FTSE Russell Governance Framework

3.5.1 To oversee its indices, FTSE Russell employs a governance framework that encompasses product, service and technology governance. The framework incorporates the London Stock Exchange Group's three lines of defence risk management framework and is designed to meet the requirements of the IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks², the European benchmark regulation³ and the UK benchmark regulation⁴. The FTSE Russell Governance Framework can be accessed using the following link:

[FTSE Russell Governance Framework.pdf](#)

² IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks Final Report, FR07/13 July 2013.

³ Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds.

⁴ The Benchmarks (Amendment and Transitional Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Section 4

Composition and design criteria

4. Composition and design criteria

4.1 Design criteria and calculation assumptions for the FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index

Coupon	Fixed-rate
Currency	CNY
Minimum maturity	At least one month
Minimum issue size	CNY 3 billion
Minimum quality	Entry: BBB by S&P or Baa2 by Moody's Exit: Below BBB- by S&P and Baa3 by Moody's ⁵ For senior unsecured or above bonds, if an individual issue is rated by neither S&P nor Moody's but its issuer has an S&P or Moody's rating, the issuer's rating is assigned to the issue as its implied rating.
Composition	Corporate bonds issued by Chinese issuers Asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities, private placements, zero-coupon, callable, puttable, and convertible bonds are excluded.
Weighting	Market capitalization
Rebalancing	Once a month on the last business day of the month (pricing as of the last business day of the month and settlement as of the last calendar day of the month.)
Reinvestment of cash flows	Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments are not reinvested as part of monthly index total return calculations. ⁶
Pricing	Refinitiv bid-side 5:00 pm (Shanghai)
Calculation frequency	Daily
Settlement date	Monthly: Settlement is on the last calendar day of the month. Daily: Same day settlement except if the last business day of the month is not the last calendar day of the month; then, settlement is on the last calendar day of the month.
Fixing date	Each month, the upcoming month's index constituents are "fixed" on the profile fixing date. Each year's scheduled fixing dates are published on the website.
Base date	December 31, 2013

4.2 Holiday calendar

4.2.1 The index is calculated Monday through Friday except Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed). Each local market will observe its own holiday calendar; if a local market is on holiday, the closing prices used for that day will be the closing prices from the previous day.

⁵ The history of FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index applies minimum quality of BBB by S&P or Baa2 by Moody's for both entry and exit.

⁶ Prior to 1 November 2022, reinvestment income was included in the total return calculation.

4.3 Index quality

- 4.3.1 An index quality is assigned to each index bond as of profile fixing. The quality is first mapped to the Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P") rating. If a bond is not rated by S&P but it is rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc ("Moody's"), the S&P equivalent of the Moody's rating is assigned to the index quality. If a bond is rated by neither S&P nor Moody's, the bond is not assigned an index quality. If a bond is rated as investment-grade by one rating agency and high-yield by the other, the S&P equivalent of the investment-grade rating is assigned to the index quality. These ratings remain unchanged for the entire performance month.
- 4.3.2 For senior unsecured or above bonds, if an individual issue is not rated by S&P or Moody's but its issuer has a S&P and/or Moody's rating, the issuer's rating is assigned to the issue as its implied rating as determined by the method stated above.

4.4 Return computation

- 4.4.1 Total returns are computed on the assumption that each security is purchased at the beginning of the period and sold at the end of the period. An issue's total rate of return is the percentage change in its total value over the measurement period. The components of total return for each security are price change, principal payments, coupon payments and accrued interest. The total returns are market capitalization-weighted using the security's beginning-of-period market value (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Total rate of return calculation methodology

Beginning-of-period value	-	(Beginning price + Beginning accrued) x Beginning par amount outstanding
End-of-period value	-	[(Ending price + Ending accrued) x (Beginning par amount outstanding – Principal payments)] + Coupon payments + Principal payments
Total rate of return (%)	-	[(End-of-period value / Beginning-of-period value) – 1] x 100

A note on precision: Returns are computed to at least six decimal places but reported to a maximum of four. In addition, owing to rounding errors inherent in computer floating-point arithmetic, the last digit in any reported value may sometimes be off by one from its true value.

4.5 Exchange rates

- 4.5.1 The closing WM/Refinitiv Spot Rates and The WM/Refinitiv Forward Rates, provided by Refinitiv, are used. WM takes several snapshots at regular intervals centred on the fixing time of 4:00 pm London time and selects the median rate for each currency. All rates are mid-market quotations.

Figure 2. Ticker for the FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index

Ticker	Index
CFIICCSL	FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index, in CNY terms
CFIICCSSL	FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index, in USD terms
CFIICCSU	FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index, in SGD terms

4.6 Chronological summary of events

Figure 3. FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index summary of event

Year	Monthly highlights
2022	<p>November: Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments are not reinvested as part of monthly index total return calculations.</p> <p>September: FTSE Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index is introduced with history. The base date of the index is December 31, 2013, and the following events marked its history:</p> <p>Prior to November 2022 profile, Chinese Onshore Investment-Grade Credit Select Index applies a minimum quality of BBB by S&P or Baa2 by Moody's for both entry and exit. Starting from November 2022, the minimum entry quality is BBB by S&P or Baa2 by Moody and the minimum quality for exit is below BBB- by S&P and Baa3 by Moody's</p>

Unless otherwise stated, the Index follows the general methodology for FTSE fixed income indices. For details, please see [FTSE Fixed Income Index Guide](#)

Appendix A

Further information

A Glossary of Terms used in FTSE Russell's Ground Rule documents can be found using the following link:

[Fixed Income Glossary of Terms.pdf](#)

For contact details please visit the FTSE Russell website or contact FTSE Russell client services at fi.index@lseg.com.

Website: www.lseg.com/en/ftse-russell/

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