Prudential Policy Considerations of Non Performing Loans and Expected Loss Provisioning

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Role of prudential supervisors in the proper implementation of IFRS 9 and NPE definitions
Build and retain IFRS expertise

• IFRS, general accounting and audit expertise is essential for prudential supervisors.
• It is needed for:
  - follow IASB policy debate
  - set policy in line with international standards;
  - support frontline supervisors on technical matters;
  - review of the annual financial statements; and
  - communicate with the external auditors.
• Rare skillset to source and retain
Detail supervisory expectations for the application of IFRS 9

• Supervisory guidance on sound credit risk practices
• Build on Basel Committee “Guidance on credit risk and accounting for ECLs (December 2015)
• Build on EBA “Guidelines on credit institutions credit risk management practices and accounting for ECL” (May 2017)
• IFRS specific: 12 month ECL allowance
• IFRS specific: Assessment of significant increases in credit risk
• IFRS specific: Use of practical expedients
Keep in mind the differences between regulatory capital models and ECL models

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Source BCBS (2016)
Require those charged with bank governance to achieve a good understanding and actively discuss, monitor, review and challenge:

- Data quality and availability
- Methodologies, modeling and assumptions
- Expert credit judgement
- Systems processes and internal controls
- Clear reporting lines and accountability
Consider relying on the regulatory probation periods for forborne exposures

• IFRS 9 allows upgrades of forborne loans across the stages if repayment capacity has been demonstrated based on revised terms over a period of time.

• Substantial scope for variation across banks and jurisdictions

• Supervisory expectations when assessing forborne exposures are now clarified

• Entry and exit criteria can be useful references for supervisors

• Reasons for significant divergence between IFRS and prudential definitions should be understood.
Mandate clear rules for write offs in banks internal policies

• Fully provided loans impact NPE ratios
• IFRS 9 requires banks to write off loans if there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.
• IFRS 7 requires disclosure of write off criteria
• A write off is not debt forgiveness, yet in some countries judges continue to interpret it that way
• Internal policies should have clear guidance on timeliness of write offs
Use supervisory powers to ensure provisioning policies, practices and levels meet prudential expectations

- Binding standards, guidance or good practice
- Calibration, design and scope of binding provisioning standards require careful consideration
- Backstops can be used temporarily for banks that do not (yet) have the capacity to develop, implement and maintain ECL methodologies that meet supervisory expectations
- Option 1: Require provisions to be increased
- Option 2: Adjust the capital ratio to reflect higher provisions
- Option 3: Hold additional capital adjustment
Consider cross border issues and set clear expectations

- Group methodologies – “Black box”
- Local data
- Local assumptions
- Local expertise
- Involvement of consultants
- Supervisory cooperation and information exchange is essential
Revise credit quality, asset classification and provisioning standards

• To align with IFRS 9 and NPE definitions
• To ensure alignment with good international practice (Basel, EU,..)
• Areas that most often require review:
  - Forbearance definitions too restrictive
  - Unlikely to pay criterion missing
  - Waiting periods not clearly defined
  - Exit criteria
  - No validation or benchmarking of mandatory regulatory provisioning requirements
  - ...

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Consider the impact of ECL and NPE definitions on the prudential toolkit.

- Regulatory provisioning matrices
- Prudential reporting forms
- Off site analysis reports
- Stress tests
- AQR
- Supervisory guidance and expectations
Thank you!