

LIFFE NOTICE NO. 3836

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Effective Date: 11 June 2014

AMENDMENT TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING DAILY SETTLEMENT PRICES FOR SHORT STERLING OPTIONS CONTRACTS

Executive Summary

This Notice provides details of an amendment to the Guidelines for determining Daily Settlement Prices for all Short Sterling Options Contracts (including Mid-Curve Contracts).

1. London Notice No. [3720](#), issued on 20 May 2013, provided market participants with an updated version of the Guidelines used by Liffe to determine Daily Settlement Prices ("DSP") for Financial and Commodity Options Contracts ("the Guidelines").
2. Since that time, the Exchange has launched a number of additional Short Sterling Mid-Curve Option Contracts initiatives and changes, the success of which, together with the general evolution of the Short Sterling Option Contracts has resulted in a further review of the Guidelines.
3. Section 7 of the Guidelines states that orders to be included in the determination of the DSP, must be submitted to the market in a minimum size of 100 lots for all Short Sterling Option Contracts, and 250 lots for all Euribor Option Contracts, and that the order(s) must be submitted for a minimum period of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled settlement time.
4. The Exchange has reviewed these parameters, and in consultation with market participants has determined that the minimum size threshold for Short Sterling Option Contracts should be increased to 250 lots. (There will be no change to the minimum size threshold for the Euribor Option Contracts, which will remain at 250 lots.) It should be noted that there is no change to the qualification that order(s) must be submitted for a minimum period of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled settlement time.
5. For ease of reference an updated version of the Guidelines as they apply to all Financial and Commodity Options Contracts is attached to this Notice.
6. Liffe will continue to keep these Guidelines under review, and Members and their clients are invited to provide comment/feedback to Liffe.

For further information in relation to this Notice, Members should contact:

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**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SETTLEMENT PRICES FOR
FINANCIAL AND COMMODITY OPTIONS CONTRACTS**

1. Daily Settlement Prices (“DSPs”) for Options Contracts are determined in accordance with Liffe Trading Procedure 2.3, which states:
 - “2.3.1 The Exchange’s objective when determining settlement prices for Options Contracts is to maintain a consistent pricing relationship between the volatilities of one exercise price and the exercise price(s) nearest to it, whilst taking account of market activity.
 - 2.3.2 The procedures for establishing Daily Settlement Prices are as follows:
 - (a) Market Services will maintain continuous information on market activity, both for each series of each Options Contract and for the underlying Futures Contract or security (as applicable);
 - (b) using this information, implied volatilities will be calculated for each series throughout the Trading Day, which the Relevant Euronext Market Undertaking will review at regular intervals in light of market activity;
 - (c) in the case of less actively traded Options Contracts, or those where no recent bids or offers exist, the Exchange may contact Members throughout the trading session in order to ascertain whether implied volatilities are reflective of the market view. In the case of more actively traded Options Contracts, Market Services will monitor implied volatilities toward the settlement time to check consistency with market activity throughout the trading session;
 - (d) at the settlement time, the Exchange will calculate settlement prices from implied volatilities and/or from bids and offers quoted on UTP. These settlement prices will be displayed on UTP; and
 - (e) for a minimum period of five minutes following publication of settlement prices, the Exchange may deem it necessary to amend the settlement prices and any appropriate revisions will be displayed accordingly.”
2. Based on these Trading Procedures, Liffe looks to determine DSPs for all Financial and Commodity Options Contracts within the framework described in paragraphs 3 to 10 below. Whilst not exhaustive, the framework outlines the various factors (and the weighting generally attached to each) which are taken into account during this process.
3. It should be noted that throughout the trading session a number of automated checks are performed by PSS to ensure that there is consistency between market activity and theoretical values calculated by the Liffe.

4. The underlying principle when determining DSPs is that they will be based upon the theoretical option values calculated by Liffe. These theoretical values will be automatically compared with a snap-shot of market activity at settlement time. Any Bids/Offers submitted immediately prior to settlement time that do not reflect prevailing fair value will be discounted from this automated process.
5. Trades executed via the Wholesale Trade Window will not be included within the DSP determination process, nor will any market activity that occurs after the official settlement time.
6. All months in options on the Three Month Euro (Euribor) Interest Rate Futures and options on the Three Month Sterling (Short Sterling) Interest Rate Futures, including Mid-Curve Options, months will be settled to the nearest quarter of a basis point. **There will be no change to the minimum price movement for trading, which remains at half a basis point. Furthermore, the method of calculating the reference price used in the expiry process and the exercise process remains unchanged.**
7. Where market participants are pre-negotiating business away from the central market, this will only be included in the automated settlement process if the relevant orders are submitted to the market prior to the official settlement time, subject to the provisions set out in Sections 4 and 5 above. Further, for the avoidance of doubt, orders included in the determination of DSPs must be submitted to the market in a minimum size of 250 lots for all Short Sterling Option contracts, and 250 lots for all Euribor Option contracts (including mid-curve contracts in both cases), and be submitted for a minimum period of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled settlement time.
8. When determining DSPs, priority will be given to outright markets, followed by strategy markets in the sequence set out in the table below, starting from the top. However, it should be noted that strategy trades (e.g. Calendar Spreads, Butterflies etc) that are executed as individual legs are not recognised by PSS as the underlying strategy and these cannot be considered other than through the trading activity that results from them.

Strategy Priority Table
Straddles
Strangles
Call spreads
Put Spreads
Call Butterflies
Put Butterflies
Call calendar spreads
Put calendar spreads
Call diagonal calendar spreads
Put diagonal calendar spreads
Combos

Call ladders
Put ladders
Guts
Iron butterflies
2x1 ratio call spreads
2x1 ratio put spreads
Call strips
Put strips
Straddle strips
Straddles calendar spreads
Diagonal straddle calendar spreads
Condor