

EBRD's Environmental & Social (E&S) Risk Management Procedures for Factoring

Any EBRD partner Financial Intermediary (FI) must have clearly defined environmental and social management systems in place, commensurate with the nature of the FI and the level of environmental and social risks associated with its business activities and consistent with EBRD's Performance Requirement 9.

Introduction

The objectives of the E&S risk management procedures for factoring are to:

- Support EBRD FIs to meet EBRD requirements to manage E&S risks in business activities; and to
- Provide step-by-step guidance on identifying, assessing and managing E&S risks with respect to factoring.

Any new E&S risk management procedures should be integrated into the FI's standard procedures for assessing factoring applications.

Definition

- For the purposes of these procedures, factoring is defined as a specialised service provided through a FI involving a continuing arrangement between the FI ("the Factor") and the client (the Supplier or "Seller").
- The Seller assigns to the Factor receivables arising from contracts of sale of goods between the Seller and its customers ("Buyers").

Scope of Application

- These procedures are applied to the relationship with the Seller. FIs' and EBRD's primary relationship is with the Seller, not the Buyer.

Step 1: E&S Risk Screening

Screen against EBRD's E&S Exclusion List

- Screen the Seller's business activity against EBRD's E&S Exclusion List (attached as Annex I to this document).
- If the Seller is involved in any activity listed here, reject the application.

Further Guidance

What is EBRD's E&S Exclusion List?

- EBRD's E&S Exclusion List contains activities that are excluded under all circumstances because they are illegal or severely restricted under national or international law.

Step 2: E&S Risk Assessment

Confirm regulatory compliance

- Confirm that the Seller is in compliance with relevant E&S laws and regulations, such as environmental and health and safety regulations, operating licences and permits. Such confirmation should be obtained through warranties/representations from the Seller as part of the Factoring Agreement

No further E&S risk assessment, documentation or monitoring is required for factoring. This is due to the low E&S risk nature of this financial product.

Annex I: EBRD Environmental and Social Exclusion List

EBRD will not knowingly finance, directly or indirectly, projects involving the following:

- (a) the production of or trade in any product or activity deemed illegal under host country (i.e. national) laws or regulations, or international conventions and agreements, or subject to international phase out or bans, such as:
 - (i) Production of or trade in products containing PCBs.¹
 - (ii) Production of or trade in pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides and other hazardous substances subject to international phase-outs or bans.²
 - (iii) Production of or trade in ozone depleting substances subject to international phase out.³
 - (iv) Trade in wildlife or production of or trade in wildlife products regulated under CITES.⁴
 - (v) Transboundary movements of waste prohibited under international law.⁵
- (b) Production or use of or trade in unbonded asbestos fibres or asbestos-containing products.
- (c) Activities prohibited by host country legislation or international conventions relating to the protection of biodiversity resources or cultural heritage.⁶
- (d) Drift net fishing in the marine environment using nets in excess of 2.5 km. in length.
- (e) Shipment of oil or other hazardous substances in tankers which do not comply with IMO requirements.⁷
- (f) Trade in goods without required export or import licenses or other evidence of authorization of transit from the relevant countries of export, import and, if applicable, transit.

¹ PCBs: Polychlorinated biphenyls are a group of highly toxic chemicals. PCBs are likely to be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950-1985.

² Reference documents are Council Regulation (EEC) No 2455/92 of 23 July 1992 Concerning the Export and Import of Certain Dangerous Chemicals, as amended from time to time; United Nations Consolidated List of Products whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments; Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; World Health Organisation Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard.

³ Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS): Chemical compounds which react with and deplete stratospheric ozone, resulting in the widely publicised 'ozone holes'. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer lists ODSs and their target reduction and phase out dates. A list of the chemical compounds regulated by the Montreal Protocol, which includes aerosols, refrigerants, foam blowing agents, solvents, and fire protection agents, together with details of signatory countries and phase out target dates, is available from the United Nations Environment Programme.

⁴ CITES: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. A list of CITES listed species is available from the CITES secretariat.

⁵ Reference documents are: Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste; Decision C(2001)107/Final of the OECD Council concerning the revision of Decision C(92)39/Final on the control of transboundary movements of wastes destined for recovery operations; Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

⁶ Relevant international conventions include: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention); Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention); Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Convention on Biological Diversity.

⁷ This includes: tankers which do not have all required International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) certificates (including, without limitation International Safety Management Code compliance), tankers blacklisted by the European Union or banned by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU) and tankers due for phase out under MARPOL regulation 13G. No single hull tanker over 25 years old should be used.