
S&P Global Ratings

Policy: Issuer Notification (including Issuer Appeals)

Date: 01 August 2016

Policy Statement

When required by regulation or where otherwise feasible and appropriate, S&P Global Ratings will, prior to the publication of a Credit Rating, inform the Issuer of the critical information and principal considerations upon which the Credit Rating will be based and afford the Issuer the opportunity to clarify any potential factual errors on which S&P Global Ratings may have based its Rating Decision. This notice also allows the Issuer to identify and alert S&P Global Ratings to any potential disclosure of material non-public or confidential information.

Any change proposed by an Issuer to correct a factual error or prevent the disclosure of material non-public or confidential information shall be given consideration before publication of the Credit Rating. A change will be made only if the Primary Analyst determines it is warranted. Concerns or misunderstandings raised by an Issuer will be discussed with the Issuer, but the Primary Analyst is generally discouraged from making changes for purposes other than correcting a factual error or avoiding the potential disclosure of material non-public or confidential information. If an Issuer suggests wording or grammatical changes, the Primary Analyst may consider such comments but is not obligated to make any changes. In all cases, S&P Global Ratings maintains editorial control over its published materials, including Credit Rating Rationales.

When Issuer notification of a Credit Rating is given in advance of publication of a rating, and includes a draft of the related Credit Rating Rationale, the draft must be accompanied by the following statement:

“S&P Global Ratings is sending you this draft so that you can call our attention to any factual errors or the inadvertent inclusion of confidential information in the draft. If you have any questions or comments on the analysis that are not factual in nature, we ask that you discuss these matters with us. We will use our sole discretion in making editorial changes to the document, which represents our independent opinion. We will finalize and release our report as soon as practicable from the time we have sent this email regardless of whether we have received a reply. The report will supersede the information in the draft; the information in the draft is confidential and remains confidential after the issuance of a report, and the draft should not be disclosed or released at any time before or after the report is published.”

This policy statement applies to Solicited Credit Ratings, Unsolicited Credit Ratings (in certain jurisdictions), and Confidential and Private Credit Ratings, but does not apply to Internal Confidential Unsolicited Credit Ratings.

An Issuer may share new information relevant to the Rating Decision after being notified of the Rating Decision. S&P Global Ratings will determine whether the new information could impact the Rating Decision. If necessary, a new Rating Committee will be convened.

An Issuer may appeal the Rating Decision and request a review of the additional information based on either material new information it has shared with S&P Global Ratings or a belief that S&P Global Ratings materially misinterpreted critical information in reaching that Rating Decision.

S&P Global Ratings will consider appeals of Rating Decisions by Issuers and will grant such appeals as appropriate. There is no right to appeal, and the decision to grant an appeal is made on a case-by-case basis. A Credit Rating may be placed on CreditWatch during the appeal period. S&P Global Ratings will take any appeal request seriously and will seek to gauge its substance, but it will reject requests that appear to be made solely for the purpose of delaying the issuance of a Credit Rating. In general, the Rating Decision of an appeal Rating Committee is final. In certain jurisdictions, S&P Global Ratings must disclose if an initial Rating Decision was changed following an appeal by the Issuer.

The following are not subject to appeal: CreditWatch actions, affirmations of Credit Ratings, and Unsolicited Credit Ratings (except for Sovereign Credit Ratings), as well as Ancillary Services, Other Services, and certain other opinion products that could potentially contribute to a Credit Rating Activity (i.e., Advanced Analytics, Mappings, Rating Agency Confirmations (RAC), Rating Evaluation Services (RES), and Recovery Ratings, unless the Recovery Rating is a material input in determining the Credit Rating.) Components of a Credit Rating or internal assessments which do not meet the definition of a Credit Rating (e.g., BICRA, SACP, or risk scores), even if made public, are also not subject to appeal. Additionally, Outlook changes on U. S. Public Finance Credit Ratings are not subject to appeal.

Requests to appeal a Rating Decision can constitute a Complaint if the request otherwise meets the definition of Complaint.