

ECPI GLOBAL DEVELOPED ESG HIGH YIELD CORPORATE BOND INDEX

RULE BOOK

January 2025
Version 3.0.3

ECPI Srl is part of STOXX

MARKET REALTY

The ECPI Global Developed ESG High Yield Corporate Bond Index selects sub-investment grade global corporate bond issues denominated in major currencies which have a positive ESG rating according to ECPI ESG Rating Methodology.

INDEX FAMILY IDENTIFIERS

BLOOMBERG TICKER	REFINITIV RIC	INDEX NAME
ECAPHYCB Index	---	ECPI Global Developed ESG High Yield Corporate Bond Index
ECAPHYCH Index	---	ECPI Global Developed ESG High Yield Corporate Hedged Bond Index

INDEX REBALANCING

The Index is reviewed and rebalanced on a monthly basis. Within the Index, each bond is weighted according to its market value.

INDEX SELECTION

BOND TYPE

- Fixed coupon bonds
- Zero coupon bonds
- Step-ups
- Event-driven bonds, such as rating- or tax-driven bonds with a maximum of one coupon change per period
- Dated and undated callable corporate bonds, including fixed-to-floater bonds that change to a floating rate note at or after the first call date. Undated bonds must be callable. In the index calculation, these bonds are always assumed to redeem at the first call date

BOND CLASSIFICATION

- Corporate bonds: bonds issued by public or private corporations belonging to the financial sector.

CREDIT RATING

Sub-Investment Grade (BB+ to B-)

TIME TO MATURITY

All bonds must have a minimum remaining time to maturity of at least one year at the

rebalancing date. For callable bonds, the first call date is always assumed to be the expected redemption date. The expected remaining life is calculated as the number of days between the rebalancing date and the expected redemption date.

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING

- AUD, CAD, CHF, DKK, EUR, ILS, NOK, NZD, SEK, USD: 500mln
- GBP: 250mln
- JPY: 50bn

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States

ELIGIBLE CURRENCIES

- AUD
- CAD
- CHF
- DKK
- EUR
- GBP
- ILS
- JPY
- NOK
- NZD
- SEK
- USD

SUSTAINABILITY RATING

Instruments issued by entities that:

- have a positive ECPI ESG Rating (from E- to EEE) are included.
- The following Normative & Controversy Screening is applied:
 - a. Companies with a poor ESG profile (ESG Rating = F) are excluded.
 - b. Companies involved in structural, repetitive, and severe controversies or violations of the:
 - i. UN Global Compact
 - ii. UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)
 - iii. OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (as far as relevant)
 - iv. ILO Conventionsare excluded.
- Companies involved in “baseline” controversial activities as defined below are excluded from the Investable Equity Universe:

- a. **Controversial Weapons** (Cluster Bombs, Antipersonnel Landmines, Nuclear Weapons, Biological Weapons): a company producing controversial weapons is considered "Not Eligible" regardless of the amount of revenues generated by the sale of these products.
- b. **Tobacco**: a company producing tobacco products or products that are instrumental for the sale of tobacco products, or distributing tobacco products, is considered "Not Eligible" if revenues originated from this business activity are greater than 2% of total sales (threshold considered for "Distributors" is 5%).
- c. **Coal Extraction**: company involved in the mining of coal is considered "Not Eligible" if revenues originated from this business activity are greater than 5% of total sales.
- d. **Coal Power Generation**: company involved in coal-based electricity generation is considered "Not Eligible" if revenues originated from this business activity are greater than 50% of total sales.

Versions

VERSION	EFFECTIVE DATE	CHANGES
3.0.1	30 June 2023	Ungrouping Index Family
3.0.2	1 May 2024	Verification and quality of data
3.0.3	1 January 2025	Exclusion criterion: Coal

EXPLANATION OF HOW ESG FACTORS ARE REFLECTED IN THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BENCHMARK METHODOLOGY

Item 1. Name of the benchmark administrator.	STOXX
Item 2. Type of benchmark or family of benchmarks.	Equity
Item 3. Name of the benchmark or family of benchmarks.	ECPI Global Developed ESG High Yield Corporate Bond Index
Item 4. Does the benchmark methodology for the benchmark or family of benchmarks take into account ESG factors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<p>Item 5. Where the response to Item 4 is positive, please list below, for each family of benchmarks, those ESG factors that are taken into account in the benchmark methodology, taking into account the ESG factors listed in Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1816. Please explain how those ESG factors are used for the selection, weighting or exclusion of underlying assets. The ESG factors shall be disclosed at an aggregated weighted average value at the level of the family of benchmarks.</p>	
(a) List of environmental factors considered:	<p>Selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall ECPI ESG Rating must be E- or higher <p>Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies involved in systematic violations of the UN Global Compact are excluded (ESG Rating = F) • Mining of thermal coal, and coking coal; generation of electricity from coal
(b) List of social factors considered:	<p>Selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall ECPI ESG Rating must be E- or higher <p>Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies involved in systematic violations of the UN Global Compact are excluded (ESG Rating = F) • Production of controversial weapons (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Cluster Munitions, Mines) and/or their essential components • Production of tobacco, products that contain tobacco or the wholesale trading of these products - more than 5% of total revenues
(c) List of governance factors considered:	<p>Selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall ECPI ESG Rating must be E- or higher <p>Exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies involved in systematic violations of the UN Global Compact are excluded (ESG Rating = F)
Hyperlink to the information on ESG factors for each benchmark:	https://ecpigroup.com/wp-content/uploads/rules/ECAPHYCB_Benchmark_Statement.pdf

Item 7. Data and standards used	
<p>(a) Data input. <i>(i) Describe whether the data are reported, modelled or sourced internally or externally.</i> <i>(ii) Where the data are reported, modelled or sourced externally, please name the third party data provider.</i></p>	<p>Company analyses draw on a range of reliable and publicly available sources to create a transferable, equitable and auditable approach. Where possible, ECPI aims to use objective information that is easily measured and quantified and less subject to bias and opinion. In cases where an indicator is important to capture, but not easily quantifiable, ECPI process works to reduce bias, by identifying clear and unambiguous rules for assigning scores.</p> <p>Sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company annual reports • Company sustainability reports, environmental reports, CSR reports or similar • Company websites • Regulatory data (from the regulators in the country/countries where the company is incorporated and/or listed) • Information providers and search engines • Media and news services (including newsletters from local and international institutions and NGOs). • Screening of company's participation in international institutions • Screening of company's certifications • Screening of company's awards • Thematic websites promoted by international non-profit organizations • Company Investor Relations departments, when necessary. In such cases, we try to obtain written answers in order to be able to store them in the company's records
<p>(b) Verification and quality of data. <i>Describe how data are verified and how the quality of those data is ensured.</i></p>	<p>The ESG data is sourced externally, from ECPI, the ESG research provider. ECPI delivers ESG scores and ratings information as well as involvement in controversial sectors of activity and an assessment regarding the UNGC principles. For details on ECPI ESG research, please refer to ECPI ESG Methodology Document.</p> <p>The provider has been selected by the Administrator based on an assessment of its existing processes to ensure the reliability and representativeness of the ESG-related data. The data provider has established processes in accordance with accepted and established market standards that ensure the permanent quality and reliability of the ESG-data provided.</p> <p>The verification and quality of data are checked both externally and internally by automated and manual quality assurance processes. The quality assurance process includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic peer review for all issuers that are newly assessed • Systematic peer review for all significant changes during the annual update • Periodic spot checks for certain high-risk industries/issue areas by research leads • Periodic data comparison with third-party sources, including government and industry databases
<p>(c) Reference standards <i>Describe the international standards used in the benchmark methodology.</i></p>	<p>The rating criteria have been developed in accordance with ICCR's "Principles for Global Corporate Responsibility: Benchmarks for Measuring Business Performance" and is inspired by the principles developed by International Bodies dedicated to Responsible Investment such as UN Global Compact (www.unglobalcompact.org), the Global Reporting Initiative (www.globalreporting.org) and UN PRI (www.unpri.org).</p>
<p>Date on which information has been last updated and reason for the update:</p>	<p>1 January 2025</p>

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