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Annex 1: Minimum Requirements for Risk Management, Circular 18/2005 (Mindestanforderungen an das Risikomanagement- MaRisk) – Regulatory text with notations

AT 1 Preliminary remarks	4
AT 2 Scope of application.....	6
AT 2.1 Affected institutions	6
AT 2.2 Risks.....	7
AT 2.3 Transactions	7
AT 3 Overall responsibility of the management	9
AT 4 General requirements for risk management.....	9
AT 4.1 Risk-bearing capacity	9
AT 4.2 Strategies.....	10
AT 4.3 Internal control system.....	11
AT 4.3.1 Organisational and operational structure.....	11
AT 4.3.2 Processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks.....	11
AT 4.4 Internal audit	13
AT 5 Organisational guidelines.....	14
AT 6 Documentation	15
AT 7 Resources	15
AT 7.1 Personnel	15
AT 7.2 Technical facilities and related processes.....	16
AT 7.3 Contingency plan.....	17
AT 8 Activities in new products or on new markets	17
AT 9 Outsourcing.....	18

BT 1 Special requirements for the internal control system	19
BTO Requirements for the organisational and operational structure	19
BTO 1 Lending business.....	21
BTO 1.1 Segregation of functions and voting.....	22
BTO 1.2 Requirements for lending business processes.....	25
BTO 1.2.1 Granting of loans.....	27
BTO 1.2.2 Further processing of loans.....	27
BTO 1.2.3 Monitoring of loan processing.....	28
BTO 1.2.4 Intensified loan management.....	28
BTO 1.2.5 Treatment of problem loans.....	29
BTO 1.2.6 Risk provisioning.....	30
BTO 1.3 Procedure for the early detection of risks.....	31
BTO 1.4 Risk classification procedure.....	32
BTO 2 Trading business.....	33
BTO 2.1 Segregation of functions.....	33
BTO 2.2 Requirements for trading business processes.....	34
BTO 2.2.1 Trading.....	34
BTO 2.2.2 Settlement and control.....	35
BTO 2.2.3 Positions to be covered by the risk control function.....	37
BTR Requirements for processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks.....	38
BTR 1 Counterparty risks.....	38
BTR 2 Market price risks.....	40
BTR 2.1 General requirements.....	40
BTR 2.2 Market price risks in the trading book.....	41
BTR 2.3 Market price risks in the banking book (including interest rate risks).....	42
BTR 3 Liquidity risks.....	43
BTR 4 Operational risks.....	44

BT 2 Special requirements for the internal audit.....	45
BT 2.1 Duties of the internal audit.....	45
BT 2.2 General principles for the internal audit.....	45
BT 2.2.1 Independence.....	45
BT 2.2.2 Segregation of functions.....	46
BT 2.3 Implementation of the audit.....	46
BT 2.3.1 Audit planning.....	46
BT 2.3.2 Special audits.....	47
BT 2.3.3 Auditing obligation for outsourcing.....	47
BT 2.3.4 Reporting obligation.....	47
BT 2.3.5 Reaction to identified deficiencies.....	48
BT 2.3.6 Documentation and retention keeping of the audit documents.....	49
BT 2.4 Outsourcing of the internal audit function.....	49
BT 2.5 Group audit.....	50

AT¹ 1 Preliminary remarks

<p>1 This Circular provides a flexible, hands-on framework for risk management at credit institutions based on section 25a (1) of the German Banking Act (<i>Kreditwesengesetz</i> – KWG). Risk management, within the meaning of this Circular, includes the determination of appropriate strategies, as well as the establishment of appropriate internal surveillance procedures. The internal surveillance procedures comprise the internal control system and the internal audit. In particular, the internal control system covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rules regarding the organisational and operational structure and - processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks. <p>To this extent, this Circular aims primarily to ensure the establishment of appropriate internal governance structures. This also means that the supervisory body is involved as appropriate to ensure that it can perform its supervisory duties properly.</p>	<p>Branches pursuant to section 53 KWG</p> <p>Given that branches of companies domiciled abroad in accordance with section 53 KWG do not have a supervisory body, these credit institutions have to instead involve their company headquarters as appropriate.</p>
<p>2 The Circular also aims to provide a qualitative framework for the implementation of Articles 22 and 123 of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD). These provisions state that institutions have to set up appropriate robust governance arrangements, as well as strategies and processes that ensure adequate internal capital to cover all material risks (“Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process”). The Supervisory Authority shall assess the quality of these processes on a regular basis in accordance with Article 124 of the CRD (“Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process”). As a result, and taking into account the principle of double proportionality, this Circular shall provide a regulatory framework for the new qualitative supervisory system in Germany (“Supervisory Review Process”). With regard to the planned methods for the calculation of regulatory own funds in accordance with the CRD, the requirements of this Circular have been formulated in a neutral manner, insofar as compliance is possible with any method chosen.</p>	

¹ The abbreviations referring to the corresponding parts of the modular structure of the MaRisk are adopted in the English text as given in the original text (AT = General Part; BT = Special Part; BTO = Special Part regarding requirements for the organisational and operational structure; BTR = Special Part referring to the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating certain risks)

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>3 This Circular gives due consideration to the diversity of institutional structures and business activities. It contains several opening clauses which enable simplified implementation depending on the size of the credit institution, its core business activities and its risk profile. In particular, this permits flexible implementation for smaller credit institutions. This Circular is open to the ongoing development of risk management processes and procedures, provided that such development is consistent with the objectives of the Circular. In this context, the Supervisory Authority will maintain an ongoing dialogue with the industry.</p>	
<p>4 The Supervisory Authority expects audits to be in-line with the flexible overall structure of the Circular. As a result, audits have to be performed based on a risk-oriented approach.</p>	
<p>5 The Circular is modular in structure so that any necessary adaptations to individual regulatory sections can be confined to the immediate overhaul of individual modules. A general part (AT module) contains basic principles for risk management; specific requirements with regard to the organisation of the lending and trading business, as well as those relating to the identification, assessment, management, monitoring and communicating of counterparty risks, market price risks, liquidity risks and operational risks are set forth in a special part (BT module). The special part also provides a framework for the internal audit of credit institutions.</p>	

AT 2 Scope of application

AT 2.1 Affected institutions

<p>1 The requirements of this Circular are to be observed by all credit institutions within the meaning of sections 1 (1) or 53 (1) KWG. They also apply to the foreign branches of German credit institutions. They do not apply to branches of companies domiciled in another state of the European Economic Area pursuant to section 53b KWG. The superordinated company or the superordinated financial conglomerate company of a group of institutions, a financial holding group or a financial conglomerate have to set up a procedure to ensure that material risks at group level are treated and monitored appropriately and in accordance with the options available to it under company law.</p>	<p>Requirements at group level</p> <p>The requirement set forth in sentence 4 is intended for the superordinated enterprises of groups of institutions in accordance with section 10a (2) KWG and financial holding groups within the meaning of section 10a (3) KWG, as well as to superordinated financial conglomerate companies within the meaning of section 10a (3) KWG. The superordinated companies may exercise due discretion with regard to the procedures established. To the extent that the superordinated company considers the risks of a subordinated company to be immaterial, the company in question can be exempted from the application of the procedure at group level. The requirement set forth in sentence 4 does not relate to the implementation of the Circular's organisational requirements (e.g. the regulations in the BTO module. No uniform methodology has to be applied to the procedure at group level.</p>
<p>2 Financial services institutions and securities trading banks have to comply with the requirements of the Circular to the extent that this appears necessary, based on the size of the institution and the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of its business activities, in order to ensure compliance with the statutory obligations in accordance with section 25a KWG.</p>	
<p>3 The requirements set forth in this Circular apply to investment companies within the meaning of section 2 (6) of the Investment Act (<i>Investmentgesetz</i>) subject to the proviso that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) BTO 1 does not apply to investment companies, b) BTO 2 and BTR do not apply to activities and processes related to fund management and individual asset management; the requirements contained in these modules apply only mutatis mutandis to activities and processes related to the investment company's own account business, c) the requirements contained in the AT only apply to the extent that they are not explicitly defined in special frameworks of rules and regulations for investment companies. 	

AT 2.2 Risks

<p>1 The requirements set forth in this Circular relate to the management of material risks of the credit institution, as well as risk concentrations associated with these risks. In order to assess whether or not a risk is deemed material, the management has to obtain an overview of the overall risk profile of the credit institution.</p> <p>As a general rule, the types of risk to be taken into consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) counterparty risks (including country risks), b) market price risks, c) liquidity risks and d) operational risks. 	
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AT 2.3 Transactions

<p>1 In general, lending transactions within the meaning of this Circular include all transactions in accordance with section 19 (1) KWG (balance sheet assets and off-balance-sheet transactions entailing a counterparty risk).</p>	
<p>2 Lending decisions within the meaning of this Circular include all decisions on new loans, loan increases, participating interests, the exceeding of limits, the determination of borrower-related limits, as well as counterparty and issuer limits, prolongations and changes to risk-relevant circumstances on which the lending decision was based (e.g. collateral, loan purpose). The issue as to whether the decision was taken by the credit institution only or together with other credit institutions (syndicated lending) is immaterial.</p>	<p>Prolongations</p> <p>The term “prolongations” does not distinguish between external and internal loan period extensions (e.g. internal extension of loans granted external running lines of credit). Internal “loan control reports”, which serve only to monitor the loan during its maturity, is not classed as prolongation and, as a result, is not considered to result in lending decisions within the meaning of this Circular.</p> <p>Interest rate adjustments</p> <p>Any interest rate adjustments made after interest rate lock-in periods (that do not coincide with the original maturity) have expired can be considered part of the overall loan agreement, which have been assessed before the loan is granted. In principle, this means that such decisions are not considered separate lending decisions within the meaning of this Circular.</p>

	<p>Deferments of payment</p> <p>Payment deferments do not constitute scheduled changes to the original lending agreement. They are designed, e.g. to provide short-term bridging for the period leading up to a reorganisation, and, as a result, constitute lending decisions within the meaning of this Circular.</p>
<p>3 As a general rule, “trading business” covers all activities based on a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) money market transaction, b) securities transaction, c) foreign exchange transaction, d) transaction in marketable receivables (e.g. trading in borrowers’ notes). e) transaction in commodities f) transaction in derivatives <p>and which are concluded in the credit institution’s own name and for its own account. Securities transactions also include transactions with registered bonds and securities lending, but not the initial issue of securities. Trading transactions also include - regardless of the underlying - any form of repurchase agreement.</p>	<p>Issuing business</p> <p>In general, the initial issue of securities is not classed as a trading activity within the meaning of this Circular. On the other hand, first-time acquisition from an issue does constitute a trading transaction within the meaning of this Circular. A simplified procedure may be used with regard to assessment of compliance with market conditions for first-time acquisitions (see comments in BTO 2.2.2 item 5).</p> <p>Classification of receivables as trading transactions</p> <p>With regard to d): receivables are classed as trading transactions if the credit institution has an intention to trade them. The credit institution has to establish appropriate criteria for this purpose.</p> <p>Commodities transactions</p> <p>With regard to e): Commodities transactions include, in particular, trading in precious metals and raw materials, as well as CO2 trading and electricity trading.</p> <p>In analogy with section 16 Principle I (<i>Grundsatz I</i>), commodities transactions within the meaning of this Circular do not include commodities transactions which constitute a matched position for the entire duration of the transaction as a result of firm agreements on the acceptance or delivery of the commodity in question up to the time of performance.</p>
<p>4 Transactions in derivatives include forward transactions with prices which derive from an underlying asset, a reference price, a reference interest rate, a reference index or an event defined in advance.</p>	<p>Guarantees/bank guarantees</p> <p>Guarantees/bank guarantees and similar instruments are not classified as derivatives within the meaning of this Circular.</p>

AT 3 Overall responsibility of the management

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| <p>1 All managers (section 1 (2) KWG) are responsible - irrespective of their internal competencies - for ensuring that the company has a proper business organisation and that this organisation is developed further. For the purposes of this Circular, this responsibility includes the determination of appropriate strategies, the establishment of suitable internal surveillance procedures and, as a result, responsibility for all material aspects of risk management. They are only capable of meeting this responsibility if they can assess risks and take the necessary measures to limit them.</p> | |
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AT 4 General requirements for risk management

AT 4.1 Risk-bearing capacity

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| <p>1 On the basis of the overall risk profile, credit institution has to ensure, that the material risks are covered by the risk taking potential at all times, taking into account any interplay between risks where appropriate, and that the credit institution is therefore able to bear its material risks.</p> | |
| <p>2 A credit institution's risk-bearing capacity has to be taken into account when determining strategies (AT 4.2) and adjusting these strategies. Appropriate processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks (AT 4.3.2). have to be established in order to implement the strategies and guarantee the credit institution's risk-bearing capacity</p> | |
| <p>3 Credit institutions have to define all material risks which are not included in the assessment of their risk-bearing capacity (e.g. liquidity risks); credit institutions have to state clearly the reasons for the non-inclusion of such risks. Credit institutions have to ensure that the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks give appropriate consideration to such risks.</p> | |

<p>4 The individual credit institution is responsible for selecting the methods employed to determine its risk-bearing capacity. The assumptions on which the methods are based have to be explained clearly. The responsible employees have to examine the methods at least once a year to assess their suitability.</p>	
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AT 4.2 Strategies

<p>1 The management has to define a business strategy and a risk strategy which is consistent with it. The risk strategy has to take into account the objectives and plans of the credit institutions material business activities as set forth in the business strategy. Responsibility for the determination of these strategies cannot be delegated. The management is required to ensure the implementation of the strategies. The level of detail contained in the strategies depends on the scope and complexity, as well as the risk content of the planned business activities.</p>	<p>Audits by external auditors or the internal audit</p> <p>The management bears sole responsibility for determining the content of the business strategy – this does not form part of audits either by external auditors or the internal audit. The business strategy is to be used to assess the credit institution's risk strategy in order to ensure that both strategies are consistent with each other. The issue as to whether or not the risk strategy should be integrated into the business strategy remains at the discretion of the credit institution.</p>
<p>2 The risk strategy has to contain the objectives of risk treatment with regard to the credit institution's material business activities. It may be divided into sub-strategies where appropriate (e.g. a strategy for counterparty risks). The level of detail of these sub-strategies may vary. Appropriate consideration has to be given to the limitation of risk concentrations when determining the risk strategy.</p>	<p>Presentation of the risk strategy</p> <p>The credit institutions are free to decide on the manner in which they wish to present the risk strategy. In addition to a summarised version in one document, the strategy can also be presented in several documents, provided that there is a consistent interrelationship between the various documents.</p>
<p>3 The management has to review the strategies at least once per year and adjust them as appropriate; the supervisory body of the credit institution has to be notified of all strategies and given an opportunity to discuss them.</p>	<p>Supervisory body committees</p> <p>As a general rule, the strategies should be provided to every member of the supervisory body. To the extent that the supervisory body has formed committees, the strategies can also be passed on to a committee for discussion there. This is subject to the prerequisite that a corresponding resolution has been passed on the establishment of the committee, and that the chairperson of the committee makes a report to the entire supervisory body on a regular basis. Furthermore, each member of the supervisory body has still to be given the right to view the strategies passed to the committee in question.</p>
<p>4 The content of the risk strategy as well as any amendments thereto, together with the business strategy where appropriate, have to be communicated in a suitable manner within the credit institution.</p>	

AT 4.3 Internal control system

<p>1 Depending on the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of its business activities, each credit institutions has to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) set forth regulations regarding the organisational and operational structure and b) establish processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks. 	<p>Structure and organisation of operations</p> <p>The requirements with regard to the organisational and operational structure also apply to the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks.</p>
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AT 4.3.1 Organisational and operational structure

<p>1 When determining the organisational and operational structure, the credit institution has to ensure that incompatible activities are performed by different employees.</p>	
<p>2 Processes, as well as the related tasks, competencies, responsibilities, controls and communication channels have to be clearly defined and attuned to one another.</p>	

AT 4.3.2 Processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks

<p>1 The credit institution has to establish appropriate processes which ensure that material risks can be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identified, b) assessed, c) treated and d) monitored and communicated. <p>These processes should be included in an integrated risk-return management system ("Gesamtbanksteuerung").</p>	<p>Inclusion in "Gesamtbanksteuerung"</p> <p>The inclusion of the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks in an integrated risk-return management system ("Gesamtbanksteuerung") is a Supervisory Authority's recommendation, as is expressed by the use of the word "should".</p>
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<p>2 The processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks have to ensure that material risks can be identified at an early stage, captured completely and presented in an appropriate manner. The processes should take any interplay between the various types of risk into account.</p>	
<p>3 Appropriate scenarios are to be employed on a regular basis to assess the risks used to determine the credit institution's risk-bearing capacity.</p>	
<p>4 The management has to require submission of a report on the risk situation and the result of the scenario assessments at appropriate intervals. The risk report has to be written clearly and concisely, and has to contain both a description and an assessment of the risk situation. Suggested actions, e.g. to reduce risk, are also to be included in the risk report where required. Details on risk reporting can be found in BTR 1 to BTR 4.</p>	<p>Notes on risk reporting</p> <p>The risk reports submitted to management can also be complemented by concise summary reports (e.g. a management summary) where the credit institution believes this to be appropriate.</p> <p>If there are no relevant changes to the information already communicated in previous reports, the current report may refer to the earlier information.</p> <p>Since risk aspects have to be addressed within the context of income and cost aspects, the latter can also be included in the risk report. In principle, there is no reason why suggested actions cannot be discussed with the responsible areas either, provided that care is taken to ensure that the information contained in the risk report and/or the suggested action is not improperly distorted.</p>
<p>5 Information which is important from a risk point of view has to be communicated immediately to the management, the responsible members of staff and, where appropriate, the internal audit, so that appropriate measures and/or audits can be initiated at an early stage.</p>	<p>Duty to provide information to the internal audit</p> <p>In the event that a department identifies deficiencies that are relevant from a risk point of view, ascertains that material losses have occurred, or has a concrete suspicion that irregularities have occurred, it has a duty to inform the internal audit.</p>
<p>6 The management has to submit an appropriate written report on the credit institution's risk situation to the supervisory body on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Supervisory body committees</p> <p>As a general rule, the risk reports should be provided to every member of the supervisory body. To the extent that the supervisory body has formed committees, the communication of information can also be limited to one particular committee. This is subject to the prerequisite that a corresponding resolution has been passed on the establishment of the committee, and that the chairperson of the committee makes a report to the entire supervisory body on a regular basis. Furthermore, each member of the supervisory body still has to be given the right to view the risk reports passed to the committee in question.</p>

<p>7 The processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks have to be amended to reflect any changes in the overall situation as soon as possible.</p>	
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AT 4.4 Internal audit

<p>1 Each credit institution must have a functioning internal audit in place.</p>	
<p>2 The internal audit as an instrument of the management is under its direct control and has to report to the management. It can also be subject to the direct control of one individual member of the management, who should, if possible, be the chairperson.</p>	
<p>3 The internal audit has to examine and assess, in a manner which is risk-focused and independent of individual processes, the effectiveness and appropriateness of the "risk management in general", and the internal control system in particular, as well as the extent to which all activities and processes comply with the appropriate regulations.</p>	
<p>4 In order to enable it to perform its duties, the internal audit has to be granted a full, unlimited right to information. This right has to be ensured at all times. In this respect, the internal audit has to be immediately provided with the necessary information, the required documents and an opportunity to review the credit institution's activities, processes and IT systems.</p>	
<p>5 The internal audit has to be informed of any management directives and resolutions that could be relevant to its activities. It has to be informed of any material changes to the risk management in a timely manner.</p>	

AT 5 Organisational guidelines

<p>1 The credit institution has to ensure that its business activities are conducted on the bases of organisational guidelines (e.g. manuals, work documentation or workflow procedures). The level of complexity of the organisational guidelines depends on the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of the business activities in question.</p>	<p>Presentation of the organisational guidelines</p> <p>The main issue with regard to the presentation of the organisational guidelines is that they are appropriate and presented in a manner which is clear to the employees of the credit institution. The specific manner in which the guidelines are presented remains at the discretion of the credit institution.</p>
<p>2 The organisational guidelines have to be set down in writing and communicated to the staff members concerned in a suitable manner. Care has to be taken to ensure that the latest version of these guidelines is available to these staff members. The guidelines have to be amended to reflect any changes in the credit institutions' activities and processes as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>3 Most importantly, the organisational guidelines has to contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) rules regarding the organisational and operational structure , as well as the assignment of tasks, the decision-making hierarchy and the various responsibilities, b) rules on the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risk, c) rules for the internal audit and d) rules which ensure compliance with statutory provisions and other requirements (e.g. data protection, compliance). 	
<p>4 The organisational guidelines have to enable the internal audit to conduct an audit.</p>	

AT 6 Documentation

<p>1 As a general rule, all business, control and monitoring records have to be drawn up systematically and in a manner which is clear to knowledgeable third parties and, subject to statutory regulations, retained for two years. Files have to be kept up to date and processes are to be in place to ensure that the contents are complete.</p>	
<p>2 Any material actions and decisions that are relevant for compliance with this Circular have to be documented in a clear manner. This also includes decisions with regard to the use of significant opening clauses, for which grounds have to be provided, where appropriate.</p>	

AT 7 Resources

AT 7.1 Personnel

<p>1 The staffing of the credit institution has to be based, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, on the credit institution's operational needs, business activities and risk situation.</p>	
<p>2 The employees and their deputies have to have the knowledge and experience required as determined by their duties, competencies and responsibilities. Suitable measures have to be taken to ensure that the employees have the appropriate qualifications.</p>	
<p>3 Employee absence, or resignation from the credit institution, should not result in any long-term impairment of operations.</p>	
<p>4 The remuneration and incentive systems must not contradict the aims set forth in the strategies.</p>	

AT 7.2 Technical facilities and related processes

<p>1 The scope and quality of the credit institution's technical facilities and related processes have to be based, in particular, on the credit institution's operational needs, business activities and risk situation.</p>	
<p>2 The IT systems (hardware and software components) and the related IT processes have to ensure data integrity, availability, authenticity and confidentiality. In order to ensure this, the IT systems and the related IT processes have to be based on established standards as a general principle. The suitability of these systems and processes has to be assessed on a regular basis by the employees responsible for the technical and professional aspects of the relevant processes and systems.</p>	<p>Standards for IT systems</p> <p>These standards include, among others, the Basic IT Protection Manual of the Federal Office for Information Security (<i>Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik</i> - BSI) and the ISO 17799 international security standard of the International Standards Organisation. The use of established standards does not mean that standard software or hardware has to be used – as a general rule, the credit institutions may also use proprietary software.</p>
<p>3 The IT systems have to be tested before they are used for the first time and after any material changes have been made. They have to then be approved by both the staff responsible for the relevant processes and the staff responsible for the systems. As a general rule, the production and testing environments has to be kept separate.</p>	<p>Changes to IT systems</p> <p>Any assessments to determine whether or not changes can be classed as material are to be based not only on the scope of the changes, but on the potential impact of the change on the functionality of the IT system in question.</p> <p>Acceptance by staff responsible for the relevant systems and processes</p> <p>When accepting IT systems, the staff responsible for the relevant processes and systems focus on the suitability and appropriateness of the IT systems for the specific situation of the respective credit institution. Any certificates already issued by third parties may be taken into account during the acceptance process, although they cannot replace it entirely.</p>
<p>4 Enhancements and changes to technical specifications (e.g. the adjustment of parameters) have to involve both the staff responsible for the relevant processes and the staff responsible for the systems. Technical approval need not be user-specific.</p>	

AT 7.3 Contingency plan

<p>1 Provisions are to be made for emergencies relating to critical activities and processes (contingency plan). The measures set forth in the contingency plan have to aim at reducing the scale of any possible impact. The effectiveness and suitability of the plan have to be assessed on a regular basis by means of contingency testing. The results of the contingency tests have to be communicated to the responsible members of staff.</p>	
<p>2 The contingency plan has to include business continuity and recovery plans. The business continuity plans have to ensure that alternative solutions are available in the event of an emergency as soon as possible. The recovery plans have to ensure the restoration of normal operations within an appropriate period of time. The contingency plans have to provide the communication channels to be used in the event of an emergency and have to be provided to the affected employees.</p>	

AT 8 Activities in new products or on new markets

<p>1 A plan has to be drawn up prior to commencing business activities that relate to new products or markets (including new distribution channels). This plan is to be based on the result of the risk content analysis performed for these new business activities. It has to describe the main consequences of the new activities on risk management.</p>	<p>Content of the plan</p> <p>The potential consequences of new activities include those relating to the credit institution's organisational structure, personnel, necessary adjustments to the IT systems, as well as legal consequences (accounting and tax law, etc.) insofar as these are deemed to be material.</p>
<p>2 The decision as to whether or not activities involve a new product or market have to be made in conjunction with an area independent of front office and trading (BTO 1 item 2).</p>	
<p>3 As far as trading activities are concerned, a test phase has to, as a general rule, be introduced before continuous trading in the new product or on the new market commences. During the test phase, trading has to be limited to a manageable scale. Care has to be taken to ensure that continuous trading begins only once the test phase has been completed successfully and appropriate processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks are in place.</p>	<p>Lending transactions and test phase</p> <p>For lending transactions, drafting of the plan may be reduced to a test phase if warranted by the complexity of the new product or business.</p> <p>One-off transactions</p> <p>A test phase need not be applied to one-off transactions.</p>

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>4 The organisational units which will be involved in the operations of the new business at a later stage have to participate in the drafting of the plan and in the test phase; the internal audit has to be involved in line with its duties.</p>	
<p>5 The plan and the commencement of ongoing business activities have to be approved by the responsible managers, in cooperation with the managers responsible for monitoring the activities in question. These approval processes can be delegated, provided that clear guidelines are in place and that the management is informed of the decisions as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>6 If the organisational units to be involved in the operation of the new business at a later stage believe that the activities in a new product or on a new market can be managed appropriately, AT 8 need not be applied.</p>	

AT 9 Outsourcing

<p>1 Activities or processes may only be outsourced, in full or in part, in accordance with the principles set forth in section 25a (2) KWG and in compliance with the regulations issued thereunder. As far as the outsourcing of the internal audit function to external persons or to the Group Audit is concerned, the provisions set forth in BT 2.4 and 2.5 of this Circular have also to be observed.</p>	
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BT 1 Special requirements for the internal control system

- 1 This module sets out the special requirements for the internal control system. These requirements relate primarily to the organisational and operational structure in the lending and trading business (BTO) and the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks for counterparty risks, market price risks, liquidity risks and operational risks (BTR).

BTO Requirements for the organisational and operational structure

- 1 The purpose of this module is to set forth the requirements that apply to the organisational and operational structure in the lending and trading business. The BTO requirements can be applied in a simplified manner depending on the size of the credit institution, its business focus and its risk situation.

- 2 This Circular distinguishes between the following areas:
 - a) the area which initiates lending transactions and has a vote in the lending decisions ("front office"),
 - b) the area which has an additional vote on lending decisions ("back office") and
 - c) "trading".

Furthermore, a distinction is also made between the following functions:

 - d) Those functions which serve to monitor and communicate risks ("risk control function") and
 - e) those functions which serve to settle and control trading transactions ("settlement and control function").

Notes on the use of the terms "area" and "section"

An "area" which is independent of "front office" and "trading" is structurally separate from "front office" and "trading" right up to, and including, the management level. A "section" which is independent of "front office" and "trading" can nevertheless be incorporated into the "front office" or "trading" area.

<p>3 As a general rule, care has to be taken to ensure that the structure of the front office and trading areas are kept separate, up to and including the management level, from those areas or functions set forth in item 2 b), d) and e), as well as in BTO 1.1 item 7, BTO 1.2 item 1, BTO 1.2.4 item 1, BTO 1.2.5 item 1 and BTO 1.4 item 2.</p>	<p>Segregation of functions at legally dependent foreign branches</p> <p>A structural segregation up to and including the management level means a segregation of direct and disciplinary supervisory responsibilities. In the case of legally dependent foreign branches, however, direct and disciplinary supervisory responsibility may be split. This is subject to the condition that at least the separation of the direct supervisory responsibilities corresponds to the aforementioned principle of the segregation of functions up to and including management level.</p> <p>Notes on the second half sentence</p> <p>BTO 1.1 item 7: The assessment of certain types of collateral – to be determined based on risk – and suggestions regarding risk provisioning for significant exposures.</p> <p>BTO 1.2 item 1: Responsibility for the development and quality of loan processing, the monitoring of loan processing, intensified loan management, the processing of problem loans and risk provisioning.</p> <p>BTO 1.2.4 item 1: Responsibility for the development and quality, as well as the regular review of the criteria which govern the classification of exposures requiring intensified loan management.</p> <p>BTO 1.2.5 item 1: Responsibility for the development and quality, as well as the regular review of the criteria which govern whether or not an exposure has to be passed for restructuring or winding up, as well as lead responsibility for the restructuring or winding-up process and the monitoring thereof .</p> <p>BTO 1.4 item 2: Responsibility for the development, quality and monitoring of the use of risk classification procedures.</p>
<p>4 Market price risk control functions have to be separated, up to and including the management level, from those areas which are responsible for positions.</p>	
<p>5 The segregation of functions has also to be observed at deputy level. In principle, the designated deputy can also be a suitable member of staff below management level.</p>	
<p>6 The involvement of the manager responsible for the risk control functions in a committee entrusted by management with risk management duties does not conflict with the principle of the segregation of functions.</p>	

<p>7 The section responsible for accounting (accounting department), in particular the preparation of the account allocation rules and development of the system of accounts, has to be independent of the front office and trading areas.</p>	<p>Segregation of functions of credit institutions with significant trading business</p> <p>Due to the extensive scope for valuation which applies to certain trading transactions (e.g. structured products), credit institutions which trade intensively should ensure that their accounting function is independent of the front office and trading areas.</p>
<p>8 As a general rule, material legal risks are to be assessed by a section which is independent of the front office and trading areas (e.g. the legal department).</p>	
<p>9 In the case of IT-based processing, the segregation of functions is to be ensured by means of corresponding procedures and precautions.</p>	

BTO 1 Lending business

<p>1 This module sets out the requirements that apply to the organisational and operational structure, the procedures for the early detection of risks and the procedures for the classification of risks in the lending business. As far as trading transactions and participating interests are concerned, the implementation of individual requirements set forth in this module may be waived provided that their implementation is not deemed to be appropriate in view of the specific features of these types of business (e.g. the requirement to monitor the loan purpose set forth in BTO 1.2.2 item 1).</p>	<p>Analogous implementation for participating interests</p> <p>The implementation for participating interests includes a participating interest strategy and the establishment of a risk control function for participating interests, irrespective of whether or not the participating interest in question is a credit-equivalent/credit-substituting holding or a strategic holding. If the participating interest in question is a credit-equivalent/credit-substituting holding, the requirements that apply to the structure and the organisation of operations have to also be observed as a general rule. In the case of participating interest under the cooperative umbrella (“Verbundbeteiligungen”) or compulsory participating interests (e.g. participating interests prescribed by the savings bank laws or by the memorandum and articles of association, or which are participating interests in SWIFT) a separate risk control function is not necessarily required. In such cases, other measures may be applied for the necessary ongoing supervision (e.g. examining the annual financial statements or annual reports, or by reviewing the participating interest accounts).</p>
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BTO 1.1 Segregation of functions and voting

- 1 The basic principle that applies to the structure of processes in lending business is the clear structural separation of the front office and back office up to and including the management level. In the case of small credit institutions, exceptions may be made under certain circumstances with regard to the segregation of functions.

Simplified procedures for small credit institutions

In the event that the required segregation of the back office, or other functions which are independent of the front office, and the front office up to and including the management level is unreasonable due to the small size of the credit institution in question, it is not required to separate these functions, provided that the direct involvement of the management in the granting of risk-relevant loans ensures that the lending business is practised properly and in a manner which is appropriate in view of the existing risks. In this respect, the management has to carry out the processing and decision making with regard to risk-relevant loans. Any absent managers have to be informed following any decisions regarding risk-relevant business.

This simplified procedure can be applied if the following conditions are met, taking into account all facts and circumstances:

- the lending volume does not exceed 100 million euros,
- the credit institution has only two managers and
- the lending business has an non-complex structure.

Loans to senior employees

In the case of loans to senior employees and managers, the structural requirements often cannot be implemented one-to-one, particularly because there is no front office involvement. As a general rule, these lending decisions have to involve a suitable section which is not involved in loan processing (e.g. the personnel department). If necessary, the actual processing of the loan can also be performed by the employees responsible for loan processing.

<p>2 Depending on the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of the exposure in question, a lending decision requires two consenting votes by both the front and back office. This is without prejudice to any further-reaching decision-making rules (e.g. KWG, memorandum and articles of association). If these decisions are made by a single committee, the majority structure within that committee has to be defined in such a way that the back office cannot be outvoted.</p>	<p>Presentation of votes and document plausibility checks</p> <p>The votes may be summarised in the form of a document. In such cases, the second (positive) vote (independent of the front office) is expressed by the signature of the responsible employee on the document. This signature has to be genuine. The vote which is independent of the front office has to be subject to at least one document plausibility check depending on how the lending processes are allocated to the front office and to the area which is independent of the front office. The plausibility check does not call for a repeat of the activities already performed in the front office. Rather, the focus is on the plausibility and tenability of the lending decision. This includes assessing the informational value of the front office vote and the extent to which the amount and type of loan to be granted is justifiable. The intensity of the document plausibility check also depends on the complexity of the lending transactions in question. The employee responsible for the vote which is independent of the front office has to have at least access to all of the relevant lending documents.</p>
<p>3 In the case of trading transactions, counterparty and issuer limits are to be set by means of a back office vote.</p>	
<p>4 In the case of lending decisions which are deemed immaterial from a risk point of view, the credit institution may decide that only one vote is necessary (“non-risk relevant lending transactions”). The process can also be simplified in the case of lending transactions initiated by third parties. In this respect, the structural separation between front office and back office is only relevant to lending transactions where the risk involved makes two votes necessary. If a second vote is not necessary, care has to be taken to ensure the proper implementation of the requirements set forth in BTO 1.2.</p>	<p>Distinction between risk-relevant and non risk-relevant lending transactions</p> <p>Each credit institution is responsible for making its own distinction between risk-relevant and non risk-relevant lending transactions from a risk point of view. One example of a non risk-relevant lending transaction would be standardised retail business.</p> <p>Initiation by third parties</p> <p>The process surrounding the segregation of functions may also be simplified in the event of lending transactions initiated by third parties. In promotional lending business, for example, it is not normally necessary to obtain two internal votes, because the lending transactions are often initiated by a “Hausbank” (principal lender of a company) or a holding company. Similar situations can occur, for example, in the case of lending transactions by credit institutions via dealer organisations, by building societies via commercial agents, by guarantee banks via a “Hausbank” or, with regard to syndicate members, by the lead manager in syndicated loans. In the case of risk-relevant lending decisions, the additional vote from within the credit institution should, as a general rule, be obtained from an area which is independent of the the sales function, i.e. in the back office, if existing.</p>

	<p>Initiation by third parties/workflow standardisation by means of external regulations</p> <p>Credit institutions may also refrain from obtaining an additional vote if the decision procedures are already standardised by third parties in a way (e.g. within the framework of statutory provisions such as the German Housing Allowance Act (<i>Wohnraumförderungsgesetz</i>)), that this results in a standardisation of the workflows within the credit institutions and, consequently, in a limitation of the credit institution's discretionary authority with regard to the granting of loans.</p> <p><i>De minimis</i> thresholds</p> <p>To a certain extent, <i>de minimis</i> thresholds can be considered an appropriate means of differentiating risk-relevant transactions. It can, for example, make sense to simplify procedures for an additional loan application covering a relatively small amount, even if the total client exposure is classified as risk-relevant.</p>
<p>5 Each manager may, within the limits of the individual decision-making authority, take lending decisions independently and also maintain customer contact; this does not affect the structural separation between the front office and the back office. In addition, two votes are required where risk aspects render this necessary. In the event that decisions made within the framework of an individual's decision-making authority deviate from the votes or if such decisions are made by the manager responsible for the back office, they have to be highlighted in the risk report (BTR 1 item 7).</p>	<p>Individual decision-making authority and managers</p> <p>Only a manager may exercise the individual decision-making authority. A manager's right to make independent lending decisions within the framework of individual decision-making authority is not automatically transferred to his deputy where the latter is not a management-level employee.</p> <p>Even in the event that risk-relevant lending decisions are made jointly by the entire management or by several managers, these decisions have to, as a general rule, be processed appropriately and two votes, one from each area, has to be obtained.</p>
<p>6 The credit institution has to define a clear and consistent decision-making hierarchy for decisions in lending business. If the votes are split, clear decision-making rules have to be defined in this hierarchy. In such cases, the loan has to be either rejected or passed on to the next hierarchy level for a decision (escalation procedure).</p>	
<p>7 The review of certain types of collateral – to be determined under risk aspects – is to be conducted outside the front office. This also applies to suggestions regarding risk provisioning for significant exposures. The organisational integration of all other processes or sub-processes listed in BTO 1.2 is at the credit institutions' discretion (such as loan processing or sub-processes of loan processing), unless this Circular states otherwise.</p>	<p>Preparation of expert opinions</p> <p>Expert opinions on the value of certain collateral can also be prepared by front office employees who have the appropriate professional qualification, provided that a material plausibility check ensures that the resulting values are subject to an assessment which is performed independent of the front office.</p>

BTO 1.2 Requirements for lending business processes

<p>1 The credit institution has to set up loan processing procedures (the granting and further processing of the loan), the monitoring of loan processing, intensified loan management, the processing of problem loans and risk provisioning. Responsibility for the development and quality of these processes has to lie outside of the front office.</p>	<p>Responsibility for methods</p> <p>Development of the aforementioned processes may also lie with the front office, provided that care is taken to ensure that the quality assurance is performed by an area independent of the front office on the basis of a material plausibility check.</p>
<p>2 The credit institution has to formulate processing guidelines for lending business processes, which are to be broken down (e.g. by loan type) where appropriate. It has to set up also procedures for the monitoring, administration and realisation of pledged collateral.</p>	
<p>3 All aspects material to the counterparty risk of a lending exposure have to be identified and assessed, with the intensity of these activities depending on the risk content of the exposures. Recourse may also be made to external sources when assessing counterparty risk. Sector and, where appropriate, country risks have to be given the appropriate consideration. Critical issues concerning an exposure are to be highlighted and, where applicable, considered under various scenarios.</p>	<p>Use of external sources</p> <p>Credit institutions may opt to exclusively use external sources within the framework of a particular lending decision, provided that these sources allow the risks to be assessed properly.</p>
<p>4 With respect to property/project financing, the loan processing procedure has to ensure that not only the economic aspects, but also those aspects regarding the technical feasibility and development, as well as the legal risks associated with the property/project, are included in the assessment. Recourse may also be made to the expertise of an appropriate organisational unit independent of the borrower. Whenever external sources are consulted for these purposes, their qualification has to be assessed in advance.</p>	<p>Economic assessment and technical feasibility</p> <p>By way of example, the economic assessment can contain the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project analysis, - financing structure/equity ratio, - collateral plan or - ex ante and ex post calculations. <p>Technical feasibility and development can be assessed, for instance, by means of inspections and construction stage monitoring.</p>

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>5 Depending on the risk content of the loans, the risks related to an exposure are to be evaluated using a risk classification procedure, either as part of the lending decision or in the case of regular or ad hoc assessments. The risk classification is to be reviewed annually.</p>	<p>Frequency of assessments</p> <p>Based on accounting requirements alone, the duty to perform an annual risk assessment also applies to exposures that are not subject to the risk classification procedure due to their low risk content. In such cases, however, the assessments can be performed less intensive and can be limited, for example, to an assessment of the borrower's repayment regularity.</p>
<p>6 There should be a verifiable link between the classification in the risk classification procedure and the terms and conditions of the loan.</p>	
<p>7 The credit institution has to establish a procedure that conforms to the decision-making hierarchy, for dealing with the exceeding of limits. To the extent acceptable in terms of the risk, the requirements set forth in BTO 1.1. and BTO 1.2 may be applied in a simplified fashion to the exceeding of limits and prolongations on the basis of clear rules.</p>	
<p>8 A procedure has to be set up to monitor the timely submission of the necessary lending documents and ensure timely evaluation. A dunning procedure is to be implemented for overdue documents.</p>	
<p>9 All credit institutions are required to use standardised lending documents, to the extent that this is possible and appropriate with respect to the type of lending business in question, with the structure of the credit documents depending on the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of the business.</p>	
<p>10 Contractual agreements relating to lending business have to be concluded on the basis of legally validated documentation.</p>	
<p>11 Legally validated standard texts, which have to be updated on an ongoing basis, have to be used for individual loan agreements. Where a deviation from the standard texts is necessary for a given exposure (such as in the case of customised agreements), an examination has to be conducted by a section that is independent of the front office prior to signing the agreement, to the extent that this is deemed necessary from a risk point of view.</p>	<p>Assessment by an expert front office employee</p> <p>In the event that the legally validated standard documents are not used, non risk-relevant lending transactions may also be assessed by an expert front office employee.</p>

BTO 1.2.1 Granting of loans	
<p>1 The process of granting loans encompasses all necessary workflows up to the loan payout. All factors which are material to risk assessment have to be analysed and assessed, taking particular account of the debt-servicing ability of the borrower or the property/project, whereby the intensity of the assessment depends on the risk content of the exposure (e.g. credit assessment, risk classification or an assessment based on a simplified procedure).</p>	
<p>2 As a general rule, the value and legal validity of collateral has to be assessed prior to the granting of the loan. Existing collateral values may be used if there are no indications of changes in value.</p>	
<p>3 If the value of the collateral is dependent to a substantial degree on the financial situation of a third party (e.g. guarantee), the counterparty risk of the third party has to be reviewed as appropriate.</p>	
<p>4 The credit institution has to set forth the types of collateral it is willing to accept and the method of calculating the value of collateral.</p>	
BTO 1.2.2 Further processing of loans	
<p>1 Whether or not the borrower is complying with the terms of the contract has to be monitored in the further processing of loans. In the case of special-purpose loans, the credit institution has to monitor whether or not the funds made available are being used as agreed (monitoring of the loan purpose).</p>	
<p>2 Counterparty risk is to be assessed annually, whereby the intensity of ongoing assessments depends on the risk content of the exposure (e.g. credit assessment, risk classification as part of the risk classification procedure, or assessment based on a simplified procedure).</p>	
<p>3 The value and legal validity of collateral has to be assessed at suitable intervals within the framework of further loan processing, depending on the type of collateral and if higher than a threshold set by the credit institution in accordance with the risk involved.</p>	

<p>4 Ad hoc reviews of exposures, including collateral, have to be conducted immediately, at least whenever the credit institution obtains knowledge, from either internal or external sources, which would indicate a substantial negative change in the risk assessment of the exposures or the collateral. Such information has to be forwarded to all of the organisational units involved immediately.</p>	
<p>BTO 1.2.3 Monitoring of loan processing</p>	
<p>1 Process-related controls have to be established for loan processing to ensure compliance with the organisational guidelines. Controls may also be conducted via the standard "four-eyes" principle.</p>	
<p>2 The monitoring procedure has to focus, in particular, on whether or not the loan approval was in line with the defined decision-making hierarchy and whether or not the prerequisites or requirements of the loan agreement were met prior to the granting of the loan.</p>	
<p>BTO 1.2.4 Intensified loan management</p>	
<p>1 The credit institution has to set forth criteria to determine when an exposure requires special observation (intensified loan management). Responsibility for the development and quality, as well as the regular review of these criteria has to lie outside of the front office.</p>	<p>Criteria for intensified loan management</p> <p>The credit institution determines, at its own discretion, whether or not the criteria trigger an automatic procedure, or whether they instead provide indicators which form the basis for an assessment. The aim is to identify problem exposures quickly so that the appropriate measures can be taken at an early stage. The same applies to those criteria which are decisive with respect to the procedure, whereby an exposure is passed on for intensified loan management (BTO 1.2.5 item 1).</p> <p>Exemptions from intensified loan management and the processing of problem loans</p> <p>As with the application of the procedure for the early detection of risks, the credit institution is permitted to exempt certain types of lending business to be defined under risk aspects or lending transactions below certain thresholds from intensified loan management and the processing of problem loans.</p> <p>A transaction can, for example, be exempted from intensified loan management or the processing of problem loans if the credit institution has limited access to the required data due to objective circumstances and has already refrained from setting up a procedure for the early detection of risks (transactions initi-</p>

	ated by third parties). In doing so, the credit institution has to ensure that it is informed of all significant circumstances that affect the borrower.
2 Exposures under intensified loan management are to be reviewed at regularly scheduled intervals, in order to determine what sort of further handling they require (further intensified loan management, return to normal management, transfer to winding up or restructuring).	
BTO 1.2.5 Treatment of problem loans	
1 The credit institution has to forth criteria governing the transfer of an exposure to the staff or areas specialising in restructuring and winding up, and/or their involvement. Responsibility for the development and quality, as well as the regular review of these criteria has to lie outside of the front office. The lead responsibility for the restructuring or winding-up process and the monitoring thereof need not be exercised by the front office.	<p>Criteria for transfer to problem loan processing</p> <p>The notes to the criteria that apply to intensified loan management (see BTO 1.2.4 item 1) apply accordingly to the criteria for transfer to problem loan processing.</p> <p>Assessment of non-standard agreements in restructuring cases</p> <p>The assessment of non-standard agreements by an independent section need not be performed in restructuring cases if the restructuring process involves experts who are in a position, due to their expertise and experience, to draw up such agreements independently and without the need for a further independent assessment.</p> <p>Voting in the case of restructuring loans and exposures in reduction portfolios</p> <p>As far as decisions on restructuring loans are concerned, one vote from the area independent of the front office is sufficient. This also applies to exposures in what are known as reduction portfolios (“Abbauportfolien”), whereby the various exposures, as well as the intended action to be taken by the credit institution, have to be set forth in a clear manner (e.g. in a reduction plan – “Abbaukonzept”).</p>
2 If the criteria have been met, an assessment is to be conducted as to the feasibility and/or desirability of a restructuring with respect to the borrower.	
3 If the credit institution decides to support a restructuring, it has to require submission of a restructuring plan. The implementation of the restructuring plan and the effects of the measures are to be monitored by the credit institution.	

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<p>4 In the case of significant exposures, the responsible managers have to be informed of the status of the restructuring process on a regular basis. If necessary, recourse can be taken to outside specialists with relevant expertise for the restructuring process.</p>	
<p>5 In the event that an exposure is to be wound up, a winding-up plan needs to be developed. Employees (or external specialists where appropriate) with relevant expertise are to be involved in the collateral realisation process.</p>	
<p>BTO 1.2.6 Risk provisioning</p>	
<p>1 The credit institution has to set forth criteria which are to form the basis for value allowances, write-downs and loan loss provisions (including country risk provisioning), taking due account of the accounting standards in use (e.g. an internal valuation procedure for loans).</p>	
<p>2 The calculations of necessary risk provisioning are to be kept up to date. In the event that substantial risk provisioning is required, the management has to be notified immediately.</p>	

BTO 1.3 Procedure for the early detection of risks

<p>1 The procedure for the early detection of risks is intended primarily to identify, in a timely manner, borrowers whose loans are beginning to show signs of increased risk. With such a system in hand, the credit institution shall be able to initiate countermeasures at the earliest possible stage (e.g. intensified loan management).</p>	
<p>2 To this end, the credit institution has to develop indicators for the early identification of risks based on quantitative and qualitative risk features.</p>	
<p>3 The credit institution is permitted to exempt certain types of lending business to be defined under risk aspects or lending transactions below certain thresholds from the application of the procedure for the early detection of risks. The function of early detection of risks may also be performed by a risk classification procedure, provided that this procedure adequately allows early detection of risks.</p>	<p>Exception for loans via a “Hausbank”</p> <p>A credit institution may refrain from setting up a procedure for the early detection of risks if it has only limited access to the required data due to objective circumstances. This can occur if the lending transactions are initiated by another credit institution and are also managed by the latter (e.g. “Hausbank” in promotional lending business or in lending business of guarantee banks). The credit institution granting the loan has to ensure that it is informed of circumstances that affect the borrower.</p> <p>Risk classification procedure and early detection of risks</p> <p>Taking into account business management aspects, a risk classification procedure has to contain, in particular, the following components, so that it can also serve as an early risk detection procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the indicators on which the procedure is based (e.g. account transactions, check returns) should allow impending risks to be recognised at an early stage (indicator-related component), - the indicators should enable the ongoing identification of impending risks (“time-related component”) and - signals produced by the early risk detection procedure should also result in the appropriate measures being taken at the credit institution as soon as possible (e.g. intensified client contact, addition of collateral, suspension of repayments), so that the risks do not result in losses (“process-related component”).

BTO 1.4 Risk classification procedure

1 Clear risk classification procedures are to set up at every credit institution for the initial, regular or ad hoc assessment of counterparty risk and, as appropriate, property/project risk. Criteria have to be defined to ensure that risks are clearly assigned to a risk class for the purpose of their assessment.	
2 Responsibility for the development, quality and monitoring of the use of risk classification procedures need not lie with the front office.	
3 Key indicators for determining counterparty risk in the risk classification procedure have to include not only quantitative criteria but, wherever possible, also qualitative criteria. In particular, account has to be taken of the borrower's ability to generate income in the future in order to repay the loan.	
4 The classification procedures are to be adequately incorporated into the lending business processes and, where appropriate, into the decision-making hierarchy.	

BTO 2 Trading business

- 1 The main purpose of this module is to set forth the requirements that apply to the organisational and operational structure in the trading business.

BTO 2.1 Segregation of functions

<p>1 The basic principle that applies to processes in the trading business is the clear structural separation between the trading area and the “risk control function” and “settlement and control function” up to and including the management level.</p>	<p>Customer service representatives</p> <p>Circumstances in which customer service representatives pass client orders onto the trading department within a certain limit for pricing purposes are deemed to be in accordance with this Circular. They should neither quote prices independently nor build up own positions.</p>
<p>2 A credit institution may refrain from the segregation of functions including the management level if the whole of trading activities focus on trading transactions deemed immaterial from a risk point of view (“non-risk-relevant trading activities”).</p>	<p>Non-risk relevant trading activities</p> <p>This simplification can be applied if the following conditions are met, taking into account all facts and circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the credit institution is a non-trading book credit institution, - the focus of the trading activities is on fixed assets and/or the liquidity reserve, - the volume of trading activities is very low as compared with overall business volume and - the structure of the trading activities is non-complex, and the complexity, volatility and risk content of the positions is low. <p>Simplified processes for small credit institutions or in cases of very low-volume trading activities</p> <p>If a segregation of functions is impossible with regard to trading activities owing to the size of the credit institution, the proper settlement of transactions has to be ensured by the direct involvement of management. If a credit institution’s trading activities are so low in volume that one single employee would not be working to full capacity, segregation of functions can be ensured by temporarily allocating other employees who are normally not entrusted with trading transactions</p>

BTO 2.2 Requirements for trading business processes

BTO 2.2.1 Trading

<p>1 When a trade is transacted, the terms and conditions, including any ancillary agreements, have to be agreed in full.</p>	
<p>2 As a general rule, transactions which are not in-line with market conditions are not permitted. Exceptions may be made in individual cases if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) they are made at the client's request, can be justified and the deviation from market conditions is clearly visible from the documentation, b) they are made on the basis of internal rules governing the types of transaction, the client group, the scale and the structure of these transactions, c) the deviation from market conditions is disclosed to the client in the trade confirmation and d) the management has been informed in the case of material transactions. 	
<p>3 Trading outside the business premises is only admissible within the scope of internal rules; these rules have to specify, in particular, the authorised individuals, scope and recording. The counterparty has to make an immediate telex confirmation for such trades. These trades are to be reported immediately by the trader to his own credit institution in a suitable form, they are to be marked and brought to the notice of the responsible manager or an organisational unit authorised by that manager.</p>	
<p>4 Audio recordings should be made of traders' conversations relating to transactions, and these recordings are to be retained for at least three months.</p>	
<p>5 Immediately after their conclusion, trades must be recorded together with all of the relevant transaction data, taken into account when determining the respective position (updating of positions) and passed on to the set-</p>	<p>Transaction data The relevant transaction data includes inter alia the type of transaction, vol-</p>

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>tlement function together with all documentation. The transaction data may also be transferred automatically by a settlement system.</p>	<p>ume, terms, maturity, counterparty, date, time, name of the trader, serial number, and ancillary agreements.</p>
<p>6 Where data is recorded directly in an IT system, care has to be taken to ensure that a trader can enter transactions solely under his own trader ID. The recording date and time as well as the transaction's serial number are to be entered automatically by the system and must be impossible for the trader to alter.</p>	
<p>7 Trades concluded after the cut-off time for settlement (late trades) are to be marked as such and included in that day's positions (including subsequent settlement) if they result in substantial changes. The transaction data and documentation relating to late trades have to be passed immediately to an area which is independent of trading.</p>	<p>Requirement to mark late trades Late trades need not be marked as such if the cut-off time is fixed and, as a result, the character of the late trade is evident due to the time or the time zone in which the transaction is concluded.</p>
<p>8 Prior to the conclusion of agreements in connection with trading activities, especially in the case of master agreements, netting agreements and collateral agreements, assessments are to be performed by a section which is independent of trading, to determine whether and, if so, to what extent they are legally enforceable.</p>	
<p>9 With regard to money transfers employees belonging to the trading area in organisational terms may only have joint signature authority with employees from an area which is independent of trading.</p>	
<p>BTO 2.2.2 Settlement and control</p>	
<p>1 Processing involves the issuing of trade confirmations or contract notes on the basis of the transaction data received from trading and performing subsequent settlement tasks.</p>	

<p>2 As a matter of principle, every trade is to be confirmed immediately in writing or in equivalent form. The confirmation has to contain the required transaction data. If the trade is transacted via a broker, the broker is to be named. Assessments are to be performed to ensure that the corresponding counter-confirmations are received immediately, whereby care has to be taken to ensure that the incoming counter-confirmations are passed directly to the settlement function in the first instance and are not addressed to trading. Missing or in-complete counter-confirmations have to be reported to the counterparty immediately, unless all parts of the trade in question have been executed correctly.</p>	<p>Counter-confirmations for foreign trades</p> <p>Counter-confirmations are only required for foreign trades to the extent that this is in line with international business practice.</p> <p>Confirmation procedure for complex products</p> <p>If the master agreements specify that, in the case of complex products, only one of the two parties is responsible for drafting the agreement, a mutual ad-hoc confirmation (abridged form) and the unilateral draft agreement (full-length form) after all of the details have been clarified are suffice. The ad-hoc confirmation should contain the key information on the agreed trade.</p>
<p>3 The credit institution may refrain from confirmation in the case of trades cleared via a settlement system that ensures the automatic reconciliation of the relevant transaction data (“matching”) and executes trades only where the data matches. In the event that there is no automatic matching of the relevant transaction data, the credit institution may refrain from confirmation if the settlement system allows both counterparties to access the transaction data at all times and these are kept monitored.</p>	
<p>4 Transactions are to be subject to ongoing monitoring. In particular, assessments have to be made to ascertain whether</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the transaction documents are complete and have been submitted as soon as possible, b) the data supplied by traders is correct and complete and - where available - matches the data in the brokers' confirmations, print-outs from trading systems or other relevant sources, c) the transactions fall within the defined limits with regard to their type and scope, d) the terms agreed are in line with market conditions, and e) any deviations from predefined standards (e.g. master data, delivery instructions methods of payment) have been agreed. <p>Changes and cancellations related to transaction data or booking have to be assessed by an area which is independent of trading.</p>	<p>Automatic transfer to the settlement function</p> <p>The credit institution may refrain from performing the assessments set out under a) and b), if the transaction data entered by the traders is automatically transferred to the settlement function in a manner which ensures that the traders can no longer alter the data.</p>

<p>5 Appropriate procedures, broken down by trade type as appropriate, must be set up to allow assessments to be performed on the extent to which transactions comply with market conditions. The manager responsible for these assessments has to be informed immediately if, in deviation from BTO 2.2.1 item 2, the terms and conditions of executed trades do not comply with market conditions.</p>	<p>Notes on the assessments to ensure compliance with market conditions</p> <p>In the case of liquid spot and forward transactions, the assessments may be performed on a random basis, if this is deemed appropriate from a risk point of view.</p> <p>Credit institutions may refrain from performing the assessment to ensure compliance with market conditions for trades which are settled, either directly or via third parties (e.g. via a correspondent bank)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on a German stock exchange or - on another market which, irrespective of its home country, meets the criteria of a regulated market in accordance with the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (2004/39/EG), <p>A simplified procedure may be used with regard to assessment of compliance with market conditions for first-time acquisitions from an issue, depending on the nature and structure of these trades. For instance, the assessment of an issue via public auction/tender can be reduced to a check to ensure that the issue price has cleared correctly.</p> <p>The assessment to ensure compliance with market conditions has to include also internal trades (e.g. trades between a credit institution's branches, business areas, portfolios, etc.). Exceptions are possible by means of analogy with the requirements set out in BTO 2.2.1 item 2.</p>
<p>6 Any discrepancies identified during settlement and control has to be remedied immediately by an area independent of trading.</p>	
<p>7 The positions established in the trading area are to be matched with the positions in the downstream processes and functions (e.g. settlement, accounting) on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>BTO 2.2.3 Positions to be covered by the risk control function</p>	
<p>1 Trades, including ancillary agreements which result in positions, have to be covered by the risk control function immediately.</p>	<p>Positions to be covered by the risk control function</p> <p>This preserves the possibility of accessing accounting data for risk control purposes.</p>

BTR Requirements for processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks

<p>1 This module contains special requirements for the structure of processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks (AT 4.3.2) with regard to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) counterparty risks (BTR 1), b) market price risks (BTR 2), c) liquidity risks (BTR 3) and d) operational risks (BTR 4). 	
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BTR 1 Counterparty risks

<p>1 The credit institution has to introduce appropriate measures to ensure that counterparty risks can be limited, taking into account its risk-bearing capacity.</p>	
<p>2 No lending transaction may be entered into without a borrower-related limit (borrower limits, borrower unit limits), i.e. without a lending decision.</p>	
<p>3 As a general rule, trades may only be executed with contractual partners for which counterparty limits apply. All transactions concluded with a particular counterparty are to be counted towards that counterparty's individual limit. Replacement risks und settlement risks have to be taken into account when determining the extent to which the counterparty limits have been utilised. The individuals responsible for the positions in question have to be informed of the limits that apply to them and their current utilisation level as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Counterparty limits</p> <p>These do not apply to stock exchange transactions and spot transactions, where an amount equivalent to the transaction value has been acquired or is to be acquired on a delivery-versus-payment basis, or for which appropriate cover is available.</p>

<p>4 Furthermore, issuer limits generally have to be set up for trades also. If limits do not exist for particular issuers in trading, issuer limits for trading purposes may be defined at short notice based on clear rules, without the need to perform the full loan processing procedure defined in the relevant organisational guidelines according to risk aspects. The relevant loan processing procedure has to be initiated within three months.</p>	<p>Allowances for an issuer’s special price risks</p> <p>A credit institution may refrain from setting up a separate counterparty risk limit for an issuer, provided that appropriate consideration is given to the issuer’s special price risks within the framework of market price limits and on the basis of suitable procedures. Concentration risks have to be included as appropriate.</p> <p>Liquid lending products (e.g. “loan trading”)</p> <p>Before a credit institution commences trading activities with liquid lending products which are traded on the secondary markets like securities, counterparty or issuer limits are to be set up in accordance with this Circular. The simplifications set forth in item 4 may be applied to the determination of issuer limits.</p>
<p>5 Transactions are to be counted towards the borrower-related limits immediately. Compliance with the limits has to be monitored. Records are to be kept of any instances in which limits are exceeded, as well as of any measures taken as a result. The exceeding of counterparty and issuer limits that exceed a level determined from a risk point of view has to be reported to the responsible managers on a daily basis.</p>	
<p>6 Suitable measures have to be taken to ensure that significant overall business risks (sector-related risks, distribution of exposures by size category and risk class, and, where appropriate, country risks and other concentration risks) can be treated and monitored.</p>	
<p>7 A risk report, which has to include the key structural characteristics of the lending business, has to be drawn up at regular intervals, but at least on a quarterly basis, and provided to the management.</p> <p>The risk report has to contain the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the performance of the lending portfolio, e.g. by sector, country, risk class and size or collateral category, b) the extent of limits granted and external lines; moreover, large exposures and other noteworthy exposures (e.g. material problem loans) have to be listed and commented on, c) where appropriate, a separate analysis of country risks, d) any instances where limits were exceeded to a substantial degree (including reasons), e) the scale and development of new business, 	<p>Reporting in accordance with item 7h</p> <p>It is sufficient if the risk report only provides information on decisions which affect risk-relevant lending business.</p> <p>Exercise of individual decision-making authority by the back office manager in the case of restructuring loans</p> <p>Given that information has to be provided on noteworthy exposures (e.g. material problem loans) in accordance with item 7b), there is no need for an additional reporting requirement for decisions relating to restructuring loans taken by a back office manager as part of individual decision-making authority.</p>

<p>f) the development of the credit institution's risk provisioning,</p> <p>g) any major lending decisions made which deviate from the strategies and</p> <p>h) lending decisions taken by managers acting within their individual decision-making authority which are at odds with the votes or were taken by a manager responsible for the back office.</p>	
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BTR 2 Market price risks

BTR 2.1 General requirements

<p>1 A limit system has to be set up on the basis of the credit institution's risk-bearing capacity in order to limit market price risks.</p>	<p>Structure of BTR 2</p> <p>In BTR 2.1, the Circular sets forth general requirements which are applicable to all market price risks (including interest rate risks in the banking book). BTR 2.2 supplements BTR 2.1 by providing rules that relate to market price risks in the trading book. BTR 2.3 provides simplified rules for the market price risks in the banking book.</p> <p>Market price risks</p> <p>Market price risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share price risks, - interest rate risks, - currency risks and - market price risks from commodities transactions (including electricity derivatives and CO2 emission certificates). They do not, however, include market price risks from traditional commodities transactions executed by semi-public cooperative banks. <p>Appropriate consideration has to be given to market-related risks that result from the change in a party's creditworthiness (e.g. special share price risks relating to securities or price risks in the case of credit derivatives) in the processes for identifying, assessing, treating, monitoring and communicating risks.</p>
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2 No transaction that incurs market price risks may be entered into in the absence of a market price risk limit.	
3 The procedures used to assess market price risks have to be reviewed on a regular basis.	
4 The results calculated by the accounting department and the risk control function have to be subjected to regular plausibility checks.	
5 A risk report, which has to include details of the market price risks incurred by the credit institution, has to be drawn up at regular intervals, but at least on a quarterly basis, and provided to the management. The report has to contain the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an overview of the risk development and performance of positions that incur market price risks, b) any instances in which the limits have been substantially exceeded, and c) changes to key assumptions or parameters which form the basis of the market price risk assessment procedures. 	<p>Performance</p> <p>The risk report can be based either on accounting P&L according to the Commercial Code (including unrealised profit and losses) or economic P&L changes in the economic value.</p>

BTR 2.2 Market price risks in the trading book

1 The credit institution has to ensure that trading book transactions which incur market price risks are counted immediately towards the corresponding limits and that the individual responsible for a position is informed as soon as possible of the limits relevant to him and of their current level of utilisation. Suitable measures have to be introduced in the event that these limits are exceeded; an escalation procedure has to be initiated as appropriate.	
2 The trading book positions that incur market price risks have to be valued on a daily basis.	

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>3 Trading book results have to be calculated on a daily basis. The existing risk positions have to be consolidated into overall risk positions at least once a day at the close of trading. The overall risk positions, results and limit utilisation levels have to be reported to the manager responsible for risk control function as soon as possible on the next business day. This report has to be agreed with the trading areas.</p>	
<p>4 Risk figures derived from risk simulation models have to be continuously compared with actual trends.</p>	

BTR 2.3 Market price risks in the banking book (including interest rate risks)

<p>1 The banking book positions that incur market price risks have to be valued on a quarterly basis at the very least.</p>	
<p>2 Furthermore, the banking book results have to be calculated on at least a quarterly basis.</p>	
<p>3 Suitable measures have to be taken to ensure that situations in which limits are exceeded due to interim changes in risk positions can be avoided.</p>	
<p>4 Depending on the nature, scale, complexity and risk content of the positions in the banking book, valuation, calculation and communication of risks may also be necessary on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.</p>	
<p>5 The procedure used to assess interest rate risks in the banking book have to cover the key characteristics of interest rate risk.</p>	<p>Treatment of interest rate risks in the banking book</p> <p>As a general rule, the credit institution is free to decide how it wishes to take interest rate risks into account. These can either be treated separately in the trading and banking book, or can be considered together at credit institution level (provided that the credit institution adheres to the required daily valuation of the risk positions in the trading book and its daily performance evaluation).</p> <p>Scope of the positions to be included</p> <p>The procedure has to include both the balance-sheet and off-balance sheet positions in the banking book which are subject to interest rate risks.</p>

<p>6 The determination of interest rate risks can be based either on the effects of interest rate changes on accounting P&L or on the market or present value of the positions in question. In determining the impact on accounting P&L, possible developments after the balance sheet date have to be taken into account as appropriate.</p>	<p>Consideration of the P&L according to the Commercial Code</p> <p>Even in the event that a present-value method is applied, the credit institution should monitor development of accounting the P&L according to the Commercial Code.</p>
<p>7 Appropriate assumptions have to be established with regard to the consideration of positions with indeterminate capital tie-up or interest terms.</p>	<p>Positions with indeterminate capital tie-up or interest terms</p> <p>By way of example, positions with indeterminate capital tie-up or interest terms can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - positions where the actual investment period deviates from the legal investment period classification (primarily demand and savings deposits), - non-interest bearing assets and liabilities (e.g. equity, participating interests) or - option elements (e.g. client termination rights, early repayment options, repayment options).
<p>8 Credit institutions which incur material interest rate risks in various currencies have to assess the interest rate risks in each currency.</p>	

BTR 3 Liquidity risks

<p>1 The credit institution has to ensure that it can meet its payment obligations at all times. At the same time, it has to guarantee a sufficient level of diversification, primarily with regard to its asset and capital structure.</p>	<p>Integration solutions</p> <p>The requirement set out in sentence 2 can also be fulfilled by means of existing integration into cooperative or group structures.</p>
<p>2 The credit institution has to prepare a liquidity overview covering an appropriate period of time, which has to compare the credit institution's expected inflows with its expected outflows of funds. It has to specify the assumptions on which the expected in- and outflows are based. Appropriate scenario assessments have to be performed on a regular basis when preparing the liquidity overview.</p>	<p>Scenarios</p> <p>The credit institution defines its own scenarios. Possible scenarios include: the default of key borrowers/lenders, a full or partial withdrawal of interbank deposits, a slump in secondary market prices for securities in the liquidity reserve, a deterioration in the rating of the credit institution, the cancellation of key credit lines granted to the credit institution.</p>
<p>3 Assessments have to be performed on an ongoing basis to determine the extent to which the credit institution is in a position to cover any liquidity requirement which may arise. These assessments have to focus, in particular, on the liquidity of the credit institution's assets.</p>	

<p>4 The credit institution has to set forth which measures are to be taken in the event of a liquidity squeeze. This involves specifying the sources of liquidity available, taking into account any liquidation shortfalls. The credit institution has to determine also the communication channels to be used in the event of a liquidity squeeze.</p>	
<p>5 A report on the credit institution's liquidity situation has to be submitted to the management on a regular basis.</p>	

BTR 4 Operational risks

<p>1 The credit institution has to introduce appropriate measures to account for operational risks.</p>	
<p>2 Care has to be taken to ensure that material operational risks are identified and assessed at least once a year.</p>	
<p>3 Major losses are to be analysed immediately with regard to their causes.</p>	
<p>4 A report on major losses and material operational risks has to be provided to the management at least once a year. This report has to include the type of loss or risk, the causes, the scope of the loss or risk and, where appropriate, any countermeasures which have been introduced.</p>	
<p>5 The report is to be used as the basis for decisions as to whether measures have to be taken to remedy the causes, and, if so, which measures, or which risk management measures (e.g. insurance policies, alternative procedures, reorientation of business activities, catastrophe protection measures). The implementation of these measures has to be monitored.</p>	

BT 2 Special requirements for the internal audit

BT 2.1 Duties of the internal audit

1 As a general rule, the audit activities of the internal audit have to cover all of a credit institution's activities and processes based on a risk-oriented approach.	
2 The internal audit should be involved in key projects, although it has to preserve its independence and avoid conflicts of interest.	

BT 2.2 General principles for the internal audit

1 The duties, responsibility, organisational integration, powers and reporting obligations of the internal audit have to be determined in line with the principles below.	<p>Classification of deficiencies</p> <p>In BT 2, this Circular differentiates between "major", "severe" and "particularly severe" deficiencies. This provides a sequential system of classification with regard to the (potential) impact of deficiencies which are deemed relevant from a risk point of view. The credit institution is responsible for the exact differentiation between the individual levels. The credit institution can, at its discretion, define its own classification levels for deficiencies which are deemed to be less relevant from a risk point of view.</p>
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BT 2.2.1 Independence

1 The internal audit department has to perform its duties in an autonomous and independent fashion. In particular, it has to ensure that it is not subject to any instructions with regard to its reporting and evaluation activities. The management's right to order additional audits does not conflict with the autonomy and independence of the internal audit department.	
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BT 2.2.2 Segregation of functions

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| <p>1 As a general rule, members of staff employed in the internal audit may not be entrusted with tasks which are not related to auditing. They may not, under any circumstances, perform tasks which are not consistent with auditing activities. Provided that the internal audit department maintains its independence, it may provide advisory support to management or other organisational units of the credit institution within the realm of its duties.</p> | |
| <p>2 As a general rule, members of staff employed in other organisational units of the credit institution may not be entrusted with internal audit tasks. This does not, however, rule out justified situations in which other employees can, due to their particular expertise, conduct activities for the internal audit on a temporary basis.</p> | |

BT 2.3 Implementation of the audit

BT 2.3.1 Audit planning

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| <p>1 The activities of the internal audit have to be based on a comprehensive audit plan which has to be updated on a yearly basis. Audit planning has to be risk-oriented. The activities and processes of the credit institution, even if these are outsourced, have to be audited at appropriate intervals, as a general rule within three years. Auditing has to be performed annually if particular risks exist.</p> | <p>Exemptions from the three-year cycle
Activities and processes which are deemed not to be material from a risk point of view may be exempted from the three-year audit cycle.</p> |
| <p>2 Audit planning, audit methods and quality are to be reviewed and developed further on an ongoing basis.</p> | |
| <p>3 Audit planning, as well as any major adjustments to it, has to be approved by the management.</p> | |

BT 2.3.2 Special audits

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| <p>1 Care has to be taken to ensure that any special audits required, e.g. due to deficiencies which have arisen or certain informational requirements, can be performed at any time.</p> | |
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BT 2.3.3 Auditing obligation for outsourcing

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| <p>1 The activities of the internal audit also have to be extended to those activities and processes which have been outsourced to other companies. These companies also include outsourcing companies which provide services for more than one credit institutions within the meaning of section 25a (2) KWG (these are known as multiple client service providers).</p> | |
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| <p>2 In the event that activities and processes have been outsourced to other companies or multiple client service providers and the auditing activities are performed by the service provider, the internal audit of the outsourcing credit institution has to perform regular assessments to make sure that internal auditing by the service provider meets the required standards. The relevant audit results have to be passed on to the internal audit of the outsourcing credit institution. In the event of multiple client service providers, internal auditing can also be performed by one or more of the outsourcing credit institutions on behalf of the outsourcing credit institutions. The results of the audits have to be passed on to all credit institutions participating in the outsourcing scheme.</p> | |
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BT 2.3.4 Reporting obligation

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| <p>1 The internal audit has to prepare a written report on each audit as soon as possible and, as a general rule, submit this report to the responsible management members. In particular, the report has to include a description of the subject of the audit and the findings, including any planned measures where appropriate; any major deficiencies have to be highlighted. The re-</p> | |
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<p>sults of the audit also have to be assessed. In the event of severe deficiencies, the report has to be submitted to the management immediately.</p>	
<p>2 If a consensus cannot be reached between the audited organisational unit and the internal audit with regard to the implementation of measures identified as necessary to remedy any deficiencies found, the audited organisational unit has to submit an official statement.</p>	
<p>3 The internal audit has to prepare an overall report of all of the audits performed in the course of the financial year as soon as possible and provide this report to the management as soon as possible. The overall report has to provide information on material deficiencies and the measures taken. It has to demonstrate whether or not, and to what extent, the audit plan has been adhered to.</p>	<p>Presentation of findings</p> <p>A concise presentation of the facts may be made. Individual findings which are similar in nature, as well as the status of the measures resolved, can be summarised in the report.</p>
<p>4 The management has to be informed immediately in the event that the audit results in severe findings against managers. The management then immediately has to inform the chairperson of the supervisory body and the supervisory authorities (BaFin, Deutsche Bundesbank). If the management fails to meet its reporting obligation or if it fails to implement appropriate measures, the internal audit has to inform the chairperson of the supervisory body.</p>	
<p>5 The management has to provide the supervisory body with a concise report on the deficiencies identified by the internal audit as being severe, as well as major deficiencies which have not yet to be remedied, at least once a year. Particular emphasis has to be placed on the severe deficiencies discovered, the measures resolved to remedy them, as well as the implementation of these measures. The management immediately has to inform the supervisory body of particularly severe deficiencies.</p>	

BT 2.3.5 Reaction to identified deficiencies

<p>1 The internal audit department has to perform appropriate assessments to ensure that any deficiencies discovered in the course of the audit are remedied within the required period. Where appropriate, it has to perform a follow-up audit.</p>	
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<p>2 If the major deficiencies are not remedied within an appropriate period, the head of the internal audit first has to inform the responsible manager in writing. If the deficiencies remain unresolved, the management has to be informed of these deficiencies in writing, at the latest in the next overall report.</p>	
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<p>BT 2.3.6 Documentation and retention keeping of the audit documents</p>

<p>1 The audits have to be documented in the form of procedural documentation. This documentation has to identify the audits performed, as well as any deficiencies discovered during the audit and conclusions in a manner which is clear to knowledgeable third parties.</p>	
<p>2 Audit reports and procedural documents have to be retained for a period of six years.</p>	

<p>BT 2.4 Outsourcing of the internal audit function</p>

<p>1 As a general rule, duties of the internal audit have to be performed by employees of the credit institution. Individual internal audit activities may be transferred to external partners to the extent that this is acceptable from a risk point of view.</p>	
<p>2 In the case of credit institutions for which the establishment of an internal audit would be unreasonable due to the size of the credit institution, duties of the internal audit can be performed by a manager or transferred in full to external partners (e.g. shared facilities or external auditors). This also applies to newly-formed entities during the first two financial years, provided that the operating plan suggests that the scope of business will be limited and will not be aggressively expanded.</p>	

Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin)

<p>3 Activities of the internal audit may only be transferred on the basis of a written audit request which ensures the implementation of AT 4.4 and BT 2. The credit institution has to be convinced that the external partner has sufficient knowledge and sufficient capacity to ensure that auditing is properly performed.</p>	
<p>4 In the event that the audit function is outsourced in full, the management has to appoint an audit representative who will ensure that internal auditing is performed correctly. The audit representative can be either a manager or an employee with sufficient knowledge and the required degree of independence.</p>	
<p>5 The audit plan has to be drawn up by the audit representative in cooperation with the external partner. Furthermore, the audit representative, in cooperation with the external partner where appropriate, has to prepare the overall report in accordance with BT 2.3.4 item 3 and, in accordance with BT 2.3.5, assess whether or not the deficiencies identified have been remedied.</p>	

BT 2.5 Group audit

<p>1 If a group audit function exists, this can be used to support the functionality and effectiveness of the internal surveillance procedures in the group as a supplement to the internal audit of the subsidiary. The group audit function may also make use of the results of the internal audits performed at the subordinated companies.</p>	
<p>2 In the event that individual internal audit activities are performed exclusively by the group audit function, the requirements set forth in AT 4.4 and BT 2 have to be observed accordingly.</p>	
<p>3 The internal audit function may be outsourced in full to the group audit function in the circumstances set forth in BT 2.4 item 2, provided that the group audit is subject to the management of the parent company and the parent company is domiciled within the European Economic Area.</p>	