Prudential Standard 3PS 221

Aggregate Risk Exposures

Objectives and key requirements of this Prudential Standard

This Prudential Standard requires a Level 3 Head to ensure that an aggregate risk exposure external to the Level 3 group does not expose prudentially regulated institutions within the group to excessive risk.

The ultimate responsibility for the aggregate risk exposure policy of a Level 3 group rests with the Board of its Level 3 Head.

The key requirements of this Prudential Standard are that a Level 3 Head must:

- have a policy for the Level 3 group that deals with the measurement, management and monitoring of, and reporting on, aggregate risk exposures associated with all risk types within the group;
- develop and implement effective systems and processes to manage, monitor and report on aggregate risk exposures; and
- meet minimum requirements with respect to aggregate risk exposures and certain related matters.

The requirements in this Prudential Standard are in addition to the obligations imposed on prudentially regulated institutions under other Prudential Standards.

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Authority

1. This Prudential Standard is made under:

   (a) section 11AF(1) of the **Banking Act**;

   (b) section 32(1) of the **Insurance Act**; and

   (c) section 230A(1) of the **Life Insurance Act**.

Application

2. This Prudential Standard applies to each **Level 3 Head**.

3. This Prudential Standard commences on 1 October 2026.

Interpretation

4. Terms that are defined in *Prudential Standard CPS 001 Defined terms* appear in bold the first time they are used in this Prudential Standard.

5. Where this Prudential Standard provides for APRA to exercise a power or discretion, this power or discretion is to be exercised in writing.

6. In this Prudential Standard, unless the contrary intention appears, a reference to an Act, Regulation or Prudential Standard is a reference to the Act, Regulation or Prudential Standard as in force from time to time

Aggregate risk exposures

7. For the purposes of this Prudential Standard, aggregate risk exposures arise from exposures to individual counterparties, a group of related individual counterparties, a group of counterparties with similar characteristics (e.g. in specific geographical locations or industry sectors) or to particular asset classes (e.g. property holdings or other investments) where the exposures have the potential to result in material losses for the **Level 3 group** or an individual **prudentially regulated institution** in the group. Aggregate risk exposures include both on- and off-balance sheet exposures. Unlimited exposures to any individual counterparty (e.g. a general guarantee of the obligations of a counterparty) are not permitted unless agreed with APRA.

8. For the purposes of this Prudential Standard, when determining aggregate risk exposures the Level 3 Head must ensure that exposures to the **wider conglomerate group** to which the Level 3 group belongs are taken into account.

9. For the purposes of this Prudential Standard, aggregate risk exposures exclude any exposures held, in accordance with written legal agreements, by the Level 3 group on behalf of entities external to the Level 3 group (e.g. custodian arrangements), even if the assets are held in the name of a **Level 3 institution** in the group.

10. A Level 3 Head must have an 'aggregate risk exposures policy' that addresses all material risk exposures associated with the operations undertaken by Level 3 institutions in the Level 3 group. The policy must include systems and procedures to identify, measure, monitor, evaluate, report and control or mitigate all material risks arising from aggregate risk exposures.

11. A Level 3 Head must conduct forward-looking scenario analysis and stress testing of the Level 3 group's material aggregate risk exposures. The analysis must assess the impact of changes in market conditions and key risk factors on these aggregate risk exposures, and how these changes impact on the group's risk profile, capital strength and earnings.

12. The management of aggregate risk exposures must be a part of the Level 3 group's risk management framework.[1]

The role of the Board of a Level 3 Head

13. The Board of a Level 3 Head must:

    (a) approve the aggregate risk exposures policy for the Level 3 group;

    (b) **ensure** that adequate systems and controls are in place to identify, measure, aggregate, manage, monitor and report on material risk exposures in the Level 3 group in a timely manner and that those systems and controls are documented;

    (c) engage in oversight, which may be via a board committee, of the approach to the identification, measurement, management and monitoring of aggregate risk exposures and compliance with the aggregate risk exposures policy, which includes receiving regular reviews of material aggregate risk exposures of the Level 3 group; and

    (d) review the aggregate risk exposures policy at least annually to ensure that this policy remains adequate and appropriate for identifying, measuring, aggregating, managing and monitoring the Level 3 group's risk exposures.

The aggregate risk exposures policy

14. The aggregate risk exposures policy for a Level 3 group must:

    (a) be conceptually sound, consistently implemented, transparent and be subject to independent review;

    (b) capture all material aggregate risk exposures;

    (c) include limits on acceptable levels of aggregate risk exposures for the Level 3 group;

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[1] Refer to *Prudential Standard CPS 220 Risk Management* (CPS 220).

(d) include a description of the procedures for identifying, aggregating, reviewing, controlling and reporting material risk exposures within the Level 3 group. This must include:

   (i) a clear statement of the respective responsibilities and compliance obligations of the Board of the Level 3 Head, its board committees and **senior management** of the Level 3 group in relation to the monitoring and management of aggregate risk exposures;

   (ii) escalation procedures for aggregate risk exposures that facilitate responses to identified policy breaches between formal reporting cycles;

   (iii) the circumstances in which aggregate risk exposure limits may be exceeded and the authority required for approving such excesses;

   (iv) thresholds and procedures for reporting material changes to the Board of the Level 3 Head, in both formal reporting cycles and outside formal reporting cycles;

   (v) consideration of the impact of material changes in macroeconomic conditions, including foreign exchange rates, interest rates and inflation; and

   (vi) a timetable for a regular review of the reports by the Board of the Level 3 Head.

15. The aggregate risk exposure limits identified under paragraph 14(c) must take into account, where appropriate, matters such as:

(a) on- and off-balance sheet exposures to:

   (i) various types of counterparties;

   (ii) an individual counterparty or group of related counterparties;

   (iii) individual industry sectors;

   (iv) geographical locations;

   (v) financial products, including risk transfer products;

   (vi) specific funding sources;

   (vii) various asset classes such as equities, property holdings and other investments;

   (viii) various market risks such as interest rate, foreign exchange and commodities; and

   (ix) any other material risks,

that cover asset and liability exposures and that are commensurate with the Level 3 group's risk appetite, risk profile and capital strength, and the size, business mix and complexity of the group; and

(b) operational risk exposures to:

(i) service providers;

(ii) outsourcing;

(iii) business continuity management; and

(iv) any other operational risks.

Internal reporting systems

16. A Level 3 Head's management information systems must incorporate reporting systems in relation to aggregate risk exposures across the Level 3 group.[2]

17. Reports on material aggregate risk exposures must be provided to APRA on request.

Limits and approvals

18. Where, in APRA's view, the Level 3 group is exposed to a significant level of aggregate risk exposure in specific risks, APRA may require a Level 3 Head to limit or reduce the Level 3 group's level of aggregate risk exposure. APRA may also determine how a Level 3 Head must calculate an aggregate risk exposure. In determining any requirement to limit or reduce the Level 3 group's level of aggregate risk exposure, or how a Level 3 Head must calculate an aggregate risk exposure, APRA may take account of the following factors:

(a) whether the Level 3 group has been acting in a manner that is consistent with the aggregate risk exposures policy;

(b) the characteristics of aggregate risk exposures, including their number, size and nature;

(c) the characteristics of the Level 3 group, including the nature of its business and the experience of its management; and

(d) other relevant factors to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Notification requirements

19. A Level 3 Head must notify APRA as soon as practicable, and no more than 10 business days, after it becomes aware:

(a) of a breach of the limits in the aggregate risk exposures policy;

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[2] Refer to CPS 220.

(b) of any significant breach of, or material deviation from, the aggregate risk exposures policy; or

(c) that the aggregate risk exposures policy did not adequately address a material risk,

and advise of remedial actions taken, or planned to be taken, to deal with the issue.

20. A Level 3 Head must submit to APRA a copy of its aggregate risk exposures policy as soon as practicable, and no more than 10 business days, after Board approval.

Adjustments and exclusions

21. APRA may adjust or exclude a specific requirement in this Prudential Standard in relation to the Level 3 Head.[3]

Previous exercise of discretion

22. A Level 3 Head must contact APRA if it seeks to place reliance, for the purposes of complying with this Prudential Standard, on a previous exercise of discretion made by APRA under a previous version of this Prudential Standard.

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[3] Refer to subsection 11AF(2) of the Banking Act, subsection 32(3D) of the Insurance Act and subsection 230A(4) of the Life Insurance Act.