

SEBI clarification on exchange traded option contracts on EUR-INR, GBP-INR AND JYP-INR currency pairs

In early 2016, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had permitted recognized stock exchanges to offer cross currency futures and options in EUR-USD, GBP-USD and USD-JPY currency pairs and currency option contracts in EUR-INR, GBP-INR and USD-INR currency pairs. The detailed framework was provided in its circular no 38 dated 9 March 2016 (earlier circular).

Amongst other aspects, the stock exchanges were required to implement a mechanism of Dynamic Price Band in the currency derivatives segment to ensure orderly trading, market integrity and to prevent acceptance of orders placed beyond the price limits set by stock exchanges.

In order to bring uniformity in the computation and relaxation of dynamic price bands, SEBI has modified para 9(ii) of SEBI circular dated 9 March 2016, by issuing a circular no. 98 dated 31 August 2017. In nutshell,

- Stock exchanges shall implement a uniform dynamic price band mechanism for computation and relaxation of dynamic price bands in respect of currency options contracts.
- The dynamic price bands would apply to currency option contracts in EUR-INR, GBP-INR and USD-INR pairs and cross-currency option contracts in EUR-USD, GBP-USD and USD-JPY currency pairs
- Stock exchanges shall take into consideration various factors such as movement in underlying price, volatility, any news on concerned currency and its likely impact, movement of price of underlying at other stock exchanges, etc. while relaxing the price bands. Earlier, market wide trend in case of high volatility was the sole parameter for deciding the relaxation.
- The stock exchanges shall ensure that the mechanism for relaxation of dynamic price bands is not misused by market participants for manipulation in options contracts.

The stock exchange/ clearing corporation to include the requirements in this circular and earlier circular while submitting its proposal to SEBI for launch of currency options on EUR-INR, GBP-INR and JPY-INR currency pairs.

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Ahmedabad

Commerce House V, 9th Floor, 902 & 903, Near Vodafone House, Corporate Road, Prahlad Nagar, Ahmedabad – 380 051 Tel: +91 79 4040 2200

Tel: +91 79 4040 2200 Fax: +91 79 4040 2244

Bengaluru

Maruthi Info-Tech Centre 11-12/1, Inner Ring Road Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 071 Tel: +91 80 3980 6000 Fax: +91 80 3980 6999

Chandigarh

SCO 22-23 (Ist Floor) Sector 8C, Madhya Marg Chandigarh – 160 009 Tel: +91 172 393 5777/781 Fax: +91 172 393 5780

Chennai

KRM Tower, Ground Floor, No 1, Harrington Road Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031 Tel: +91 44 3914 5000 Fax: +91 44 3914 5999

Gurugram

Building No.10, 8th Floor DLF Cyber City, Phase II Gurugram, Haryana – 122 002 Tel: +91 124 307 4000 Fax: +91 124 254 9101

Hyderabad

Salarpuria Knowledge City, ORWELL, 6th Floor, Unit 3, Phase III, Sy No. 83/1, Plot No 2, Serilingampally Mandal, Raidurg Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500081 Tel: +91 40 6111 6000

Fax: +91 40 6111 6799

Jaipur

Regus Radiant Centres Pvt Ltd., Level 6, Jaipur Centre Mall, B2 By pass Tonk Road Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302018. Tel: +91 141 - 7103224

Kochi

Syama Business Center 3rd Floor, NH By Pass Road, Vytilla, Kochi – 682019 Tel: +91 484 302 7000 Fax: +91 484 302 7001

Kolkata

Unit No. 603 – 604, 6th Floor, Tower – 1, Godrej Waterside, Sector – V, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091 Tel: +91 33 4403 4000 Fax: +91 33 4403 4199

Mumbai

N. M. Joshi Marg Mahalaxmi, Mumbai – 400 011 Tel: +91 22 3989 6000 Fax: +91 22 3983 6000

Lodha Excelus, Apollo Mills

Noida

Unit No. 501, 5th Floor, Advant Navis Business Park Tower-B, Plot# 7, Sector 142, Expressway Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida – 201305 Tel: +91 0120 386 8000 Fax: +91 0120 386 8999

Pune

9th floor, Business Plaza, Westin Hotel Campus, 36/3-B, Koregaon Park Annex, Mundhwa Road, Ghorpadi, Pune – 411001 Tel: +91 20 6747 7000 Fax: +91 20 6747 7100

Vadodara

iPlex India Private Limited, 1st floor office space, No. 1004, Vadodara Hyper, Dr. V S Marg Alkapuri, Vadodara – 390 007

Tel: +91 0265 235 1085/232 2607/232 2672

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