



# CLEARABLE PRODUCTS FRAMEWORK

JSE Clear  
October 2025

## VERSION CONTROL

<b>Created By:</b>	JSE Clear Risk
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## VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date of Revision	Summary of Changes	Author
1.0	October 2018	Document Creation.	Post-trade Risk
2.0	February 2020	Regular review.	Post-trade Risk
3.0	May 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document classification (framework).</li> <li>Removed restriction that custom baskets of equities can only have long constituents. This allows baskets with long &amp; short constituents. Options on custom baskets can only be listed if the value of the custom basket does not go negative.</li> <li>Added guidelines on the process for existing products that no longer meet clearability requirements.</li> <li>Updated Clearable Derivatives Products List (Section 6) with clearing guidelines for ETFs.</li> <li>Review of the ADTV and Market Cap thresholds and how these are determined.</li> <li>Reference to 'Can-dos' has been replaced with 'Structured Products'.</li> <li>Minimum of 2 Clearing Members required for approval of new products.</li> <li>Added frequency of clearability thresholds review and frequency of existing products ongoing clearability eligibility review.</li> </ol>	Post-trade Risk
4.0	July 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reference index, S&amp;P 500 Index, is replaced with Russell 3000 Index to calculate the ADVT and Market Cap thresholds for International (US) equity instruments.</li> <li>Enhancement of clearability criteria for African currencies (floating).</li> <li>Enhancements to ETF clearability criteria including the inclusion of commodities and volatility indices as possible ETF underlyings.</li> <li>Name of framework changed to Clearable Products Framework.</li> </ol>	JSE Clear Risk
5.0	October 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADVT and Market Cap thresholds were reviewed and found to still be appropriate, therefore the thresholds were left unchanged.</li> </ol>	JSE Clear Risk
6.0	July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added Government guaranteed SOE Inflation-linked bonds.</li> <li>Equity Derivatives and ETFs: Removed ADVT clearability thresholds based on the removal of the R50mn LIPAO</li> </ol>	JSE Clear Risk

		<p>threshold for the EQD and FXM markets in June 2024. Market Cap clearability thresholds have been replaced with the requirement that the underlying is listed on the JSE or a major international exchange.</p>	
7.0	February 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of the requirement that the underlying instrument (for both local and foreign derivatives) must have been listed for at least 10 trading days before derivatives may be listed thereon. Added: to be considered case-by-case, and a margin buffer may be levied on derivatives listed on an underlying with a short trading history.</li> </ol>	JSE Clear Risk
8.0	October 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular review.</li> <li>2. Updated section 5 with additional guidance for periodic and/or ad hoc clearability reviews of existing cleared contracts/products.</li> <li>3. Minor updates to section 6: Derivatives products approved for clearing.</li> <li>4. Various housekeeping updates.</li> </ol>	JSE Clear Risk

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, JSE Clear (JSEC) performs a clearing function for every product listed on the JSE derivatives exchange and for all products in which participants have positions. This framework sets out the assessment criteria used when considering whether a product is suitable for clearing. This framework also provides a short description of the governance process involved in approving a new product to be cleared and the intended use of the capabilities that have been developed in the JSE's Structured Product platform.

## 2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The business of a clearing house is to process payments and settlements for financial transactions. Through its rules and netting arrangements, the clearing house reduces counterparty credit and liquidity risk exposures through netting. It also provides standardised and transparent risk management. The efficiency with which a clearing house is able to do this is a function of the products for which it clears.

The following criteria were used to assess the clearing suitability of the products shown in this document:

- 2.1. **Standardization.** When creating and managing a clearing environment, standardising products wherever possible improves efficiencies and lowers operational risks. Managing the reference data for standardized contracts is significantly simpler than for non-standardized contracts. Crucially, the default management process for portfolios containing only standardized contracts is significantly less complex. Furthermore, standardization can concentrate trading activity in a smaller number of instruments, and thereby contributes to liquidity.
- 2.2. **Complexity.** More complex instruments are typically more difficult to value, increasing the risk of inaccuracy in quantifying the risk profile. Inaccurate collateralization is more likely. Complex instruments are often also more difficult to hedge. This complicates the task of managing defaults of portfolios that include such complex instruments. Complex instruments also often require bespoke valuation and risk measurement solutions (not typically provided by the standard infrastructure suppliers) which introduce more inefficiency and risk into established processes and systems. The potential benefit of complex products should be weighed against the potential costs of higher operational risks resulting from non-standard, manual and difficult to maintain processes and procedures. Risks associated with complex and exotic products may cause them to not be listed for clearing.
- 2.3. **Liquidity.** More accurate pricing information is available for more heavily traded, liquid products. This allows more accurate valuation of positions, which in turn reduces the risk that positions will be under-collateralized or over-collateralized. Second, more actively traded, liquid products typically have more reliable time series price and volume data. Such data facilitates the development, testing, and calibration of more accurate risk models that permit central counterparties (CCPs) to determine initial margin levels, including margin add-on's such as liquidation period add-on's, that more precisely reflect the true risks posed by these products. Positions that may be difficult to manage in the event of a default are unlikely to be listed for clearing.
- 2.4. **Risk characteristics.** Various risk characteristics affect the ability of CCPs to clear certain products:
  - a) Volatility: more volatile products are often more challenging to clear;
  - b) Tail/gap risk: price discontinuities pose various challenges to CCPs and can lead to higher exposures at default;
  - c) Dependencies: a CCP faces elevated risks when a clearing member's probability of default is elevated precisely when it owes the CCP substantial amounts on its cleared positions (wrong-way risk).
  - d) Clearing Members: New products will not be approved without a minimum of 2 clearing members agreeing to clear. Exceptions may be considered for exotic products only, with appropriate risk mitigation and conservative margining at JSEC's discretion. For existing products which have a small number of clearing members or where a clearing member clears a large portion of a given product or instrument relative to daily trading volumes and relative to other clearing members, additional margin components for concentration will be considered. Consideration may also be given to discontinuing in an orderly and phased manner the clearing of such products.

- e) **Data:** The volume and quality of historical data under normal and stress conditions are key factors in the prediction of risks and clearability of products and underlying assets. Products will not be listed for clearing unless sufficient relevant data is available to calculate risk parameters and margins.

All the products that have been approved for clearing by JSE Clear are listed in Section 6 of this document. The exact underlying assets that each product references need to meet certain criteria, mainly related to liquidity and price transparency. These criteria are set by JSE Clear and a brief description of these is placed in Section 6.

No derivative cleared on JSEC may have a tenor longer than **3 years** except for Swap Futures.

### 3. GOVERNANCE PROCESS FOR APPROVING ALL NEW PRODUCTS FOR LISTING

Any product that is not on the list in Section 6 is considered a new product and will need to follow the process outlined here before listing. Products which haven't been traded/used for a period of longer than **6 months** will no longer be offered and should interest be shown, they will follow the new product process before being listed/offered. New products are considered by JSEC after full consultation across all parts of the business.

The business unit initiating the product will document the details of the product. In consultation with the various enabling business units the details of the operational mechanics, risk factors and any peculiarities will be documented. The JSEC Risk team opines on the suitability of clearing the proposed product. Once there is consensus on product details, the product will be presented to the JSE Executive Committee for approval before being put to the JSEC Risk Committee for approval.

The JSE Executive Committee will consider the underlying assumptions relating to the product, its valuation and margining; and evaluate JSEC's potential risk exposure should the assumptions fail. Consideration is to be given to possible difficulty in valuing any new product, and how the product might perform in a stressed economic environment. The JSE Executive Committee is to ensure that changes in the central counterparty's risk exposure are identified and reviewed and that any changes to the CCP's infrastructure, policies, processes and procedures needed as a result of the product being introduced are in place before the product is made available for clearing.

It is the responsibility of the management to ensure that all specific underlyings continue to meet the requirements as set out in this document. Where there is doubt, the JSEC Risk team is to be requested to provide clarity on a particular attribute, e.g. valuation methodology or inputs. It is the JSEC Risk team's responsibility to ensure that all products and specific contracts meet the criteria in this document and are risk managed appropriately. **Should there be no consensus on the clearability of a product or specific underlying, the product will be brought to JSEC Risk Committee to determine whether it should be offered for clearing after seeking advice from the Clearing Member Risk Advisory Committee.**

The JSEC Risk Committee is to be provided with assurance that the product is appropriate for clearing by JSEC and that the JSE can effectively clear positions therein.

### 4. EXOTIC AND STRUCTURED PRODUCTS PLATFORM

For instruments to be eligible for listing on the Structured Products platform there must be a standardised and robust valuation mechanism and risk measurement established within the JSE which includes effective and efficient processes for handling and maintaining reference data for that product type. This valuation will be the final, definitive and authoritative determinant of variation and initial margin requirements. Inputs into the valuation and risk management calculations are conservative and take operational and liquidity risk into account.

For Structured Product option offerings, the JSE will allow combinations of options to be listed as a single exotic option. To robustly manage reference data, reduce operational risk and be in a position to provide adequate information in the case of a default, no

more than **5 options** are permitted to be combined into one instrument (e.g. call spread comprised of 2 options within the structure or a fence comprised of 3 options within the structure).

## 5. REVIEW OF LISTED PRODUCTS

The products currently listed on the JSE derivative market and noted in Section 6 meet the JSEC 'Clearability' criteria described above; they have clearly specified hedging strategies, relatively low levels of complexity, relatively high levels of liquidity and manageable risk characteristics.

It should be noted that listed contracts/products must continue to meet the clearability requirements outlined in the framework, in order for JSEC to continue clearing these contracts. The liquidity, price volatility and JSEC's ability to appropriately risk manage listed products and their underlying assets or instruments should be reviewed monthly (and additionally ad-hoc, if required) to ensure that they continue to meet the requirements for clearing set out in this document. Additionally, ad hoc reviews of existing cleared contracts/products to ensure that they remain compliant and compatible with clearability principles, risk models, margin methodologies and default management procedures may be triggered by:

- Material declines in trading volumes and open interest in the contract or underlyings.
- Material increases in price volatility that is not adequately captured by risk models or margin methodologies.
- Prevalence of stale prices, price discontinuities or inability to source reliable prices impacting the ability to value and risk manage exposures.
- Instrument and/or market changes (e.g. characteristics/complexity/risk profile of the instrument, product or the market in which it trades are materially different compared to those during initial or previous clearability assessments).
- More frequent and/or severe margin back testing failures that could point to an underlying concern with the instrument/product.
- Regulatory, legal or jurisdictional changes impacting the underlying, product or market and clearability thereof.
- Operational viability (commercial irrelevance; more efficient alternatives; products that become operationally burdensome or cost-inefficient may be flagged for review).

The following guidelines should be considered in the review of ongoing clearability of a product:

- 5.1. Contracts with underlyings that no longer meet clear-ability requirements and **do not have open interest** will be suspended and further contract expiries with those underlyings will not be created.
- 5.2. Contracts with underlyings that no longer meet clear-ability requirements and **do have open interest** can have their **margins increased at the discretion of the JSEC Risk Team**. The JSE will evaluate the continued eligibility of affected contracts, but as a general guideline, no new contract expiries are to be listed. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the JSEC Risk Team.
- 5.3. Market Communications will be disseminated to inform Parties of increased margin requirements and/or suspension and delisting of contracts.
- 5.4. Suspended contracts will not be automatically relisted if listing requirements are met again. Consideration of relisting will be dependent on request from Capital Markets should there be client and clearing member interest.

## 6. PRODUCTS APPROVED FOR CLEARING

### Derivatives:

#### 6.1.1. Equity Derivatives:

- a) Local equities - JSE-listed equity instruments; based on risk assessment.
  - i. Cash settled futures and vanilla options on indices.
  - ii. Cash and physically settled futures, dividend neutral futures, contracts for difference (CFDs) and vanilla options on single names.
  
- b) Foreign equities - Listed on major international exchanges; based on risk assessment:
  - i. Cash settled futures, dividend neutral futures (ZAR and quanto<sup>1</sup>) on indices and single names.
  - ii. Cash settled options on quanto futures on indices and single names.
  - iii. Out of currency settled options on certain indices and single names.

The underlying instrument (for both local and foreign derivatives) must have:

- i. traded on 67 out of the previous 90 days or on all trading days if listed for less than 67 days<sup>2</sup>.

Single names and indices include exchange traded funds (ETFs) based on underlyings that satisfy the requirements and which are not geared or have an inverse pay-off profile.

For custom baskets of equities (local and international), options will only be allowed where 90% of the basket by notional weight makes up an observed underlying on which there exists observable option pricing inputs. Options on custom baskets of equities are NOT eligible for listing if the value of the basket can be negative.

Cash settled futures on a custom basket of JSE listed or international equities – at least 80% of the constituents must satisfy the criteria for a single name future. The contract size of any basket will be 10. For all local single name equity derivatives, the contract size will be 100. For international single name equity derivatives, the contract size will be 1. All indices (local and international) will have a contract size of 10.

Options may be listed on international equities (indices and single names) where there is an observable option market, and a pricing model has been established that includes the automatic, daily sourcing of all pricing inputs. The following exotic options can be listed:

- i. Cash settled single barrier knock-in/out options.
- ii. Cash settled strike-resetting options (maximum of 5 reset events allowed)

The set-up of the above instruments must be standardised to reduce operational risk and have to fulfil the requirements of the Structured Products platform (as mentioned above) for an instrument to be listed.

#### 6.1.2. Currency Derivatives

- a) G20 currency prices against the ZAR where the currency pair is quoted in ZAR per currency.
  - i. Cash settled futures and options.
  
- b) G8 currency prices against one another.
  - i. Cash settled futures and options.

<sup>1</sup> Quanto instruments are cash settled derivatives with underlying assets denominated in a foreign currency, but settled in domestic currency at a predefined fixed exchange rate.

<sup>2</sup> If an underlying has traded for a short period of time (<10days), listing requests will be considered case-by-case and a conservative margin buffer may apply, if required.

- c) Cash settled futures and options on certain African currencies against the ZAR or USD.
  - i. Cash settled futures and options (subject to tenor restrictions as determined by JSE Clear Risk).
- d) All currencies pairs must exhibit the following:
  - i. Evidence of liquidity of that currency; and
  - ii. Absence of a tight peg against the benchmarked currency (evidence of a free-float currency).
- e) Exotic options:
  - i. Cash settled single barrier knock-in/out options.
  - ii. Cash settled strike-resetting options (maximum of 5 reset events allowed).
  - iii. Out of currency settled options on certain currency pairs.

Options (vanilla and exotic) will only be allowed in the existence of a deep and liquid options market. Inputs required for the valuation of the option will be evaluated for accuracy and suitability to ensure appropriate valuation and risk management of currency option exposures.

FX futures on currencies which exhibit sufficient liquidity but are tightly pegged against another currency do not meet the Clear-ability criteria. These currencies have exhibited discreet price moves when the peg is adjusted and hence futures thereon cannot reasonably be risk managed.

#### 6.1.3. Fixed Income Derivatives

- a) Nominal ZAR government bonds (Zero coupon, fixed coupon and floating-rate coupon):
  - i. Physically settled single-name bond futures.
  - ii. Cash settled index futures.
  - iii. Vanilla options on cash or physically settled bond futures.
- b) Inflation-linked ZAR government bonds:
  - i. Physically settled single-name bond futures.
  - ii. Cash settled index futures.
  - iii. Vanilla options on cash or physically settled bond futures.
- c) Nominal ZAR State Owned Entity (SOE) bonds (zero coupon, fixed coupon and floating-rate coupon - assessed on a case-by-case based on the underlying risk characteristics):
  - i. Only government guaranteed bonds will be considered.
  - ii. Physically settled single-name bond futures.
  - iii. Cash settled single-name bond futures.
  - iv. Vanilla options on physically settled bond futures.
- d) Inflation-linked ZAR SOE bonds (assessed on a case-by-case based on the underlying risk characteristics):
  - i. Only government guaranteed bonds will be considered.
  - ii. Physically settled single-name bond futures.
  - iii. Cash settled single-name bond futures.
  - iv. Vanilla options on physically settled bond futures.
- e) ZAR interbank rates:
  - i. Futures and options on benchmark interest rates including JIBAR and ZARONIA

#### 6.1.4. Commodity Derivatives

- a) Metals

- i. Cash settled futures and vanilla options (ZAR and quanto).
- b) Energy
  - i. Cash settled futures and vanilla options (quanto).
- c) Local grains
  - i. Cash and physically settled futures and vanilla options.
- d) Foreign grains
  - i. Cash settled futures and vanilla options (ZAR and quanto).
- e) Livestock
  - i. Cash settled beef carcass, feeder calves and lamb futures.
- f) Soya bean complex
  - i. Cash settled futures on a basket of long soya bean, short soya meal and short soya oil.
- g) Other soft commodities
  - i. Cash settled futures on SA wool, coffee beans, cocoa, cotton and sugar.

#### 6.1.5. Derivatives on Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

Exchange traded funds (ETFs) refers to securities listed on an exchange that track the performance of an underlying basket of securities, index or other assets by directly owning the securities or assets in the fund. This instrument type excludes synthetic ETFs such as exchange traded notes (ETNs) which are typically unsecured debt securities that track an underlying basket of securities, index or other assets without necessarily owning the securities they attempt to track the performance of.

ETFs often present some unique complexities over more traditional underlying assets of derivative contracts (such as equity, currency or commodity underlyings) particularly in terms of quantifying liquidity risk, look-through and understanding the underlying asset exposures and risks, potential lack of price discovery, tracking errors and methodology risks.

ETF liquidity has many layers and involves multiple market participants. Listing a new derivative contract on an ETF should only be approved if there is comfort over the following liquidity risk dimensions:

- a) *Underlying market liquidity* – There should be sufficient liquidity in the underlying markets and securities/assets being tracked. Greater liquidity in underlying markets make it easier to create or redeem new ETF shares in the fund.
- b) *Authorised participants and primary market* – The number of authorised participants in the primary market that can create or redeem ETF shares to match ETF share demand from end investors (often referred to as the ‘arbitrage’ mechanism). An efficient arbitrage mechanism ensures better alignment between ETF share prices and the value of the underlying basket of securities (per share) held by the fund.
- c) *Market makers* – The availability and number of dedicated and robust market makers operating in the secondary market that guarantee to provide two-way prices and trade size to support buying and selling of ETF shares by investors. This should also be considered during periods of increased market volatility or stress events.
- d) *Secondary market liquidity* – Assessing ETF share volumes traded (visible or “on screen” average daily volume traded (ADVT) on the exchange) as well as ETF share bid-ask spreads relative to bid-ask spreads in the underlying assets.

- e) *Trading within foreign market closures* – If an ETF tracks an index or basket of securities outside the exchange on which the ETF is listed it may be trading during periods when the underlying index or securities market is closed which could result in a disparity between the daily performance of the ETF and index/fund benchmark being tracked and greater market and liquidity risks.

Given the unique risk profile of ETFs and the diversity of funds and the underlying assets, the JSEC Risk Team will apply discretion and conservatism in consideration of the ability of JSEC to appropriately margin, risk manage and clear derivatives on ETFs.

**Requirements for clearability:**

- a) ETF must be passive (index-based).
- b) Underlying index must fall into the following asset classes (or have a 1:1 linear price relationship with the underlying): Local equities (SA), International equities (US, UK, Europe, Global, Emerging Markets), Fixed Income, Commodities or Volatility indices.
- c) ETF and underlying assets must trade on major exchanges.
- d) ETF cannot be leveraged.
- e) Derivative must be cash-settled.
- f) Availability of time series data for the ETF and Benchmark Index and/or underlying assets covering a minimum 3-year lookback period as well as a stress period.

**Appendix 1 – JSE Clear Risk Committee and Board actions**

No.	Ref	Action Item	Frequency	Applicable Governance Forum
1.	3	The JSE Executive Committee is to ensure that changes in the central counterparty’s risk exposure are identified and reviewed and that any changes to the CCP’s infrastructure, policies, processes and procedures needed as a result of the product being introduced are in place before the product is made available for clearing.	Ad hoc	JSE Clear Exco