

JSE CLEAR INITIAL MARGIN METHODOLOGY

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Version Control

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Version History

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2.0	September 2017	Adjusted to reflect the change in methodology for the interest rate derivatives market, from JSPAN to Portfolio VaR	JSE Clear Risk team
3.0	February 2019	Reviewed; assumption included regarding 2-day liquidation period.	JSE Clear Risk team
4.0	November 2020	Reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress period for interest rates changed from 2008 (GFC) to 2015-2016 (Nene-gate) For commodities stress periods specified per product type Added the new comprehensive approach for an improved calibration of CSMRs Updated the frequency of calibration of certain IM parameters and included a summary of the various calibration frequencies As agreed at the Risk Committee meeting on 3 Nov 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mention of the value of the large exposure add-on threshold removed. This will ensure that any changes to this threshold value will not necessitate an update of the document (while still requiring formal Risk Committee approval) 	JSE Clear Risk team
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6.0	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved/expanded stressed period definition in Section 3.1. IMR Methodology Aligned documented stressed period for the Meal agricultural benchmark instrument to the period applied in production 	JSE Clear Risk team
7.0	October 2023	Reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated IM methodology for equity and currency derivatives to the new hybrid (time-weighted + stress component) IM methodology 	JSE Clear Risk team

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the summary of calibration frequencies with the decay factor/lambda frequency parameter for the new IM methodology 	
8.0	September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated commodities stress periods Added more detail to concentration margin calculation 	JSE Clear Risk team
9.0	June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Commodity Derivatives Market margin methodology to the time-weighted FHS model Revised market participation from 1/3 to 1/4 (or 25%) of ADVT Revised IMR methodology parameters table in section 3 Updated summary of calibration frequencies in section 9 Introduction of risk parameters file on the JSE Clear website 	JSE Clear Risk team
10.0	April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrument-specific stress periods for equity and currency derivatives Clearing member group add-on methodology 	JSE Clear Risk team

1. Introduction

Initial margin (IM) represents the primary prefunded line of defense for JSE Clear (JSEC) in managing the risks associated with clearing financial instruments. IM is called at an individual account level, and the IM posted against the unsettled exposures held in a particular account can only be used to satisfy the losses incurred in liquidating the positions held in the particular account, in the event of default. The aim of this document is to articulate the methodologies used by JSEC to calculate account-level IM requirements.

JSEC's underlying philosophy with regards to account-level IM requirements is to ensure that:

- IM requirements are reflective of a “defaulter pays” risk waterfall;
- As far as possible, IM requirements should avoid procyclicality by being stable during times of stress; and
- IM should mitigate the risk associated with large and concentrated positions.

2. Initial Margin Components

Account-level IM for equity, commodity and currency derivatives positions is made up of three distinct components:

- A **base** IM requirement, calculated under the JSPAN framework. The base IM requirement represents the account-level IM before taking large and illiquid positions into account.
- A **liquidation period** IM requirement which adds to the base requirement to mitigate the risks associated with positions that will take longer to liquidate than is assumed under the base requirement. Section 6 describes the methodology underlying the liquidation period IM requirement.
- A **large exposure** IM requirement which adds to the base and liquidation period requirements in order to address the risk presented by portfolio exposures which are large enough to put the JSEC risk waterfall at risk under extreme but plausible market conditions.

Account-level IM for interest rate derivatives positions is made up of three distinct components:

- A **base** IM requirement, calculated under the Portfolio VaR framework.
- A **concentration margin** requirement: JSEC's account-level IM methodology applies a more punitive IM requirement (in relative terms) for large positions than for small positions in order to acknowledge the higher liquidation costs typically associated with large positions. The calculation for interest rate derivatives is different to the calculation for all other asset classes. Section 7 describes the methodology underlying the concentration margin requirement.
- A **large exposure** IM add-on requirement which adds to the base and concentration IM requirements in order to address the risk presented by portfolio exposures which are large enough to put the JSEC risk waterfall at risk under extreme but plausible market conditions.

In addition to the base and add-on margin components outlined above, a **clearing member group add-on** IM requirement is applied to Clearing Members that disproportionately threaten the Default Fund based on an aggregate measure of stressed exposure at a Clearing Group level after considering all initial margin components under extreme but plausible market conditions.

The structure of this document is as follows:

- Section 3 describes the methodologies underlying the base IM requirement for equity, commodity and currency derivatives including JSPAN;
- Section 4 describes the CSMR calibration methodology;
- Section 5 describes the SSMR calibration methodology;
- Section 6 describes the methodology underlying the liquidation period IM requirement;
- Section 7 describes the methodologies underlying the base IM requirement including concentration margin; for interest rate derivatives;
- Section 8 describes the methodology underlying the large exposure IM requirement; and finally
- Section 9 describes the methodology underlying the clearing member group add-on IM requirement.

3. JSPAN Methodology - Equity, Commodity and Currency Derivatives

The JSPAN algorithm is used to determine account-level base IM requirements for equity, commodity, and currency derivatives cleared by JSEC. The account-level margin for interest rate derivatives is calculated using a Portfolio Value-at-Risk (VaR) methodology instead of JSPAN and is covered in Section 7. The formulaic breakdown of the JSPAN algorithm is described in the JSPAN Technical Specification [\[1\]](#). This section provides a high-level description of the parameters that feed into the algorithm and describes the calculation methodology for each parameter.

Each contract has four JSPAN parameters associated with it, detailed in subsections 3.1. to 3.4. below.

3.1. Initial Margin Requirement (IMR) - This parameter represents the total IM payable on a portfolio involving a single position in the particular contract, and no other positions.

Equity, Currency and Commodity derivatives IMR - For a portfolio consisting of a single position in a single contract, the base IM requirement is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Equity, Currency and Commodity derivatives contract IMR} = \text{MAX}[\text{FHS component weighting} * \text{time weighted filtered historical simulation VaR margin rate} + \text{stress component weighting} * \text{stress component margin rate, historical simulation VaR margin floor}] * \text{contract size} * \text{underlying MtM price}$$

IMR methodology parameters	Equity, Currency and Commodity Derivatives Markets
Base IM methodology	Time-weighted filtered historical simulation (FHS) VaR
Confidence interval	99.7%
Liquidation period	2 days
Lookback period	FHS Rolling period: 750 days Stress component: 250 days Margin floor: 2,500 days rolling (10 years incl. a stress period)
Model component weights	FHS component: up to 75% Stress component: at least 25%
FHS component lambda / decay factor	Reviewed and recalibrated (considering qualitative and quantitative assessments) annually, and/or ad hoc as required
Stress component	Average of n worst tail observations/returns

Margin methodology parameters (e.g. FHS and stress component weights and stress component and Average of n worst tail observations/returns) are subject to regular review. The applicable values will be published on JSE Clear's website in the *JSEC Risk Parameters file*¹.

Changes to the following parameters are approved by JSEC CRO and are communicated at the Group Model Committee and Risk Committee at the next sitting:

- FHS lambda / decay factor
- FHS component and stress component weights
- Average of n worst tail observations/returns. Appropriate number of tail returns assessed to ensure stability and avoid pro-cyclicality, considering the distribution of the tail observations/returns.

The assumptions underlying JSE Clear's current 2-day liquidation period are:

- The period that may elapse from the margin call that was last settled by the defaulter up to the declaration of a clearing member default is equal to approximately 1-day; and
- The estimated period needed to design and execute a strategy for the hedging and/or close-out of the defaulted portfolio is no more than 1-day from the time the default is declared.

Stress periods

Stress periods are determined through a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment to ensure that the initial margin stress component considers extreme-but-plausible high-volatility events at a market, product and/or instrument level.

The objective of the stress period selection is to ensure that the stress component of initial margin both factors:

- **Idiosyncratic risk**, referring to risk characteristics that are specific to an individual instrument, including contract-specific volatility, liquidity conditions, and market depth, which may not be adequately captured by broader market or sector-level stress events; and/or
- **Systemic or sector-wide risk**, capturing periods of broad market stress during which price movements are highly correlated across instruments within an asset class.

Qualitative considerations include regulatory requirements, historical event relevance and market structure, product and/or instrument-level factors.

¹ JSE Clear risk parameter file is available in the client portal downloadable files section on the JSE website: https://www.jse.co.za/downloadable-files?RequestNode=/Risk_Parameter_File

Quantitative metrics considered include historical volatility (e.g. periods with the highest realised volatility measure), expected shortfall / VaR measures or other risk metrics where their application results in a more severe stress component margin rate.

- **Equity and currency derivatives:** Stress periods are determined at an **instrument-level**, where sufficient price history and liquidity exist, to ensure that instrument-specific volatility dynamics and idiosyncratic risk characteristics are appropriately captured.
- **Commodity derivatives:** Stress periods are determined:
 - At an **instrument-level** for specific soft commodity underlyings where individual contracts exhibit distinct volatility or seasonal risk characteristics; and
 - Using a **benchmark-based stress period** for other soft commodities, metals and energy underlyings, where systemic or sector-wide stress events are more representative of risk.

Procyclicality and stability considerations

To mitigate procyclicality and promote margin stability, the initial margin framework maintains a minimum stress component weight and monitors stress period outcomes alongside backtesting results to assess coverage and stability.

Where multiple candidate stress periods are identified, selection is informed by:

- The severity of the resulting stress component margin rate;
- The consistency of margin coverage during historical stress events; and
- The stability of margin outcomes, including the avoidance of undue procyclicality.

Stress periods are not selected solely to maximise margin requirements, but to ensure robust risk coverage under extreme-but-plausible conditions while avoiding unnecessary volatility in margin levels.

Stressed periods are reviewed at least annually and ad hoc, where warranted by market developments, changes in market structure, or material shifts in volatility regimes. Material changes to stress periods that result in a meaningful impact on margin requirements are subject to approval by JSEC CRO.

Asset class	Benchmark	Stress period
Equities	Instrument-specific stress periods applied	
Agriculture	White Maize	10-Mar-2014 to 10-Mar-2015
	Yellow Maize	2-Nov-2016 to 2-Nov-2017
	Wheat	8-Aug-2008 to 7-Aug-2009
	Corn	15-Dec-2015 to 13-Dec-2016

	Soya	28-Feb-2020 to 25-Feb-2021
	Other Soft Commodities	24-Mar-2017 to 23-Mar-2018
Metals	Gold (USD)	1-Jun-2008 to 1-Jun-2009
Energy	Brent	1-Jun-2008 to 1-Jun-2009
	Diesel	1-Jun-2008 to 1-Jun-2009
FX	Instrument-specific stress periods applied	

3.2. Calendar Spread Margin Requirement (CSMR) - Each futures contract can belong to one and only one Class Spread Group (**CSG**); a group of futures contracts that share the same underlying instrument. JSPAN then recognizes the risk reducing impact associated with having long and short exposures in different contracts in the same CSG, by reducing the total amount of IM required against the net exposure. In particular, the total amount of IM on a calendar spread position involving two contracts (*A* and *B*) in the same CSG, is calculated as follows:

$$IM = Pos_A \times CSMR_A + Pos_B \times CSMR_B + |Pos_A \times IMR_A - Pos_B \times IMR_B|,$$

where IMR_A is the IM that would be called for an outright position in contract *A*, IMR_B is the IM that would be called for an outright position in contract *B* and Pos_A and Pos_B are the absolute values of the number of positions in contracts *A* and *B* respectively.

3.3. Series Spread Margin Requirement (SSMR) - Highly correlated CSGs can be grouped together in Series Spread Groups (**SSG**); however, each CSG can belong to one and only one SSG. JSPAN then recognizes the risk reducing impact associated with having long and short exposures in different CSGs (within the same SSG) by reducing the total amount of IM required against the net exposure. In particular, the total amount of IM on a series spread position involving two contracts (*A* and *B*) in the different CSGs within the same SSG, is calculated as follows:

$$IM = Pos_A \times SSMR_A + Pos_B \times SSMR_B + |Pos_A \times IMR_A - Pos_B \times IMR_B|$$

3.4. Volatility Scanning Range (VSR) - This parameter is used to determine the extent to which At-the-Money volatilities should be shocked when calculating the risk arrays for options on the particular future. A risk array is an array of contract-level Profit and Losses (PnLs) under various futures price/volatility permutations. The smallest (most negative) element of a risk-array for a particular option represents the total IM payable on a portfolio involving a single position in the particular option contract, and no other positions.

3.5. JSPAN Parameter Calibration Frequency - It should be noted that IMR, CSMR, and SSMR values are loaded into the clearing system in the settlement currency of the particular futures contract, and not as a percentage of the notional value of the contract. In order to minimize the operational risk faced by JSEC when updating values while keeping portfolio-level IM requirements as stable and transparent as possible, the IM parameters are updated as follows:

- IMR - Recalibrated on a scheduled fortnightly basis (instead of daily).
- CSMR and SSMR - Recalibrated monthly based on updated prices (based on % factor of the contract IMR) and annually as part of a full recalibration exercise including correlation analysis.

JSEC can, however, perform ad-hoc JSPAN parameter recalibrations should market circumstances warrant such a recalibration. A comprehensive summary of risk parameter calibration frequencies is provided in Section 10.

4. CSMR Calibration Methodology

4.1. Simplified Calibration Algorithm

There are three main factors that can affect the Mark-to-Market (MtM) value of a calendar spread position:

- The cost of carry associated with the long futures position;
- The cost of carry associated with the short futures position; and
- The value of the underlying instrument.

An algorithm for determining CSMR values should thus consider the extent to which changes in the above-mentioned factors can affect the MtM value of a spread position.

For agricultural derivatives, the set of factors that can affect the MtM value of spread positions are generally more intricate than described above. In particular, factors such as expected future weather patterns, and differences between new and old harvesting seasons can have a significant impact on the value of spread positions. Even though a conservative CSMR-value can be estimated without considering these factors, the algorithm which is described in the next section (4.2) will be used in most cases for all asset classes apart from agriculture derivatives. A specific methodology to be applied for agricultural derivatives is discussed alongside the calibration of series spread margin parameters.

The following algorithm provides a simplified way to calibrate the *CSMR* parameters associated with a particular CSG. It can be used instead of doing a full analysis of the historical contract pricing data.

1. Determine the number of contracts in the CSG, n ;

2. Determine the contract with the least amount of time to maturity, contract A ;
3. Set $i = 1$;
4. Determine the i^{th} contract to expire after A , contract B ;
5. Determine the current MtM value of a calendar spread position involving contracts A and B ;
6. Calculate the absolute change in the abovementioned MtM under the scenarios below. The cost of carry (Λ) is defined by asset class (equity, commodities, fixed income, and FX) and tenor (≤ 2 years or > 2 years).

Scenario	Underlying	Cost of Carry A	Cost of Carry B
1	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
2	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
3	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Unchanged
4	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Up by Λ_B
5	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Down by Λ_B
6	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Unchanged
7	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
8	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
9	Up by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Unchanged
10	Unchanged	Up by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
11	Unchanged	Up by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
12	Unchanged	Up by Λ_A	Unchanged
13	Unchanged	Unchanged	Up by Λ_B
14	Unchanged	Unchanged	Down by Λ_B
15	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchanged
16	Unchanged	Down by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
17	Unchanged	Down by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
18	Unchanged	Down by Λ_A	Unchanged
19	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
20	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
21	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Up by Λ_A	Unchanged
22	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Up by Λ_B
23	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Down by Λ_B
24	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Unchanged	Unchanged
25	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Up by Λ_B
26	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Down by Λ_B
27	Down by $\max(IMR_A, IMR_B)$	Down by Λ_A	Unchanged

7. Calculate the maximum of the absolute changes calculated in step 6, and let ψ denote this quantity;
8. If $i = 1$, set the CSMR for both A and B to $\psi/2$, else set the CSMR for B equal to $\psi - CSMR_A$;
9. Repeat steps 3 to 8 for $i = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$.

The cost of carry factor for a particular asset class is determined by considering the performance of benchmark spread positions over a specific look-back period and are defined in terms of continuously compounded yields. In particular, the same look-back period used to quantify IMR values for the particular asset class are used to quantify cost of carry factors. Cost of carry factors are reviewed annually as part of the CSMR calibration process.

4.2. Comprehensive Calibration Algorithm

The CSMR definition laid out in this section can be used to imply the calibrated CSMR values in a more direct way using historical contract prices. The approach has certain similarities to the way in which the SSMR calibration is performed in that it is based on the change in a hypothetical portfolio value instead of individual contract prices. The generic application of the CSMR is expressed as follow:

$$IM = Pos_A \times CSMR_A + Pos_B \times CSMR_B + |Pos_A \times IMR_A - Pos_B \times IMR_B|$$

The CSMRs are intended to capture the discrepancy in price movements between different expiries on contracts with the same CSG when the IMR components of the contracts' margins are offset against each other. The definition implies that where there are two contracts in a CSG with the same IMR, the total CSMR between the two contracts must be enough to cover the difference in price movement between the two contracts from one day to the next when the IMR margins are being offset. For the purposes of a CSMR calibration, we therefore observe the change in the value of a portfolio that consists of a long position in the one expiry and a short position in the other different expiry. The CSMR will then be based on the change in the value of such a portfolio.

Based on this logic, the following generic algorithm is used to calibrate CSMR parameters:

1. Source the historical futures contract price data of all the CSGs for which CSMRs are required.
2. Determine the *near* contract expiry for each CSG for each historical date.
3. Determine the *next* contract expiry for each CSG for each historical date.
4. For each CSG for each historical day, create a portfolio that consists of a long position in the *near* contract, Pos_{near} , and a short position in the *next* expiry in the CSG, Pos_{next} , where:

$$Pos_{next} = \frac{IMR_{near}}{IMR_{next}}$$

5. Determine the value of the portfolio for each historical date per CSG.
6. Determine the 2-day change in the portfolio value per day per CSG.
7. By considering all of the calculated portfolio value changes of a CSG, determine corresponding 99.7% change, $P\&L_{near;next}$
8. The value from #7 represents the total margin amount that should be covered by the combined CSMR-values of the long and short contracts. As such, set the CSMR-values as follow per CSG:

$$CSMR_{near} = CSMR_{next} = \frac{P\&L_{near;next}}{2}$$

9. In order to determine the CSMR-values for the other contract expiries in the CSGs, repeat steps 3 to 7 with the following changes:
- Replace the *next* expiry for each CSG with each of the following contracts that expire after it, contract *next+i*.
 - In step 7, since $CSMR_{near}$ is already known, the CSMR for the each of the following contracts that expire after it becomes:

$$CSMR_{next+i} = P\&L_{near,next+i} - CSMR_{near}$$

This algorithm represents the generic approach for calibration CSMRs. Certain simplifications might be applied to an actual calibration if they can be justified from a materiality point of view.

5. SSMR Calibration Methodology

Under JSPAN, the maximum offset for a particular series spread is obtained when:

$$Pos_B = Pos_{A,B}^{Optimal} = \frac{IMR_A}{IMR_B}$$

An incremental increase in Pos_B beyond $Pos_{A,B}^{Optimal}$ is margined at an outright basis. When calculating SSMRs, careful consideration should be given to the maximum obtainable offset, in order to ensure that JSPAN never understates the risk associated with a particular series spread position.

The following algorithm is used to calibrate SSMR parameters:

- For each SSG construct a matrix where element (i, j) represents the portfolio-level Value-at-Risk (calculated by extending the contract-level IMR framework to a portfolio-level framework) associated with a long position in contract i and $Pos_{i,j}^{Optimal}$ short positions in contract j , where $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and n is the number of CSGs in the SSG.
- Guess a value for all SSMRs in the SSG (use 30% of the IMR as an initial guess).
- Construct a matrix where element (i, j) represents the portfolio-level J-SPAN requirement associated with a long position in contract i , and $Pos_{i,j}^{Optimal}$ short positions in contracts j .
- Determine the difference (matrix Δ) between the matrices calculated in steps (3) and (1).
- Determine the smallest possible values for all applicable SSMRs, such that none of the elements of Δ are less than zero.

The same methodology as that described above is used to calibrate the CSMR parameters for the agricultural derivatives market. In particular, each CSG in this market is interpreted as an SSG (for the purpose of calibrating CSMRs only), comprised of the following:

- A generic spot month contract;
- A generic spot vs. near hedge month contract; and
- A generic near hedge vs. next hedge contract.

In general, a higher CSMR value will be attributed to the spot month contract to reflect the higher level of risk typically associated with spot vs. non-spot calendar spreads.

6. Liquidation Period Margin Add-on

A key component of an IM methodology is its ability to incorporate the costs associated with liquidating a defaulting portfolio. To this end, JSEC's account-level IM methodology applies a more punitive IM requirement (in relative terms) for large positions than for small positions in order to acknowledge the higher liquidation costs typically associated with large positions. This higher IM requirement is achieved by adding the liquidation period margin add-on to the base account-level IM requirement for equity, commodity and currency derivatives exposures. The calculation of margin for the higher liquidation costs in interest rate derivatives is different to the calculation for all other contracts and is covered in section 7.2. Concentration Margin Methodology.

6.1. LiPAO Calculation Methodology

Assume that the IMR for a particular future is calculated using an $\alpha\%$ confidence level and an n -day liquidation period and let $VAR_{\alpha,n}$ denote the effective VaR percentage associated with a particular IMR.

Let Γ denote the 90-day adjusted average daily value traded (ADVT)² in the underlying to the abovementioned futures contract. The maximum daily liquidation value in the said underlying (M) is a function of the ADVT and market participation assumption. Market participation is assumed to be 25% (1/4 of ADVT) and represents the proportion of daily traded value that an institution is willing to trade without causing excessive market impact.

$$M = \frac{\Gamma}{4}$$

² Adjusted average daily value traded is the average of the last 90 days value traded excluding the top 10% of the largest values (by magnitude) from the dataset as outliers. This avoids the average value being skewed by infrequent large trades which cannot be depended upon when liquidating a position.

Let Π denote the size (in terms of delta-adjusted net notional) of an arbitrary position in the abovementioned underlying. The position-level liquidation period represents the number of days it will take to liquidate the particular position. The liquidation period v , is calculated as:

$$v = \min(x \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}; \Pi - xM \leq 0).$$

The liquidation period margin relating to Π is then calculated as follows:

$$IM_{conc} = \begin{cases} M \times VaR_{\alpha;1}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3} + \dots + \sqrt{v}) + (\Pi - [v - 1]M)VaR_{\alpha;1} \times \sqrt{v + 1} - \Pi VaR_{\alpha;n}, & v > n - 1 \\ 0, & v \leq n - 1 \end{cases}$$

The total account-level liquidation period margin requirement is then derived by aggregating the position-level liquidation period margin across all underlying instruments.

6.2. Calibration Frequency

In order to minimize the operational risk faced by JSEC, and in an effort to keep portfolio-level IM requirements as stable and transparent as possible, all liquidation period margin parameters are only updated on a scheduled monthly basis instead of daily. JSEC can, however, perform ad-hoc parameter recalculations should market circumstances warrant such a recalculation. A comprehensive summary of risk parameter calibration frequencies is provided in Section 10.

7. Portfolio VaR Methodology – IRD

The simplistic nature of the JSPAN framework often implies a lack of IM offset between highly correlated contracts. This is particularly problematic in the interest rate derivatives, where portfolios often comprise of long and short exposures across the entire curve. To this end, JSE Clear makes use of an alternate framework for the purpose of calculating account-level base IM requirements for accounts in this market.

7.1. Calculation Overview

The formulaic breakdown of the VaR methodology is described in the Portfolio VaR Methodology [\[2\]](#). This section provides a high-level description of the calculation methodology. An overview of the account-level calculation is as follows:

- 7.1.1. Calculate the Value-at-Risk (VaR)** for a particular account using the following parameters below. There is no cross-market initial margin offset between interest rate derivatives.

IMR methodology details	Interest rate derivatives
Base IM Methodology	Historical Simulation Portfolio VaR
Confidence interval	99.7%
Liquidation period	2 days
Lookback period	Rolling period: 750 days Stress period: 250 days (combined: 1,000 days)
Stress period	2-Nov-2015 to 31-Oct-2016

- Interest rate/bond options are margined as delta-equivalent futures and as a result the gamma and vega effects are not captured in the portfolio VaR base IM calculation. The gamma and vega effects of the account-level margin are factored through an add-on based on Taylor series expansion / Taylor VaR.

- 7.1.2. Calculate concentration margin:** Calculate the cost, as it relates to the number of basis points away from mid-market rates, that would be incurred when liquidating all positions within the particular account. The concentration margin for IRD is explained in more detail in Section 7.2.

- 7.1.3. Account-level IM:** The account level IM is estimated as the smallest (most negative) of the sum of the VaR and concentration margin component calculated in steps 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 above.

7.1.4. Stress period – interest rate derivatives: The stress period applied is determined by considering the period with the highest realised 90-day volatility or other period (determined through qualitative and/or quantitative assessment) where their application results in a more severe stress period for the benchmark instrument in the asset class, and in cases for specific products.

Stressed periods are reviewed at least annually and ad hoc, where warranted by market developments, changes in market structure, or material shifts in volatility regimes. Material changes to stress periods that result in a meaningful impact on margin requirements are subject to approval by JSEC CRO.

Asset class	Benchmark	Stress period
Fixed Income	GOVI Index	2-Nov-2015 to 31-Oct-2016

7.2. Concentration Margin Methodology

The following algorithm is applied to each account containing interest rate derivative positions:

1. After completion of the portfolio VaR IM calculation, determine the change in the MtM value of each account associated with:
 - Changing the MtM value of the first input to the yield curve up by one basis point, and reconstructing the entire yield curve whilst leaving all other inputs unchanged.
 - Repeating the above for each input to the curve recursively.
2. The above step creates a so-called PV01 ladder for each account. The i^{th} “step” of the PV01 ladder for a particular account represents the change in the MtM of the account associated with a one basis point change in the value of the i^{th} input to the curve.
3. Each “step” of each PV01 ladder is then multiplied by the corresponding element in the so-called hedge cost matrix, in order to determine the liquidation period margin due to each input to the curve. Element (i, j) of the hedge cost matrix represents the anticipated basis point cost associated with executing a trade with a PV01 of j , in the i^{th} curve input. The elements of the hedge cost matrix are determined through market consultation, and updated annually, or more regularly if market conditions warrant so.
4. Finally, the account-level liquidation period margin is determined by adding the account-level liquidation margin per curve input.

7.3. Portfolio VaR Parameter Calibration Frequency

The contract level parameters (vectors) which are used to calibrate the VaR estimates, are only updated on a scheduled fortnightly basis instead of daily; in an effort to keep portfolio-level IM requirements as stable and

transparent as possible. JSEC can, however, perform ad-hoc parameter recalculations should market circumstances warrant such a recalculation. A comprehensive summary of risk parameter calibration frequencies is provided in Section 10.

8. Large Exposure Margin Add-on

Under JSE Clear's stress testing framework, the stressed exposure at default (sEAD) for a particular client under a particular stress scenario is calculated by:

1. Calculating the Mark-to-Market (MtM) of each contract cleared by JSE Clear on day T+0;
2. Using the contract-level MtM values to calculate the MtM value of the particular client account on day T+0;
3. Calculating the stressed Mark-to-Market (sMtM) value of each contract under the particular scenario, for valuation date T+n, where n denotes the liquidation period specified in Table 1 (generic asset-class price changes are applied, and options are revalued under the stressed futures price and volatility scenario);
4. Using the sMtM values calculated in step 3 to calculate the associated stressed profit and loss (sPnL) for each contract under each scenario (associated with having a long position in each contract);
5. Using the above contract-level sPnL values to calculate the stressed variation margin (sVM) associated with the change in the MtM value of the client portfolio (from MtM T+0 to sMtM T+ n); and finally
6. Calculating the stressed exposure at default (sEAD) as the smaller of zero and difference between the total amount of IM held (base IM and liquidation period IM) against the exposure and sVM per account (client account or trading member's proprietary account).

The large exposure margin is then calculated as the greater of zero and the absolute value of the smallest (largest negative) sEAD across all of JSE Clear's historic stress testing scenarios for that account, less the predefined large exposure threshold. However, if the abovementioned sum is greater than zero, no large exposure margin will be applied.

8.1. Calibration Frequency

In order to minimize the operational risk faced by JSEC, and in an effort to keep portfolio-level IM requirements as stable and transparent as possible, contract-level sPnL vectors are only updated on a scheduled fortnightly basis instead of daily. JSEC can, however, perform ad-hoc PnL vector recalculations should market circumstances warrant such a recalculation. The sPnL vectors for new contracts (loaded after the most recent recalibration) are set to zero until the next scheduled recalibration. A comprehensive summary of risk parameter calibration frequencies is provided in Section 10.

9. Clearing Member Group Add-on

The Clearing Member Group Add-on (CMGAO) is designed to protect JSE Clear's Default Fund against extreme but plausible losses arising from a single Clearing Member group whose aggregate stressed exposure could disproportionately threaten prefunded mutualised resources. The CMGAO operates as a structural Default Fund protection mechanism and is applied in addition to account-level initial margin, liquidation period/concentration margin and large exposure add-ons. The CMGAO is levied on Clearing Members by JSE Clear.

The CMGAO ensures that Default Fund coverage objectives are preserved without increasing margin requirements for Clearing Members whose exposures do not pose a material systemic risk.

For the purposes of the CMGAO, a Clearing Member Group refers to a Clearing Member together with all Trading Members and client structures that clear through that Clearing Member and for which the Clearing Member bears default obligations under the JSE Clear Rules.

At a high level, the CMGAO is determined through the following steps:

1. Calculate stressed exposure at default (sEAD) at account-level under JSE Clear's stress testing framework.
2. Aggregate sEAD up to Trading Member and Clearing Member structures to determine group-level stressed exposure.
3. Apply a Clearing Member Group Add-on where the largest group-level stressed exposure exceeds a defined proportion of the total Default Fund size.

9.1. Clearing Member Stressed Exposure at Default (sEAD)

Section 8 details the calculation of stressed exposure at default (sEAD) for a particular client under JSE Clear's stress testing framework. The aggregation of sEAD to Clearing Member group level under a particular stress scenario is performed as follows:

1. Losses of all client accounts whose sEAD values are negative (i.e. where negative stressed variation margin exceeds initial margin on an absolute basis) are aggregated with the sEAD of the corresponding Trading Member (TM) house account.
2. This aggregation reflects the obligation of a Trading Member to act as a line of defense against losses arising from client defaults once client initial margin is exhausted. The resulting aggregated exposure is referred to as stressed exposure at Trading Member level (sEAD_TM).

3. The sEAD_TM values of all Trading Members with a negative sEAD clearing through a Clearing Member, excluding the Clearing Member house Trading Member account(s), are aggregated with the sEAD (positive or negative) of the Clearing Member house Trading Member account(s).
4. This aggregation reflects the obligation of a Clearing Member to act as a line of defense against losses arising from Trading Member defaults once Trading Member initial margin is exhausted. The resulting aggregated exposure is referred to as stressed exposure at Clearing Member level (sEAD_CM).

The above aggregation process is performed independently for each stress scenario within JSE Clear’s stress testing framework.

For a given Clearing Member, the largest absolute sEAD_CM loss observed across all stress scenarios is compared to a defined proportion of the total Default Fund size.

9.2. CMGAO Thresholds and Calculation

To mitigate the risk that prefunded resources are insufficient under Cover 2 stress scenarios, predefined risk thresholds are established, monitored, and trigger risk-mitigating actions when breached - CMGAO is applied to the Clearing Member entity whose aggregated stressed exposure (sEAD_CM) threatens the Default Fund beyond the specified threshold.

Threshold type	Threshold	Action
Early warning threshold	80% of Default Fund for two Clearing Members combined <i>and</i> 40% of Default Fund for a single Clearing Member	The Clearing Member is notified that its stressed exposure at default (sEAD) is approaching the CMGAO trigger threshold
CMGAO trigger threshold	90% of Default Fund for two Clearing Members combined <i>and</i> 45% of Default Fund for a single Clearing Member	A Clearing Member Group Add-on (CMGAO) is applied to cover the excess stressed exposure of the affected Clearing Member(s)

If CMGAO trigger thresholds are breached, the CMGAO margin will be calculated as follows:

$$CMGAO_{CM_A} = \max[\max(|sEAD_CM_{A, \text{scenario } 1}|, \dots, |sEAD_CM_{A, \text{scenario } n}|) - 45\% \text{ of Default Fund}, 0]$$

Where sEAD_CM < 0 (i.e. loss scenarios)

9.3. Procyclicality and Stability Considerations

The CMGAO is based on a defined set of historical stress scenarios and is therefore not directly driven by short-term market volatility. It is intended as a structural Default Fund protection measure rather than a reactive margin tool. JSE Clear monitors CMGAO outcomes to assess stability, materiality, and consistency with Default Fund sizing objectives, and may apply operational judgment where appropriate to avoid unnecessary volatility in CMGAO requirements that is not reflective of a material change in systemic risk.

9.4. Governance and Review

The CMGAO framework, including exposure aggregation, stress scenarios, and thresholds, is reviewed at least annually as part of the broader stress testing framework and Default Fund review process. Any material changes to the CMGAO methodology, thresholds, or application mechanics are subject to approval by the JSE Clear Risk Committee.

10. Summary of Calibration Frequencies

Parameter	Frequency of update/calibration		
	EDM and FXM	CDM (Commodities)	IRD
IMR and SMR	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	N/A
CSMR			
Correlations	Annual	Annual except WMAZ and YMAZ which is seasonal	N/A
Price	Monthly	Monthly	N/A
SSMR			
Correlations	Annual	Annual	N/A
Price	Monthly	Monthly	N/A
VSR	Semi-annual	Semi-annual	Semi-annual (options only)
Liquidation Period Add-On	Add-on calculated daily (Parameters updated as below)		
1-Day VaR	Monthly	Monthly	N/A
ADVT	Monthly	Monthly	N/A
Large Exposure Add-on Stressed prices / SPnL vectors	Daily	Weekly	Weekly
IRD IMR Var PnL vectors	N/A	N/A	Fortnightly
Hedge Cost Matrix	N/A	N/A	Annually (or ad hoc as required)
Time-weighted FHS decay factor or lambda	Annually (or ad hoc as required)	Annually (or ad hoc as required)	N/A

11. Policy Governance

This methodology is owned by the JSE Clear Chief Risk Officer and will be reviewed annually or when there are any material changes to the JSEC's risk profile, methodologies or processes.

The JSE Clear Risk Committee will recommend the initial approval of this policy by the JSE Clear Board or when there are material changes. The regular annual review of this policy will be approved by the JSE Clear Risk Committee.

12. References

- [1] [JSPAN Technical Specification](#), JSE Clear, June 2016.
- [2] [Portfolio VaR Methodology](#), JSE Clear, May 2019.