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Methodology and Specifications Guide

Platts Asian Crude Oil Index (ACX)

LATEST UPDATE: OCTOBER 2008

PLATTS ASIAN CRUDE OIL INDEX (ACX)

The Platts Asian Crude Oil Index (ACX) represents the pricing exposure of a typical Asian refiner. The ACX is an independently calculated index, used for settlement purposes of futures and options contracts.

The ACX uses data generated by Platts and meeting Platts' strict standards for transparency, accuracy, precision and verifiability. The ACX is published on real-time news service Platts Global Alert (PGA), in Platts Crude Oil Marketwire and other related Platts publications.

- **Index composition of represented crude oil benchmarks as of October 2, 2008:** Middle East sour crude represented by Dubai (17%), Oman (17%), Upper Zakum (17%) and Murban (6%); Asia-Pacific sweet crude represented by Tapis (10%), Minas (8%) and Duri (2%); West African sweet crude represented by Bonny Light (5%), Forcados (4%) and Cabinda (3%); as well as Asian Dated Brent (11%).
- **Underlying assessment Methodology:** All index elements are based on Platts daily crude oil spot price assessments, which are derived through open and transparent assessment methodologies - see details at <http://platts.com/Oil/Resources/Methodology%20&%20Specifications/crudeoilspecs.pdf?S=n>. Platts only uses data in its assessments and calculations that is considered verifiable. Reported transactions deemed to have taken place at off-market levels, and bids/offers that are deemed off-market or non-executable are not used for assessment.
- **Roll-over timings:** Asia Pacific and Middle East crudes trade on a monthly cycle basis which rollover on the first trading day of each calendar month. West African crudes and Dated Brent roll forward on a daily basis. The ACX index absorbs these market practices by having a representative mix of crude oil trading on a monthly and dated basis.
- **Time-zone normalization:** Regional market assessment time (0830 GMT, equivalent to 4:30 PM local Singapore time). West African crude oil grades assessed at European market close at 1630 hours London time on the previous trading day are adjusted to Asian close timing using Platts Asian Dated Brent (ADB) assessment, published from October 2, 2008.
- **Accuracy of publication:** Rounded to three decimal places.
- **Index availability:** The ACX will be available on every Platts Asian publishing day (see <http://www.platts.com/holiday schedule.jsp>). On scheduled European holidays when Platts does not publish West African assessments, the ACX index will normalize West African assessments from the previous London publishing day using Asian Dated Brent equivalent values on the day of index publication in Asia.
- **Index accessibility:** The ACX will typically be published by 1100 GMT and will be available to Platts' customers via its normal publication vehicles including Platts Global Alert (PGA) and Platts Crude Oil Marketwire.
- **Annual index composition adjustment:** The overall index composition will be reviewed at least once every calendar year. In the event of any adjustment, Platts will re-weight the index components to ensure that an addition or deletion is price-neutral and only reflective of a daily change in the overall price. Platts will give subscribers due notice of any adjustment on Platts Global Alert (PGA) and in Platts Crude Oil Marketwire.
- **Annual review of crude oil benchmarks for inclusion/exclusion:** Each crude oil benchmark will be considered for retention or exclusion from the index, on at least an annual basis. Reasons for exclusion of a particular crude grade include a decline in production below a given threshold, or the absence of verifiable spot cargo data. Other crude grades may be considered for inclusion, based on new production and/or changes in Asian crude slate consumption. Platts will give subscribers due notice of such changes on Platts Global Alert (PGA) page 347 and in Platts Crude Oil Marketwire.
- **Data compliance:** Platts utilizes a corporate compliance group to audit its market analysis and assessment processes. Compliance audits review in regular intervals Platts assessments so that they comply with assessment protocols and published methodologies.
- **Business continuity:** Platts' business continuity provisions allow compilation of the ACX index from any global location, irrespective of regional operational disruptions.

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