
S&P Global Ratings

Policy: Rating Committee
Date: 09 July 2018

Policy Statement

Credit Ratings issued by S&P Global Ratings are determined by Rating Committees composed of Analysts and not by individual Analysts.

However, under certain circumstances, S&P Global Ratings issues Credit Ratings that are derived either in whole or in part from other Credit Ratings. In this regard, and under certain circumstances, an Employee may apply an existing Issue or Issuer Credit Rating on an entity (previously determined by a Rating Committee) to another Issuer and/or Issue (i.e., a Linked Rating Action).

The composition of a Rating Committee and the processes it follows depends on the nature and complexity of the Credit Rating Action. Rating Committees make Rating Decisions based on analyses of relevant information known to it in accordance with S&P Global Ratings' established Criteria.

A Rating Committee under certain circumstances may assign a preliminary Credit Rating and simultaneously authorize, conditionally, the final Credit Rating. If events occur which would require the final Credit Rating to be different than the preliminary Credit Rating, or that would require a material change in the Credit Rating Rationale, a new Rating Committee will be convened.

Each Rating Committee must have a designated Rating Committee Chairperson ("Chair"). The role of the Chair includes ensuring that the Rating Committee:

- Is properly constituted,
- Appropriately applies S&P Global Ratings' Criteria and,
- Reviews all relevant information and materials presented at the Rating Committee.

An Analyst may not serve as the Chair for a Rating Committee for a Rated Entity for which he or she serves as the Primary Analyst.

Only Voting Analysts may vote in a Rating Committee. To further enhance the independence of the rating process, Criteria Subject Matter Experts (CSMEs) are not permitted to be Voting Analysts and thus may not vote in, or chair, a Rating Committee. Employees who are not Voting Analysts, may, with the approval of the respective Chair, share their opinion on a subject where they have specialized knowledge relevant to the Credit Rating Action under review by the Rating Committee but may not vote in that Rating Committee.

Under no circumstances may an Employee attend or vote in a Rating Committee if he or she has an actual or potential conflict of interest.