Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited (RBSL) is an authorized Benchmark Administrator under the EU Benchmark Regulation. RBSL administers a number of benchmarks used globally. We have a long history of creating robust benchmarks with integrity, transparency and trust.

What is EU BMR?

The FCA describes EU BMR as:

*New European legislation [which] will regulate the provision of, contribution to and use of a wide set of benchmarks.*

The aim of the legislation is to ensure the reliability of benchmarks and minimize conflicts of interest in benchmark-setting processes. EU BMR builds on the IOSCO principles for financial benchmarks and applies to any benchmark used within the EU.

The legislation affects 3 broad groups:

- **Benchmark Administrators** – a company that provides benchmarks
- **Supervised Contributors** – a company provides data specifically for the calculation of a benchmark
- **Supervised entities** – a market participant using a benchmark for one of the uses defined below. Supervised entities must not use benchmarks in the EU unless the benchmark is provided by an authorized/registered EU administrator or has been endorsed/recognized or an equivalence decision has been adopted.

More information is available on [FCA website](#).

What does EU BMR affect?

EU BMR will affect all published indices ‘used’ in the EU in financial instruments and contracts or by fund managers.

The EU Benchmark Regulation makes a distinction between an Index and benchmark. An Index is any figure that is published or made available to the public and which is regularly determined by the application of a formula or other method of calculation on the basis of the value of one or more underlying assets or prices. A Benchmark is a specific subset of Indices, and in addition to fulfill the requirements to be an index, must fulfill certain requirements to be caught by the Regulation. An Index is considered a Benchmark if and only if it is used to:

- Determine the amount payable under a financial instrument or financial contract,
- Determine the value of a financial instrument
- Measure the performance of an investment fund for the purpose of:
  - tracking the return
  - defining the asset allocation or a portfolio, or
  - computing the performance fees

For more definition and guidance on the definition of usage under the EU BMR, please refer to Article 3(7) of the EU BMR as well as [ESMA’s Q&As](#).

Does EU BMR affect more than just benchmarks?

EU BMR affects all data points that fulfill the definition of an Index and that are used for one of the cases defined as a benchmark.

Those using a reference rate as a Benchmark in the EU, must ensure that it is administered by an authorized Benchmark Administrator by 1 January 2020.

Entities providing an Index that will be considered a Benchmark, must ensure the benchmarks can be used in the EU. If an entity that owns or calculates a benchmark is not authorized, we are happy to discuss options to ensure that the benchmark is EU BMR compliant.
What does EU BMR mean for you?

As a benchmark user, the regulation may mean you need to look for alternative indices and benchmarks to continue your investments, trading or investment processes.

Our guidance is to conduct an inventory of all the benchmarks or data points you use as a benchmark for transactional purposes within the EU. Then look to the ESMA register for confirmation on whether the provider of the data is approved as an authorized Benchmark Administrator.

Does the legislation only affect Europe?

No, the definition of benchmarks and their usage is not region specific thus creating two categories based on where the administrator is located namely EU benchmarks and third-country benchmarks.

Therefore, if a third-country benchmark is used within the European Union it also needs to adhere to the regulation.

In addition, and as opposed to the EU benchmarks, third-country benchmarks used in the EU need to be made BMR compliant by 1 January 2022.

How can Refinitiv help?

Central banks, national regulators and local authorities around the world look to Refinitiv as the pre-eminent provider of benchmarks services. Our RBSL (Refinitiv Benchmark Services Limited) entity is approved as an authorized Benchmark Administrator under the EU Benchmark Regulation.

By becoming an EU BMR authorized administrator in July 2018, we were one of the first index and benchmark service providers able to provide EU BMR compliant benchmarks and EU BMR compliant solutions.

If you need to find an alternative to your existing indices, benchmarks or data points to continue to carry out your investments in the EU we are happy to provide information on our solutions.

What is RBSL?

Refinitiv Benchmark Services (UK) Limited has been designated as the Administrator of regulated benchmarks for Refinitiv. RBSL is an authorized administrator under the EU Benchmark Regulation and currently administers the following benchmarks:

- WM/Reuters London 4pm Closing Spot Rates, WM/Reuters Spot, Forward and NDF benchmark rates
- Canadian Dollar Offered Rate (“CDOR”)
- Saudi Arabian Interbank Offered Rate (“SAIBOR”)
- Thomson Reuters/CoreCommodity CRB® Index
- Thomson Reuters Convertible Indices

RBSL only seems to administer relatively few benchmarks; does that mean that none of the other Refinitiv indices and benchmarks can be used in the EU?

Some third country benchmarks currently administered by Refinitiv are being migrated to RBSL by 31 December 2021.

Please refer to the following page for more information on RBSL’s migration plan.

What is the Transition Provision?

The transition provision allows for EU firms that provided EU benchmarks before 30 June 2016 to continue to provide benchmarks until 31 December 2019 without needing to be authorized.

The transition provision also allows third country benchmark administrators to continue to provide benchmarks until 31 December 2021 without needing to be BMR compliant.
What about BMR compliance for other 3rd party benchmarks that Refinitiv distributes?

Refinitiv does offer an EU BMR compliance inventory via the DataScope platform which labels compliance for a broad range of benchmarks. More details on this offering can be found here.

What do we mean by ‘measure the performance of an investment fund’ in the BMR disclaimer?

As per the BMR indicates, the measurement of the performance of an investment fund should be understood as a measurement for the purpose of tracking the return of an index, defining the asset allocation of a portfolio or computing performance fees.

What is RBSL’s commitment post Brexit?

RBSL intends to make its FCA regulated benchmarks available to supervised users in the EU following the end of the Brexit transitional period.

There are several options available under the BMR which will allow RBSL to do so:

(i) inclusion of RBSL and its benchmarks on the ESMA register based on an equivalence determination;
(ii) recognition of RBSL as a third country benchmark administrator; or
(iii) endorsement of the benchmarks by an EU administrator (which could be a new Refinitiv EU-situs administrator).

Refinitiv is yet to decide which of the above options it will implement yet will maintain a clear commitment to its users of its benchmarks that it shall continue to provide benchmarks within the EU post Brexit.

Note that the transitional period under the BMR ends 31 December 2021; Refinitiv may not adopt an alternative approach under the BMR until such date.

More Questions?

For any generic BMR related questions, please email: EUBMR@refinitiv.com.

For any specific queries regarding the EU BMR disclaimer, please email: EUBMRdisclaimerqueries@refinitiv.com