

Article Title: General Criteria: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings Data:

(EDITOR'S NOTE: —This article has been superseded by "National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings Methodology," published June 8, 2023, except in jurisdictions that require local registration.)

OVERVIEW AND SCOPE 1. These criteria describe S&P; Global Ratings' methodology for determining national and regional scale mappings and credit ratings (together referred to as national scale credit ratings), which express its opinion of an issuer's or debt instrument's creditworthiness relative to other issuers and issues in a given country. 2. This paragraph has been deleted. 3. The criteria apply to all new and existing in-scope national and regional scale credit ratings. The criteria exclude out-of-scope scales, for example those that have their own separate symbols and/or methodologies or their own definitions, such as Canadian national scale and Nordic regional scale ratings. These criteria also apply to other rating types such as national scale insurer financial strength ratings and national scale fund credit quality ratings. These criteria do not supersede our country-specific criteria that use national scale ratings. 4. For guidance on how we apply these criteria and current mapping specifications for in-scope national and regional scale credit ratings, see "Sector And Industry Variables: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings," published April 28, 2022. Key Publication Information Publication date: June 25, 2018 Effective date: Immediately upon publication of final criteria, except for those markets that require prior notification to and/or registration by the local regulator, where the criteria will become effective when so notified by S&P; Global Ratings and/or registered by the regulator. These criteria address the fundamentals set out in "Principles Of Credit Ratings," published on Feb. 16, 2011. METHODOLOGY 5. Our national scale methodology has three key components: national scale principles and definitions, mapping framework, and usage of mapping specifications. National Scale Credit Rating Principles, Definitions, And Symbols 6. An S&P; Global Ratings national scale credit rating is an opinion of an obligor's creditworthiness (issuer credit rating [ICR]) or overall capacity to meet specific financial obligations (issue credit rating) relative to other issuers and issues in a given country. We may assign national scale ratings to entities residing in the country or to non-domestic entities issuing in a given country. 7. National scale credit ratings provide a wider range of relative credit quality indicators in jurisdictions where sovereign ratings limit the range of global scale credit ratings assigned to local market issuers or issues. While global scale credit ratings are comparable across all regions, national scale credit ratings are not—they provide a rank ordering of credit risk within that country only. In addition, national scale ratings may change more often, including mult notch rating actions, rendering them more volatile than global scale ratings. For example, a one-notch change in the underlying global scale rating may result in a multiple-notch change on the national scale. 8. S&P; Global Ratings may also assign regional scale credit ratings. Regional scale credit ratings have the same attributes as national scale credit ratings in that neither is comparable to other regional or national scales, and they represent a relative rank order of creditworthiness within a specific region. 9. National scale credit ratings use S&P; Global Ratings' global credit rating symbols, including pluses and minuses, with the addition of a lower-case prefix to denote the country, or region, as applicable. For example, the Brazil national scale uses the prefix 'br', as in 'brAAA' or 'brBBB'. National scale credit ratings can be assigned for both long- and short-term issues and ICRs. We use CreditWatch in the same manner as we do for global scale ratings. Some of the national scales incorporate rating outlooks. See table 1 for a hypothetical mapping example and our ratings definitions listed in the Related Research section for a list of country prefixes, scale names, and the associated country or countries for regional scales. 10. National scale credit rating definitions are similar to global scale credit rating definitions but are generally expressed relative to other national scale issuers or obligations, except for two rating levels that are not defined in relative terms: 'SD' (selective default) and 'D' (default). For example, the general 'xxAAA' national scale long-term issue rating definition is: "An obligation rated 'xxAAA' has the highest credit rating assigned on S&P; Global Ratings' national scale. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation, relative to other national obligors, is extremely strong." Most national scales use an identical set of credit rating definitions. Our rating definitions for both regional and national scales are the same (see the Related Research section for our national scale rating definitions.) Table 1 Hypothetical Global To National Scale Long-Term Rating Mapping GLOBAL SCALE LONG-TERM LOCAL CURRENCY RATING NATIONAL SCALE LONG-TERM RATING BBB and higher xxAAA BBB- xxAA+ BB+ xxAA, xxAA- BB xxA+, xxA BB- xxA-,

xxBBB+ B+ xxBBB, xxBBB- B xxBB+, xxBB B- xxBB-, xxB+ CCC+ xxB, xxB- CCC xxCCC+, xxCCC CCC- xxCCC- CC xxCC C xxC SD SD D D SD--Selective default. D--Default. National Scale Mapping Framework, Design, And Calibration 11. The guiding principle for national scale calibration is to provide greater differentiation among issuer and issue credit quality than is possible with the global rating scale. This is because in some countries, sovereign and country risk may constrain credit quality on the global scale to a limited number of global scale ratings, whereas the national scale allows us to communicate our views using the entire ratings range. For example, issuers rated 'B+' on the global scale, using the hypothetical mapping in table 1 could be rated 'xxBBB' or 'xxBBB-' on a particular national scale, depending on their rank ordering within that jurisdiction. 12. The highest rating on a given national scale ('xxAAA') is usually aligned with a global scale rating level that is at or towards the top of the distribution of global scale ratings assigned to issuers in that country. After we have established the mapping correspondence between the highest national scale credit rating and the global rating scale (the national scale "anchor point"), we then determine the rest of the national rating scale mapping as a function of the global scale rating levels between the anchor point and the bottom of the scale, resulting in nine standard mapping specifications shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 also shows that national scale ratings in the 'xxCC' level and below are directly aligned with the equivalent global scale ratings. However, the national scale ratings in the 'xxCCC' category are not subject to specific criteria provisions governing global scale 'CCC' range ratings. 13. A national scale anchor is commonly the lowest global scale credit rating that would map to 'xxAAA' on the national scale standard specification. The anchor point for a particular country determines the specific standard mapping used for that scale. The anchor point may be positioned above, below, or at the relevant sovereign global scale local currency rating level. 14. Given that the sovereign is often the strongest credit in a given country, it is common for the anchor point to be positioned at the relevant sovereign global scale rating level. If some entities' global scale credit ratings exceed the global sovereign credit rating, the national scale sovereign rating could be at or below 'xxAAA' (and thus below the anchor), and the non-sovereign global credit ratings that exceed the sovereign credit rating may be rated at or above the national scale sovereign and up to 'xxAAA'. Alternatively, the sovereign could be above the anchor point (which often occurs if the sovereign rating is above 'A+', the highest anchor point) if we believe the resulting national scale mapping would better differentiate ratings in a given local market. 15. The chosen anchor point determines which one of nine standard national scale mappings is used as a starting point to determine the mapping for a specific country (see Appendix 1). The standard national scale mapping specifications reference nine anchor points ranging from 'A+' to 'BB-'. We do not have any standard national scale specifications with anchor points above 'A+' or below 'BB-'. 16. We may further adjust these national scale mappings by up to two notches above or below the standard mapping specifications at various points on the scale if we believe that the adjusted mapping scale better addresses a specific country's current or potential range of relative credit quality. We typically consider several factors to adjust a country's national scale mapping such as established market practices, sovereign and other rating outlooks, and the distribution of outstanding national scale ratings. When we apply adjustments to these specifications, we typically maintain a continuous national scale mapping specification that avoids the possibility of inverted global scale/national scale rating relativities. 17. A sovereign rating change may or may not result in a corresponding change to the relevant mapping specification. For example, if a national scale with an anchor point of 'BB' is linked to a sovereign rating of 'BB-' and that sovereign rating is later raised to 'BB', the national scale could be remapped to the specification with an anchor point of 'BB+'. This would preserve the one-notch difference between the anchor point and the sovereign rating. The general aim of this remapping is to ensure that the national scale continues to address the relevant range of credit quality in that country and to avoid ratings "compression" (that is, having a large proportion of ratings clustered among two or three rating levels). Conversely, we may decide not to remap the national scale following a sovereign rating change if the remapping will not enhance ratings differentiation within a given country. 18. These criteria describe standard specifications we would use for mapping (or remapping) most national scales. However, we may have new or existing national scales that are not based on the standard set of mapping specifications or symbols. These may be scales where, for example: We use different set of symbols (distinct from our national scale rating symbols); or The mapping is for a scale that we consider

relatively deeply populated, diverges from our standard specifications but is appropriate to the credit quality distribution in the local market, and where there may be limited remapping needs (e.g. the anchor is expected to be fairly stable, for example due to a relatively high sovereign rating). 19. The Israel (Maalot) national scale is a non-standard specification (see Appendix 2). 20. A global scale rating can have multiple corresponding national scale ratings. In certain cases, adjacent ratings may overlap such that the lowest national scale rating corresponding to a particular global scale rating may be the same as the highest national scale rating corresponding to the adjacent global scale rating. 21. In addition to long-term ratings, we may assign short-term ratings on national scales. Short-term ratings are typically determined using the same standard and alternative long-/short-term mapping used for global scale ratings, but referencing the related long-term national scale ratings provided in table 2. Consistent with the related criteria, we apply the alternative mapping in certain sectors with liquidity as either exceptional or as a key strength (see the Related Criteria section for our linking long- and short-term ratings methodology). The Israel (Maalot) national scale short-term ratings also follow the mapping provided in table 2. Table 2 National Scale Long- To Short-Term Rating Mapping NATIONAL SCALE LONG-TERM RATING NATIONAL SCALE SHORT-TERM RATING xxAAA, xxAA+, xxAA, xxAA- xxA-1+ xxA+, xxA xxA-1 xxA-, xxBBB+, xxBBB xxA-2 xxBBB- xxA-3 xxBB+, xxBB, xxBB-, xxB+, xxB, xxB- xxB xxCCC+, xxCCC, xxCCC-, xxCC, xxC xxC SD SD D D Note: We also apply an alternative mapping in certain sectors with liquidity as either exceptional or as a key strength (see the Related Criteria section for our linking long- and short-term ratings methodology). SD--Selective default. D--Default. Using Mapping Specifications To Assign National Scale Credit Ratings 22. For corporate and government issuers we use the global scale local currency ICR (or if no ICR has been assigned, the relevant global scale local currency issue rating) as the reference point in the mapping specifications to determine the national scale ICR, and for structured finance and funds we use the relevant issue or fund rating respectively. 23. For corporate and government ratings, we first determine the global scale local currency credit rating, and then use the mapping specification to determine a national scale credit rating. When two or more outcomes are possible, we consider the outlook on the global scale local currency rating to inform which outcome applies. However, the national scale sovereign rating may not necessarily be determined by its global rating scale outlook. Similarly, for an issuer with the same global scale rating as the sovereign, its national scale rating would also not necessarily be determined by its global rating scale outlook. 24. Additional considerations include whether the entity is a relatively stronger or weaker credit within its global scale credit rating level, for example using a rank ordering of entities in the same global scale credit rating within the entity's sector in a given country (i.e., among domestic corporate ratings or domestic financial institution ratings), or a rank ordering of entities with the same global scale credit rating globally within the industry (for example, among global rated steel companies). For sectors where we use the mappings to assign the national scale ICR, there are further steps to determine the national scale issue credit rating (see The Impact Of Subordination, Recovery, And Differentiated Default Risk section below). 25. For sectors where we typically do not have ICRs such as structured finance and funds, we determine the national scale credit rating by using one of two methods: we apply the country-specific national scale criteria, or if we do not have any country-specific criteria, we first determine the global scale issue credit or fund rating and then use the mapping specification to determine a national scale credit or fund rating. To choose which national scale credit rating when two or more options are available, we consider whether a security or fund is relatively stronger or weaker than others within the global scale credit rating level, for example, by considering the credit enhancements available relative to our loss projections at a particular global scale rating, or by considering qualitative factors such as those described in our operational risk criteria in structured finance (see Related Criteria). ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS The Impact Of Subordination, Recovery, And Differentiated Default Risk (For Corporate And Government Ratings) 26. Where applicable, we apply the following sections to determine the national scale issue credit rating where we do not have country-specific issue rating criteria. Subordination 27. We use notching to reflect an issue's subordination relative to other debt issues. We start with the national scale ICR to determine such notching. We then typically notch up or down from the national scale ICR according to the number of notches we would notch from the global scale ICR if we were rating an issue on the global scale, applying our relevant criteria for the sector. Therefore, the national

scale issue credit rating, compared with a global scale issue credit rating on the same issue, may not correspond to the rating in the mapping specification. 28. For example, if our global scale methodology calls for one notch down on the issue credit rating due to subordination risk, we would notch down one from a national scale ICR that corresponds to the global scale ICR. 29. Because we use subordination notching to indicate priority among creditors, national scale issue credit ratings typically remain within one to three notches from the national scale ICR, similar to the typical notching range between global scale issuer and issue credit ratings. Recovery ratings 30. For entities rated on a national scale, we may determine recovery ratings, and related issue rating adjustments when our view of issuer creditworthiness corresponds to an issuer credit rating of 'BB+' or lower on the global scale. Recovery ratings are determined the same way for national scale ratings as for global scale ratings, expressed on a 1 to 6 scale that indicates our estimated recovery expectations in the event of a payment default for a specific issue. We notch issue credit ratings up or down from the national scale ICR based on our expectations for post-default recovery, using the number of notches as per our recovery rating criteria (see Related Criteria). Where our recovery rating criteria may refer to caps on recovery ratings as related to global scale ratings, we would apply those caps for national scale ratings if we believe issuer creditworthiness corresponds to the referenced global scale rating or rating category. For example, if the recovery rating criteria referred to a cap at "3" when the global scale rating is in the 'BB' category, we would apply that cap to issuers rated between 'xxAA' and 'xxBBB+' on a national scale when using specification 5 from Appendix 1. Notching for hybrid capital instruments and non-operating bank-holding companies: differentiated default risk 31. Hybrid capital instruments: We also notch the national scale issue credit rating for differentiated default risk, such as for equity hybrid capital instruments (e.g., preferred stock and certain subordinated instruments). First, we establish on the global scale the rating level that reflects the instrument's default risk. Second, we use this rating level on the global scale to map to the indicative national scale rating. Third, we apply incremental notches down from the indicative national scale rating for subordination. In some cases, as per our bank hybrid capital criteria, the global scale hybrid capital issue credit rating is set no higher than 'CCC', in which case the national scale credit rating would be set at a rating level that maps to a global scale rating no higher than 'CCC' (see the Related Criteria section for our hybrid capital criteria). 32. Financial services non-operating holding companies: We may view a financial services non-operating holding company's (NOHC's) credit quality as weaker than the credit quality of the related operating companies because the NOHC relies on dividends and other distributions from operating companies to meet its obligations. To rate an NOHC, we first establish our view of its creditworthiness on our global scale, and then we use the mapping specifications to determine the national scale ICR. National Scale Issue Credit Ratings: Foreign Currency 33. Historically, for most national scales, the rated debt issues have been primarily local currency issues. To rate a foreign currency issue on the national scale, we first establish on the global scale the rating level corresponding to the instrument's foreign currency default risk (this typically corresponds to the foreign currency ICR for corporates and governments issuers). This rating reflects any transfer and convertibility constraints. Second, we use this rating level on the global scale to map to the indicative national scale rating. Third, we notch up or down from the indicative national scale rating based on subordination or recovery characteristics, if applicable and as described above. Application Of Rating Above The Sovereign Criteria To National Scale Ratings 34. In order to be rated above the sovereign on the national scale, the entity or issue should pass the relevant stress test or other constraints in our criteria for ratings above the sovereign (see Related Criteria). As mentioned, to determine the national scale rating, we typically first determine our view of creditworthiness on the global scale, which would include the impact of our criteria for ratings above the sovereign, and then apply the mapping specifications. Where the entity or issue does pass the relevant stress test, but is not rated above the sovereign on the global scale due to other constraints, the entity may still be rated above the sovereign on the national scale per the steps outlined in the Using Mapping Specifications To Assign National Scale Credit Ratings section. 35. For structured finance issues, we may alternatively use country-specific national scale criteria, but they may not contemplate a stress level commensurate with the severe level of stress used in our ratings above the sovereign criteria. In that case, for a potential rating above the sovereign on the national scale, we may refer to the most applicable global scale criteria to determine the relevant severe stress scenario, then determine the

maximum rating differential above the sovereign according to our ratings above the sovereign criteria, and then apply the country-specific mapping specification to reflect the maximum rating differential in national scale terms. Reverse Application Of National And Regional Scale Mapping Specifications 36. In some limited cases, we can use country or regional mappings in reverse to estimate a rating or creditworthiness on the global scale. In these cases, we may start from a national scale rating, and map that rating back to the corresponding global scale rating, as indicated in that mapping specification. Limited uses may include: Analyzing potential national scale rating transitions per our credit stability definition (see the Related Research section); Applying our criteria for ratings above the sovereign (see the Related Criteria section), considering the relevant sovereign rating and the relevant number of notches above the rating; or If we are requested to assign a global scale rating on a transaction rated under country-specific national scale criteria. 37. In some cases, there may be more than one global scale-equivalent option to choose from for a given national scale rating. In these cases, we would follow a similar logic as for assigning national scale ratings starting off from a global scale rating (i.e., consider the outlook if there is one, or relative strength versus other credits in the same rating category or industry). 38. Any determination we make of creditworthiness on the global scale may include public ratings, confidential ratings and any rating analysis performed for internal purposes and not released publicly.

APPENDIXES Appendix 1: Standard Global Scale To National Scale Mapping Options  
Appendix 1 Global Scale To National Scale Mapping Options With Anchors and Specifications  
SPECIFICATION 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ANCHOR A+ A A- BBB+ BBB BBB- BB+ BB BB- GLOBAL SCALE  
RATING AAA, AA+, AA, AA- xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA A+  
xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA A xxAA+ xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA  
xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA A- xxAA xxAA+ xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA  
xxAAA BBB+ xxAA- xxAA xxAA+ xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA BBB xxA+ xxAA- xxAA  
xxAA+ xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA BBB- xxA xxA+ xxAA- xxAA xxAA+ xxAAA xxAAA xxAAA  
xxAAA BB+ xxA-, xxBBB+ xxA, xxA- xxA+, xxA xxAA-, xxA+ xxAA, xxAA- xxAA+, xxAA xxAAA xxAAA  
xxAAA BB xxBBB, xxBBB- xxBBB+, xxBBB xxA-, xxBBB+ xxA, xxA- xxA+, xxA xxAA-, xxA+ xxAA+,  
xxAA xxAAA xxAAA BB- xxBB+, xxBB xxBBB-, xxBB+ xxBBB, xxBBB- xxBBB+, xxBBB xxA-, xxBBB+  
xxA, xxA- xxAA-, xxA+ xxAA+, xxAA xxAAA B+ xxBB-, xxB+ xxBB, xxBB- xxBB+, xxBB xxBBB-, xxBB+  
xxBBB, xxBBB- xxBBB+, xxBBB xxA, xxA- xxAA-, xxA+ xxAA+, xxAA, xxAA- B xxB xxB+, xxB xxBB-,  
xxB+ xxBB, xxBB- xxBB+, xxBB xxBBB-, xxBB+ xxBBB+, xxBBB, xxBBB- xxA, xxA-, xxBBB+ xxA+,  
xxA, xxA- B- xxB- xxB- xxB, xxB- xxB+, xxB xxBB-, xxB+ xxBB, xxBB- xxBB+, xxBB, xxBB- xxBBB,  
xxBBB-, xxBB+ xxBBB+, xxBBB, xxBBB- CCC+ xxCCC+ xxCCC+ xxCCC+ xxB-, xxCCC+ xxB, xxB-  
xxB+, xxB xxB+, xxB xxBB, xxBB-, xxB+ xxBB+, xxBB, xxBB- CCC xxCCC xxCCC xxCCC xxCCC  
xxCCC+, xxCCC xxB-, xxCCC+ xxB-, xxCCC+ xxB, xxB-, xxCCC+ xxB+, xxB, xxB- CCC- xxCCC-  
xxCCC- xxCCC- xxCCC- xxCCC- xxCCC, xxCCC- xxCCC, xxCCC- xxCCC, xxCCC- xxCCC+, xxCCC,  
xxCCC- CC xxCC xxCC xxCC xxCC xxCC xxCC xxCC xxCC C xxC xxC xxC xxC xxC xxC xxC  
xxC xxC SD SD SD SD SD SD SD SD SD SD D D D D D D D D D D Note: A national scale anchor is  
commonly the lowest global scale credit rating that would map to 'xxAAA' on the national scale  
standard specification. The standard national scale mapping specifications reference nine anchor  
points ranging from 'A+' to 'BB-'. SD--Selective default. D--Default. Appendix 2: Israel (Maalot) National  
Scale - Not Subject To Standard Specifications Appendix 2 Israel (Maalot) National Scale Mapping  
Specification GLOBAL SCALE LONG-TERM LOCAL CURRENCY RATING NATIONAL SCALE  
LONG-TERM RATING A- and above ilAAA BBB+ ilAAA, ilAA+ BBB ilAA+, ilAA BBB- ilAA BB+ ilAA- BB  
ilAA-, ilAA+ BB- ilAA+, ilA B+ ilA, ilA- B ilA-, ilBBB+, ilBBB B- ilBBB, ilBBB- CCC+ ilBB+, ilBB, ilBB- CCC  
ilB CCC- ilCCC CC ilCC C ilC SD SD D D Note: The Israel national short-term scale follows the long- to  
short-term rating mapping in table 2. SD--Selective default. D--Default. REVISIONS AND UPDATES  
This article was originally published on June 25, 2018. Changes introduced after original publication:  
On July 5, 2019, we republished this criteria article to make nonmaterial changes. We removed the 'R'  
rating symbol from all tables and paragraph 10 following its removal from "S&P; Global Ratings  
Definitions," effective July 5, 2019. We also updated article references and deleted paragraphs 2 and  
39, which pertained to the initial publication of the criteria. On Aug. 21, 2020, we republished this  
criteria article to make nonmaterial changes to criteria and research references. On Aug. 12, 2021, we  
republished this criteria article to make nonmaterial changes. We updated contact information and

criteria references. On Oct. 15, 2021, we republished this criteria article to make nonmaterial changes. We deleted "two-letter" in paragraph 9, which referenced the length of the prefix in rating symbols. We also updated contact information. On April 28, 2022, we republished this criteria article to make nonmaterial changes. We updated the "Related Research" section and replaced a reference to the related guidance in paragraph 4 with a reference to the new sector and industry variables report. As announced in "Evolution Of The Methodologies Framework: Introducing Sector And Industry Variables Reports," published Oct. 1, 2021, we are phasing out guidance documents over time. As part of that process, we have archived "Guidance: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings," published June 25, 2018, and included its contents without any substantive changes in "Sector And Industry Variables: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings." RELATED PUBLICATIONS Fully Superseded Criteria S&P; Global Ratings' National And Regional Scale Mapping Tables, Aug. 14, 2017 National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings, Sept. 22, 2014 Methodology For Applying Recovery Ratings To National Scale Issue Ratings, Sept. 22, 2014 Related Criteria Hybrid Capital: Methodology And Assumptions, July 1, 2019 Incorporating Sovereign Risk In Rating Structured Finance Securities: Methodology And Assumptions, Jan. 30, 2019 Reflecting Subordination Risk In Corporate Issue Ratings, March 28, 2018 Methodology For Linking Long-Term And Short-Term Ratings, April 7, 2017 Recovery Rating Criteria For Speculative-Grade Corporate Issuers, Dec. 7, 2016 Global Framework For Assessing Operational Risk In Structured Finance Transactions, Oct. 9, 2014 Ratings Above The Sovereign--Corporate And Government Ratings: Methodology And Assumptions, Nov. 19, 2013 Principles Of Credit Ratings, Feb. 16, 2011 Related Research Sector And Industry Variables: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings, April 28, 2022 S&P; Global Ratings Definitions, Nov. 10, 2021 Evolution Of The Methodologies Framework: Introducing Sector And Industry Variables Reports, Oct. 1, 2021 Related Guidance ARCHIVE: Guidance: Methodology For National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings, June 25, 2018