

### **METHODOLOGY BOOK FOR:**

- MSCI USA SELECT QUALITY YIELD INDEX
- MSCI EMERGING MARKETS SELECT QUALITY YIELD INDEX
- MSCI UNITED KINGDOM SELECT QUALITY YIELD INDEX
- MSCI EUROPE EX UK SELECT QUALITY YIELD INDEX

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The methodology book applies to the construction and maintenance of the following indexes:

Index	Parent Index
MSCI USA Select Quality Yield Index	MSCI USA Index
MSCI Emerging Markets Select Quality Yield Index	MSCI Emerging Markets Index
MSCI United Kingdom Select Quality Yield Index	MSCI United Kingdom Index
MSCI Europe ex UK Select Quality Yield Index	MSCI Europe ex UK Index

These Indexes are designed to represent the performance of companies that have relatively higher dividend yield and high Quality scores within the Parent Index universe of securities.



#### 2 INDEX CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 DEFINING THE ELIGIBLE UNIVERSE

All securities belonging to the underlying Parent Index are eligible for inclusion in the Index, with the exception of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). REITs have structurally very high dividend yield and, if included, would represent a very significant proportion of the Index.

#### 2.2 SECURITY SELECTION

The security selection is a two-step process:

• In the first step, rank all constituents of the Parent Index in descending order of their Quality Scores and select the top 50% by number of securities.

The quality score for each security is calculated by combining the z-scores of three winsorized fundamental variables, Return on Equity, Debt to Equity and Earnings Variability for all Parent Index constituents. A given variable z-score for a security is calculated using the mean and standard deviation of the corresponding variable computed within the MSCI Parent Index. After calculating component variable z-scores, a composite z-score for each security is computed by taking an equal-weighted average of the component z-scores.

For further details on the Quality Scores calculations, please refer to the MSCI Quality Indexes methodology<sup>1</sup>.

• In the second step, rank all securities selected in the first step in descending order of their dividend yield<sup>2</sup>, and select the top 50% by number of securities for inclusion in the index.

#### 2.3 WEIGHTING SCHEME

The constituents in the Index are first free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted.

The cumulative weight for each issuer in the Index is capped at 5% at initial construction and each subsequent Semi-Annual Index Review of the Index. The excess weight of such issuers is distributed among the remaining constituents in proportion to their free float market capitalization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.msci.com/index-methodology

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For definition, please refer to MSCI Fundamental Data Methodology at <a href="https://www.msci.com/index-methodology">https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</a>



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If any issuer weight breaches the cap as a result of market price movements or corporate events between two Semi-Annual Index Reviews, no capping is applied.



#### 3 MAINTAINING THE INDEXES

#### 3.1 SEMI-ANNUAL INDEX REVIEWS

The Index is rebalanced on a semi-annual basis, usually as of the close of the last business day of May and November, coinciding with the May and November Semi-Annual Index Reviews (SAIRs) of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes. Fundamental variables as of the end of April and October respectively are used for the Index Review. The pro forma Index is typically announced nine business days before the effective date.

To reduce Index turnover and enhance index stability, buffer rules are applied. A security selection buffer of 20% is applied in the second step during the on-going Index Reviews.

For example, if the pro forma Parent Index includes 1600 securities, then the pro forma Index will include 400 securities. Buffer rules are then applied to securities ranked between 321 and 480 based on dividend yield after the first step described in section 2.2. The securities with a dividend yield rank at or above 320 will be included in the Index on a priority basis. The existing constituents that have a final dividend yield rank between 321 and 480 are then successively added until the number of securities in the Index reaches 400. If the number of securities is below 400 after this step, the remaining securities with the highest dividend yield are added until the number of securities in the Index reaches 400.

The 5% issuer level capping is applied at each Semi-Annual Index Review.

The capping of the issuer weights is done for the pro forma index as of the effective date, based on the closing prices as of the Index Review announcement date. In cases where any issuer weight breaches the cap as a result of market price movements or corporate events between the announcement date and the effective date, the capping is not applied again.

#### 3.2 ONGOING EVENT RELATED CHANGES

In general, the Index follows the event maintenance of the Parent Index.

#### 3.2.1 IPOS AND OTHER EARLY INCLUSIONS

IPOs and other newly listed securities will only be considered for inclusion in the Index at the next SAIR, even if they qualify for early inclusion in the Parent Index.

#### 3.2.2 ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS DUE TO CORPORATE EVENTS

A constituent deleted from Parent Index following a corporate event will be simultaneously deleted from the Index. There will be no additions of new securities to the Index in between rebalances.



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<sup>\* =</sup> toll free

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