

# Data Submitter Policy January 2019

## Introduction

Fastmarkets is a leading Price Reporting Agency (PRA) and intelligence provider for the metals, mining, forestry products and industrial minerals markets. Our price reporters assess more than 5,000 prices, many of which are industry standard benchmarks, used and trusted across their respective industry supply chains.

In its role as a benchmark provider, Fastmarkets supports the adoption and alignment to the IOSCO Principles for PRAs. The main objectives of these principles is to ensure that the price discovery process is robust, consistent and transparent; and that the prices produced are representative of the value of the underlying markets.

Fastmarkets' price-discovery methodologies are based on data inputs collected from market participants. To ensure the price discovery process is robust, data quality is essential to maintain the integrity of the assessment process.

This Data Submitter Policy provides participants with guidelines to ensure the high level of data quality and integrity that Fastmarkets expects from each contributing organisation providing pricing data.

## Data submitters

Fastmarkets seeks to collect pricing data from credible market participants active in the buying and selling on a spot basis of material matching the Fastmarkets price specifications as defined in its methodology documents.

Fastmarkets expects that data submitters taking part in the pricing process are properly qualified and authorised to report market data on behalf of their organisations.

Fastmarkets price reporters generally speak to, and collect data from, front-office staff directly involved in the commercial activity of buying and selling the material being assessed. Fastmarkets also encourages organisations to submit transaction data from back office functions as well as front office.

## The submission framework

Fastmarkets price reporters engage with market participants by proactively surveying sources for pricing data. Data is mostly collected by telephone, email or digital messaging services. Price reporters may also collate data from electronic trading platforms or directly from the back offices of market participants via email.

Price reporters seek to increase the number of market participants willing to provide market data on an ongoing basis. The number of entities providing market data on a day-to-day basis can vary significantly based on market conditions and activity.

Fastmarkets looks to collect pricing data from credible market sources that have a proven track record for regularly providing pricing data, including transactions, bids and offers within established deadlines and by providing other supporting information to the price reporters, including volumes, freight cost, details on specifications, credit terms, delivery location, counterparties and any other detail that contributes substantially to the determination of the price.

For more information, please refer to the Fastmarkets methodology documents.

## Your role as a data submitter

Fastmarkets' role as a PRA is to provide price benchmarking services to the industry for contract settlement purposes and/or other price-related applications.

Data submitters provide pricing data on a voluntary basis and should not expect or request Fastmarkets to provide any benefits-in-kind in return, such as a free subscription to Fastmarkets services or access to the price assessment before it is published.

Data submitters should recognise that providing credible data to the price-discovery process provides the opportunity for them to participate in the determination

process of Fastmarkets' benchmark prices. Data submitters are expected to abide by the guidelines provided in this Data Submitter Policy, which can be summarised as follows:

- 1 Submitters should provide data in an honest, timely and consistent basis;
- 2 Submitters should always provide all relevant data, including all the transactions to which they have been a party during the period under consideration for the assessment. Under no circumstances should only selective data be submitted to influence the price assessment process. Organisations that agree to submit data from back office functions should commit to disclosing transaction data in full for each market segment;
- 3 Submitters should disclose to the price reporter if a transaction was with a related party or affiliate;
- 4 Submitters should disclose to the price reporter deal volumes that significantly exceed or fall below the typical transaction volume for that market under consideration;
- 5 Submitters should be prepared to disclose the parameters of deals and data that Fastmarkets seeks to collect including volumes, freight cost, details of specifications, credit terms, delivery location, counterparties and any other detail that contributes substantially to the determination of the price;
- 6 Submitters should provide information about the counterparty to a transaction if requested (Fastmarkets RISI, Fastmarkets FOEX and Random Lengths are exempt from this requirement at present); and
- 7 Submitters should report firm bids and offers, which are bids and offers that they are prepared to match.

## Data Submitter Agreements (DSAs)

Fastmarkets understands the importance of data submitted under Data Submitter Agreements (DSAs).

Fastmarkets' Price Reporters will inquire with their sources as to whether they have conducted other business in addition to that reported to them to encourage market participants to provide them with data that is as complete as possible. Where DSAs are signed, the DSA will require all relevant data to be provided.

## Confidentiality

Fastmarkets understands the need to protect the confidentiality of all information received. All data submitted is securely stored in the Fastmarkets price reporting system, MInD. MInD is a password-protected database accessible only to authorised members of the editorial team, management and database administrators.