

Vienna, 15th July 2015

Introduction of a Record Date (RD) and some other international Market Standards (MS) in Austria

Dear Sir or Madam,

in May 2009 an international working group (Corporate Actions Joint Working Group, CAJWG) published Market Standards (MS) on dismantling barriers concerning cross-border-processing of corporate actions The CAJWG comprises issuers, CSDs, stock exchanges and banks and was founded in 2007 with the intention of harmonizing the various heterogeneous national regulations regarding the processing of corporate actions throughout Europe.

The Market Standards thus developed were endorsed by the European bodies representing the market participants (ECSDA, ECA, ESF, FESE, European Issuers) – in 2009, and in 2012 updated in adapted form.

In order to implement these Standards „National Implementation Groups “were established in the member states. In Austria this responsibility is assumed by CANIG. CANIG members comprise all Austrian credit institution associations, represented by their respective controlling institutes and OeKB as Austrian CSD.

In coordination with CANIG and in accordance with the resolutions taken by the T2S National User Group the following Market Standards will be implemented in the Austrian capital market in the coming year:

1) Usage of a Record Date (RD)

The RD is essential for determining the entitlements, regardless of whether „distributions“, part of which are income payments (interest and dividends) or “reorganisations“(corporate actions in a narrow sense) are concerned. All security account holders that have a position in a category (ISIN) concerned at the end of the RD, are entitled to take part in the specific distribution or reorganisation.

In the meeting of the T2S National User Group held on 16 June 2014 it was decided to implement the RD in Austria. The introduction of the RD is obligatory and necessary before migration to the T2S platform (scheduled for 09/2016 in Austria).

As agreed with CANIG CSD.A will settle distributions or reorganisations as of 16 November 2015 based exclusively on the RD to be made known by the issuer. Details as well as the impact of the introduction of the RD in Austria can be found in the document GB 3 Record Date published by CANIG.

2) New ISIN for Mandatory Reorganisations

In the MS the usage of a new ISIN is foreseen, when processing mandatory reorganisations (e.g. split and reverse split). All procedures impacted by this change - such as the blocking of an old ISIN from last trading date - have also to be implemented in the settlement systems in good time in the Austrian market, i.e. prior to September 2016.

As agreed with CANIG CSD.A will process mandatory reorganisations as of 16 November 2015 exclusively using a new ISIN.

3) Information from Issuer to Issuer CSD

As described in the MS, beside other adaptations foreseen in the settlement processes, a flow of key date information has to occur from the issuer (or its paying agent) to the issuer CSD. Work on further details (point of time of introduction, kind of communication) is currently in progress.

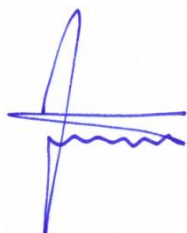
On all issues mentioned CANIG will organise events involving the market participants.

We kindly ask you to pass on this letter to all departments concerned in your company (in particular to those departments responsible for settlement and securities issues).

For further inquiries our Service Center Custody (custody@oekb.at, +431/53127-2010) is at your disposal.

Kind regards

Oesterreichische
Kontrollbank Aktiengesellschaft



Dr. Georg Zinner



Mag. Peter Felsinger