

FAQs on How to Get Rated

Q1: I am a new Issuer; please describe how we can start the rating process.

A1: [Click here](#) to find out how to get rated.

Q2: What is Moody's rating scale?

A2: [Click here](#) to read about Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions.

Q3: What type of information is used in the credit rating process?

A3: The analyst or analysts assigned to a particular Issuer or obligation ("Lead Analyst(s)") begins the credit analysis by collecting the relevant information on the Issuer or obligation. This information may come from public sources or from the Issuer or Issuer's agent in meetings or other communications with the Lead Analyst. This information may be supplemented with information generated by Moody's Investors Service (MIS) or obtained from the market or other third party sources, including macroeconomic and sector-specific data.

Q4: Who assigns the credit ratings?

A4: Once information has been gathered, the Lead Analyst will conduct the initial analysis of the Issuer or obligation and apply the relevant MIS credit rating methodologies, which may include consideration of both quantitative and qualitative factors. The Lead Analyst will formulate his or her recommendation for consideration by a rating committee. Rating Committees are a critical mechanism in promoting the quality, consistency and integrity of our rating process. MIS's credit ratings are determined only through rating committees, by a majority vote of the rating committee's members, and not by individual analysts.

Q5: How long does the rating process take?

A5: The timing of Moody's rating process is dependent on a number of factors, including the availability of all relevant information, opportunities to discuss issues with management or their advisers and the complexity of the subject matter. Typically a new corporate rating may take 4 weeks, from the time the Issuer signs the mandate and Moody's receives all of the information required to undertake the analysis to the public release of the rating. The timeline for Project Finance is typically 6 weeks; while Structured Finance may take longer. However, Moody's is sensitive to Issuers' needs and timing concerns, and will work with the Issuer to accelerate turnaround times where appropriate.

Q6: How much does a credit rating cost?

A6: Please contact your [local Commercial Group representative](#) for any fee-related discussions. Moody's employees who approve or participate in determining or monitoring credit ratings, or who are involved in the development or approval of models or methodologies used in providing rating services, cannot participate in discussions regarding fees or payments with any rated entity. Therefore, please do not contact any member of the analytical team involved in the rating process (including managers) about fee related matters, or include the analytical team (including managers) in any fee-related correspondence.

Q7: Will Moody's monitor the credit rating?

A7: With the exception of those credit ratings which are clearly identified as point-in-time ratings, once a credit rating has been published, MIS will monitor that credit rating, as deemed appropriate, on an ongoing basis and will modify the credit rating as necessary in response to changes in our opinion of the creditworthiness of the Issuer or issue. All monitored credit ratings are reviewed at least once every twelve months, and Sovereign credit ratings are reviewed at least every six months.