

Determination of Client Money Entitlement: French AFTI and AFTB

This paper summarises the approach taken with respect to potential Client Money entitlements of parties (each, a “Creditor”) with whom LBIE had, prior to 07.56am 15 September, 2008, entered into an agreement on terms which are identical to, or sharing the same characteristics as, the Financial Contract, and for whom no Client Money had been segregated in relation to that contract. It assumes that sums paid to LBIE by the Creditor were paid pursuant to the terms of the Financial Contract.

Definitions

Financial Contract:	French Master Agreements for Loans of Securities (“AFTI”) and for Repurchase Transactions with Delivery of Securities (“AFTB”).
Financial Contract Terms:	Financial Contract entered into on standard form terms containing selections regarding financial and administrative parameters, but with no specific reference to ‘client money’ within the Financial Contract.
Obligations:	LBIE’s obligations to pay/account for money under the Financial Contract to the Creditor on an initial securities loan or a subsequent return or with respect to derived income.
Client Money:	Money which was client money as defined in the FSA rules (at the Administration Time).
Client Money Claim:	Any claim by the Creditor that it has an entitlement to a distribution from the pre-administration Client Money pool constituted under the FSA rules, on the basis that it had a “client money entitlement” as at the Administration Time. This is a “contractual entitlement” and does not depend upon actual segregation of funds. In LBIE’s view this means an individual client balance falling within paragraph 7 of CASS 7 Annex 1G (“ICB”) and/or a client equity balance as defined in the FSA Rules (“CEB”) which, in each case, fell within the scope of CASS 7.
Administration Time:	07.56am, London time, on 15 September, 2008.

Assessment of Client Money Claim

This paper summarises LBIE’s view as to whether parties who have entered into a Financial Contract on the Financial Contract Terms have a Client Money Claim against LBIE pursuant to that contract.

Client Money Claim:	No. It is however LBIE’s view that a Client Money Claim generally arises in relation to sums specifically segregated on behalf of a client by LBIE prior to the Administration Time and which remained so segregated at that time. There may however be some limited
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instances where a Client Money Claim is determined by LBIE not to arise notwithstanding segregation of sums. In such cases, the relevant clients will be contacted directly by LBIE to explain the rationale for such a determination.

Rationale: Court Judgment; FSA Rules; Contract Terms/Facts.

Court Judgment: The judgment given by the Supreme Court does not specifically address whether Obligations arising under the Financial Contract give rise to a Client Money Claim. The Court has confirmed that distribution of the client money pool is based on client money entitlement under Chapter 7 of the CASS Rules construed in accordance with the judgment. LBIE considers that this means that the client money entitlement is equal to ICB plus CEB (as defined above) (see paragraph 153 of the judgment).

Although not specifically addressed in the judgment, it is consistent with the judgment and it is LBIE's view that ICB and CEB only cover balances which were within the scope of the client money rules and hence would exclude any balances which were not client money, for example, due to the operation of title transfer collateral arrangements or to which the client money rules otherwise did not apply.

FSA Rules: There is a provision in the client money rules which provides that money received on a title transfer collateral arrangement basis is not regarded as Client Money (CASS 7.2.3R).

Contract Terms/Facts: Consistent with the FSA rules, there are no references to 'client money' or the FSA rules with respect to Client Money within the Financial Contract Terms. There is therefore no express contractual provision under which LBIE promised to give Client Money protection to the Creditor. This is believed to be in line with market practice. It is LBIE's considered view that a court would not find the existence of any implied term to the contrary: no such term would be required in order to make the contract operate effectively, nor is there any market convention to the contrary.

Cash receipts from the Creditor under the Financial Contract were either made in payment of the Client's debts due to LBIE (which do not attract Client Money protection) or were subject to 'title transfer collateral arrangements' under the margin provisions (which also do not attract Client Money protection due to a specific provision under the FSA rules – see below). The title transfer provisions are contained in Article 5.1 (AFTI): "the borrower shall transfer cash or Securities to the lender, who shall thereby acquire full legal title thereto" [English translation] and Article 7.3 (AFTB):

“the deposit of Margin [sums of money and/or Securities]...is to be construed as the passing, in full title...” [English translation].

If income was derived from transferred securities during the term of a transaction involving those securities, that income was not a receipt of Client Money by LBIE since the income was derived from securities owned beneficially by LBIE and so was not received for or on behalf of the Creditor. There was a separate obligation on LBIE to pay from time to time to the Creditor an amount equivalent to the amount paid by the issuer of the securities in question and which obligation is itself within the scope of that arrangement.