aosphere

United Kingdom*

Rulefinder SD - Summary

4 March 2025

Key Considerations

Lowest initial long threshold: 1% (during a takeover offer)

Substantial shareholdings: Disclosure starts at 3%. Different rules apply to UK and non-UK incorporated issuers. Cash settled instruments

with no ability to physically settle are caught.

Other long disclosures: In certain sensitive industries.

Short position disclosure: Starting at **0.2%** of issued share capital.

Substantial Shareholding

Thresholds **UK**-incorporated issuer: **3%** of total voting rights and **each whole percentage** (4%, 5%, etc) point after that OR

non UK-incorporated issuer: 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 50% and 75% of total voting rights.

From holding: (i) shares; (ii) financial instruments referenced to shares (entitlements to acquire and financial

instruments with similar economic effect); or (iii) aggregate of (i) & (ii).

Change in nature Disclosure required where a holder of a previously notified financial instrument acquires the underlying shares and

a shares and/or financial instruments threshold is tripped but overall % held is unchanged.

Issuers in scope UK or non-UK incorporated issuers whose shares are admitted to trading on a UK regulated market and UK

incorporated issuers whose shares are admitted to trading on a UK prescribed market (e.g. AIM).

Interests Direct and indirect holdings of: (i) **issued voting shares**; (ii) financial instruments which give the **right to acquire**

or the discretion to acquire issued voting shares; and (iii) financial instruments with similar economic effect to (i)

Subscription rights (nil paid and open offer)

or (ii), whether or not physically settled.

22	Equity shares	
(0.00)	Depository receipts a g. ADPs. CDPs	I

Depositary receipts e.g. ADRs, GDRs Single stock future (physically settled)

Secondary listing Writer/seller of put option (physically settled)

Suspended shares Buyer of call option (physically settled)

Convertible preference shares Cash settled (e.g. CfDs/single name equity swaps)

Convertible debt securities Equity index/share basket instruments (cash settled)

Warrants referenced to unissued shares ETFs (exempt schemes)

Covered warrants Stock loan

Exchangeables Stock borrow

Key exemptions

Trading book Exclude holdings not exceeding 5% in trading book of a credit institution or investment firm.

Custodian Exclude if custodian can only exercise voting rights under specific written/electronic instructions.

Market maker Exclude if holding <10%.

 $\textbf{Investment/fund manager} \ \text{Certain managers can disclose holdings in UK issuers at higher initial thresholds of } 5\%$

and 10% (and every 1% thereafter).

Conditions apply to all exemptions – refer to Memorandum.

Key aggregation Parent undertaking Aggregate and disclose holdings of it and its controlled undertakings. Where parent discloses

on an aggregate basis, subsidiary is not required to disclose. Disaggregation exemption for parents of some

management companies / investment firms.

Investment manager Aggregate and disclose managed holdings where it has voting control.

How to disclose As soon as possible and by midnight within 2 trading days (UK issuers) or 4 trading days (non-UK issuers) of

knowledge of disclosable event (i.e. generally trade date for on-exchange – refer to Memorandum for detail. To FCA (online via ESS portal – pre-registration required) and issuer. Use the standard form.

Articles UK incorporated issuers may impose lower/intermediate disclosure thresholds in their constitutional documents.

Additional local disclosure Foreign companies admitted on AIM may impose obligations on holders via constitutional documents.

^{*} England and Wales but noting that some of the legislation and guidance described in this Memorandum will be applicable across the UK (i.e. also in Scotland and Northern Ireland (but, except for Section C on Takeovers, not the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man)). Separate legal advice should be sought in respect of Scotlish, Northern Irish, Channel Islands or Manx law.



Short Selling

Restriction Ban on naked short selling of shares. Covered short selling is permitted in prescribed ways.

Position disclosure Disclose net short positions (NSPs) in shares, including synthetic positions e.g. via cash-settled derivatives.

Disclosure Thresholds 0.2% and each 0.1% thereafter (0.3%, 0.4% etc) of issued share capital – private notification.

0.5% and each **0.1% thereafter** of issued share capital – public disclosure.

Disclosure scope NSPs in shares admitted to trading on a UK trading venue (regulated market or MTF), regardless of whether position

is taken on a UK or non-UK venue.

Key exemptions Shares whose principal trading venue is outside the UK (see FCA's list).

Market making activities. Stabilisation.

How to disclose Calculate at midnight and notify by 15:30 on the following trading day.

To FCA via ESS online portal (pre-registration required).

Separate restrictions apply to short selling **of sovereign debt and sovereign CDS** – refer to UK Short Selling Report and Memorandum. Note the impact of **SSR 2025** which will remove sovereign debt and sovereign CDS requirements. This is not in force as at the date of this summary.

Sensitive Industries

Additional **disclosures** apply to equity holdings in issuers in certain industries, some of which require **pre-acquisition** approval. See below for starting thresholds. **Only requirements based on a specified equity holding threshold are considered**.

Banking/finance

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Financial institutions carrying out regulated activities (e.g. banks, building societies, insurers, other

- refer to Memorandum): 10% prior approval.

Recognised Investment Exchanges: 20% prior approval.

Cryptoasset business: 25% prior approval

Aviation, Rail,

Defence, Media,

Mining, Real Estate,

Telecoms & Utilities

FDI



All apply to both foreign and domestic investors. See also FDI rules below.

25% mandatory notification for prior approval. Applies to foreign investment in 17 sectors (refer to Memorandum for list of sectors).

Takeovers

Disclosure Opening Position Disclosures and Dealing Disclosures required during the offer period by persons interested in 1%

or more of any class of relevant securities of the target or any securities exchange bidder (a 1% holder).

Thresholds Opening Position Disclosure required by a 1% holder.

Dealing Disclosures required for **any dealing** in relevant securities by a 1% holder.

Scope UK, Isle of Man or Channel Islands registered issuer with shares quoted on a UK regulated market or MTF or

on any stock exchange in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Other resident companies may also transitionally be in scope – refer to Memorandum. There is a publicly available list of companies to which Rule 8

disclosures apply.

Holdings in bidder Disclosure also applies to holdings/dealings in bidder in a securities exchange offer.

How to disclose Opening Position Disclosures no later than 15:30 on the **10th business day** after the commencement of the offer

period or offeror identification.

Dealing Disclosures no later than 15:30 on the business day following the date of the dealing.

Publicly to Regulatory Information Service in typed electronic format. Private disclosures apply in certain circumstances – refer to Memorandum. To Panel only electronically Specimen forms are available and should be

used.

Issuer Requests

Disclosure UK public companies can require disclosure of the nature of interests in its shares from anyone whom the company

knows, or has reasonable cause to believe to be, or to have been (within a specified period), interested in those

shares. It is mandatory to respond and criminal penalties may apply.

UBO UK issuers not subject to DTR5 or listed on certain equivalent international markets can request Ultimate Beneficial

Ownership information. It is a criminal offence not to respond. In some cases, holders must pro-actively disclose.

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