

## The Derivatives Exposure Equation

Our [last post](#) provided a big picture summary of the steps required to calculate a Fund's "derivatives exposure" for purposes of new [Rule 18f-4](#). The post may have left an impression that this process should not be that difficult. To provide additional perspective, we offer the following equation for calculating derivatives exposure.

If interest rate and currency hedges satisfy the following condition:

$$\underline{N_{HI}} + \underline{\delta N_{OHI}} + \underline{\delta N_{OHEX}} + \underline{N_{HEX}} \leq 1.1 \times (\underline{P_H} + \underline{P_{MV}} + \underline{P_{FX}} + \underline{MV_{FX}})$$
 Then a Fund will be a limited derivatives user when: 
$$.1 \times NA \geq \underline{MV_{SS}} + (\underline{\delta N_O} - \underline{\delta N_{OFF}} - \underline{\delta N_{OHI}} - \underline{\delta N_{OHEX}}) + 10YNI + (\underline{N_D} - \underline{N_{OFF}} - \underline{N_{HEX}})$$
 Where:

$\delta N_{OFF}$	=	Delta adjusted gross notional amount of options offsetting $\delta N_O$
$N_I$	=	Gross notional amount of interest rate derivatives transactions other than options
$N_{IOFF}$	=	Gross notional amount of interest rate derivative transactions other than options offsetting $N_I$
$N_D$	=	Gross notional amounts of all other derivatives transactions (i.e., derivatives transactions other than $MV_{SS}$ , $\delta N_O$ , $\delta N_{OFF}$ , $N_I$ , $N_{IOFF}$ , $N_{OFF}$ , $N_{HI}$ , $\delta N_{OHI}$ , $\delta N_{OHEX}$ , and $N_{HEX}$ )
$N_{OFF}$	=	Gross notional amounts of derivatives transactions offsetting $N_D$
$P_H$	=	Principal amount of specific fixed-income investments and Fund borrowings subject to interest rate hedges
$P_{MV}$	=	Market value of specific equity investments subject to interest rate hedges
$N_{HI}$	=	Gross notional amount of interest rate derivatives other than options hedging $P_H$ and $P_{MV}$
$\delta N_{OHI}$	=	Delta adjusted gross notional amount of interest rate options hedging $P_H$ and $P_{MV}$
$10YN_I$	=	10-year bond equivalent of $N_I - N_{IOFF} - N_{HI}$
$P_{EX}$	=	Principal amount of specific fixed-income investments and Fund borrowings subject to currency hedges
$MV_{EX}$	=	Market value of specific equity investments subject to currency hedges
$\delta N_{OHEX}$	=	Delta adjusted gross notional amount of currency options hedging $P_{EX}$ and $MV_{EX}$
$N_{HEX}$	=	Gross notional amounts of currency derivatives transactions hedging $P_{EX}$ and $MV_{EX}$

This formula

tries to resolve ambiguities to produce a smaller derivatives exposure. Admittedly, there is nothing hard about the math in this equation, although this would change if we included the formula for calculating an option's delta.

$$\delta = N(d1)$$

$$\text{where : } d1 = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{S}{K}\right) + \left(r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2}\right)t}{\sigma\sqrt{t}}$$

## Legend

$K$	Option <a href="#">strike price</a>
$N$	Standard normal cumulative distribution function
$r$	<a href="#">Risk-free interest rate</a>
$\sigma$	<a href="#">Volatility of the underlying</a>
$S$	Price of the <a href="#">underlying</a>
$t$	Time to option's expiry

For us, and we suspect many compliance

officers, the most significant aspect of the equation is the sheer number of variables and the need to use different values (unadjusted and adjusted notional amounts, principal amounts, market values) for different variables. Creating a daily compliance report for derivatives exposure will require some careful data entry and programming.

## Explore more in

[Investment Management](#)

Blog series

## Asset Management ADVocate

The Asset Management ADVocate provides unique analysis and insight into legal developments affecting asset managers in the United States.

[View the blog](#)