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Comparing the Federal Reserve's TLAC Proposal to the FSB TLAC Final Standards

On November 9, 2015, the Financial Stability Board (**FSB**) issued its final standards for Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity (**TLAC**) for global systemically important banks (**FSB Standards**). On October 30, the Federal Reserve issued its proposal to impose TLAC requirements on the largest, most systemically important US bank holding companies and on US intermediate holding companies owned by comparable foreign banking organizations (**Federal Reserve Proposal**). The table below compares the FSB Standards to the Federal Reserve Proposal.

The Federal Reserve Proposal includes the following elements:

- Minimum external TLAC requirements for the bank holding companies (BHCs) of US global systemically important banks (G-SIBs), which include a minimum level of long-term debt (LTD) and related TLAC buffers;
- Minimum internal TLAC and LTD requirements for the US intermediate holding companies (IHCs) of non-US G-SIBs, which differentiate between single-point-of-entry (SPOE) and multiple-point-of-entry (MPOE) groups, but require all eligible instruments to be issued by the IHC to a foreign entity that controls the IHC, even for MPOE groups;
- "Clean holding company" requirements that impose stringent limitations on the ability of covered BHCs and IHCs to incur common types of non-TLAC-related liabilities; and
- A new regulatory capital deduction for any investment in the unsecured debt of a covered BHC by state member banks, other BHCs, large savings and loan holding companies and all IHCs.

While broadly consistent with the framework of the FSB Standards, the Federal Reserve Proposal is much more restrictive than, and deviates from, the FSB Standards in several meaningful ways:

- While calibration of the risk-weighted assets component of the Federal Reserve's proposed minimum TLAC requirement is aligned with the FSB Standards, the additional constraints on eligible liabilities along with other elements make the Federal Reserve standard more stringent.
 - Among the key elements making the Federal Reserve Proposal more stringent are the proposed formal long-term debt requirement, TLAC buffer and clean holding company limitations. There are no comparable requirements in the FSB Standards.
 - o The standards for eligible debt under the Federal Reserve Proposal are much more stringent than the FSB Standards and current Tier 2 standards. Tier 2 capital instruments would be eligible for inclusion in TLAC under the FSB Standards. By contrast, and as only one example, much of the existing long-term debt issued by BHCs and IHCs includes acceleration clauses that would be barred for eligible debt under the Federal Reserve Proposal.
- The Federal Reserve Proposal's treatment of IHCs deviates significantly from the FSB Standards applied to entities in host jurisdictions in a number of ways.

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 It imposes more onerous requirements for internal TLAC, significantly increases the required proportion of long-term debt required, precludes the issuance of external TLAC by IHCs and severely limits the financing and operational flexibility allowed for IHCs.

The chart below is generally organized around the structure, and according to the numbering scheme, of the FSB Standards. However, certain issues addressed in the Federal Reserve Proposal have no direct analogue under the FSB Standards. In order to identify these issues, the chart below includes separate subheadings for them within the most analogous section of the FSB Standards.

For more information about the Federal Reserve Proposal, please refer to Cleary's <u>alert memorandum</u>. The text of the Federal Reserve Proposal can be found <u>here</u>, and a helpful executive summary can be found on pages 2 through 4 of the Federal Reserve staff's <u>memorandum to the Board of Governors</u>. The FSB Standards can be found here.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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https://clients.clearygottlieb.com/rs/alertmemos/2015-79.pdf

http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/press/bcreg/bcreg20151030a1.pdf

http://www.federalreserve.gov/aboutthefed/boardmeetings/ltd-board-memo-20151030.pdf

^{4 &}lt;a href="http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/wp-content/uploads/TLAC-Principles-and-Term-Sheet-for-publication-final.pdf">http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/wp-content/uploads/TLAC-Principles-and-Term-Sheet-for-publication-final.pdf



FSB Standards	Federal Reserve Proposal
2. Covere	ed Firms ⁵
All G-SIBs, as determined by the FSB.	BHCs of US-headquartered G-SIBs (Covered BHCs) would be determined under Method 1 of the G-SIB surcharge provisions of the Federal Reserve's capital rules.
	IHCs of non-US G-SIBS (Covered IHCs) are those where the foreign banking organization either:
	 Determines that it qualifies as a G-SIB under the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) framework for identifying G-SIBs; or Is determined by the Federal Reserve to be a G-SIB based on either the BCBS G-SIB framework or Method 1 of the Federal Reserve's capital rules.
3. Minimum TLA	C Requirements
Minimum <u>external</u> TLAC requirements apply to each "resolution entity" within a G-SIB, including each "point of entry" for a G-SIB for which there is an	 Minimum <u>external</u> TLAC requirements would apply to Covered BHCs only. Minimum internal TLAC requirements would apply to
 MPOE resolution strategy (MPOE G-SIBs).⁶ Minimum internal TLAC requirements apply to each 	Covered IHCs, including Covered IHCs of MPOE G-SIBs.
material subgroup of a resolution entity. ⁷	The Federal Reserve is also considering imposing a domestic internal TLAC framework with respect to the material subsidiaries of Covered BHCs and Covered IHCs.

Note that this chart omits item 1 of the term sheet provided under the FSB Standards and therefore begins with "2. Covered Firms."

[&]quot;Resolution entity" is defined in the FSB Standards as "an entity to which resolution tools will be applied in accordance with the resolution strategy for the G-SIB." The FSB Standards provide that the minimum TLAC requirement for each resolution entity will be set in relation to the consolidated balance sheet of each "resolution group," defined as the resolution entity and any entities that the resolution entity owns or controls, either directly or indirectly, that are not themselves resolution entities. Additional rules apply for the determination of the minimum TLAC requirement in the case of MPOE G-SIBs.

For the definition of "material subgroup," please see "16. Internal TLAC" below.

	FSB Standards		Federal Reserve Proposal
	4. Calibration of Exte	rnal N	Minimum TLAC ⁸
equal to <u>the</u> o 18% of o 6.75%	total risk-weighted assets (RWA); <u>and</u> of the resolution group's Basel III e ratio denominator.		Covered BHCs would have to maintain external TLAC equal to the greater of: 18% of RWA; and 9.5% of the Covered BHC's total leverage exposure (the US supplementary leverage ratio denominator).
	TLAC Buffer		
	No formal TLAC buffer requirement. However, Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (CET1)		Covered BHCs would have to maintain an additional External TLAC Buffer of:
held to satis	fy Basel III capital buffers may not be		o CET1 equal to 2.5% of RWAs; plus
	counted towards the minimum TLAC requirements for purposes of the RWA test.	,	 The Covered BHC's Method 1 G-SIB surcharge; plus
			 Any applicable countercyclical capital buffer.
			The External TLAC Buffer would apply over and above the RWA TLAC ratio.
			CET1 used to satisfy regulatory capital buffers may be used to satisfy the External TLAC Buffer.
	5. Additional Firm-Spec	ific TL	AC Requirements
Crisis Mana	Home authorities, in consultation with the G-SIB's Crisis Management Group (CMG), may impose		No explicit reservation of authority to impose additional firm-specific requirements.
additional firm-specific requirements.		However, the Federal Reserve may increase requirements on specific firms as part of the supervisory process.	
			Calibration would be inherently firm-specific in view of the incorporation of the regulatory capital buffers into the External TLAC Buffer and the LTD requirement (see "6. Relationship with Capital Instruments" below).

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For the phase-in schedule, please see "21. Conformance Period" below.

FSB Standards		Federal Reserve Proposal
6. Relationship with 0	Capit	al Requirements
Debt Requirement		
There is an "expectation" that at least 33% of a G-SIB's TLAC will consist of eligible debt liabilities (including those that count as regulatory capital).	•	A Covered BHC would have to maintain minimum LTD equal to the greater of: o 6% of RWAs plus the Covered BHC's G-SIB surcharge; and o 4.5% of the G-SIB's total leverage exposure.
Eligibility of Regulator	у Са	pital Instruments
Regulatory capital instruments may count towards a resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if the instruments: o Meet the general TLAC eligibility criteria; and o Are issued by the resolution entity. Regulatory capital instruments issued by subsidiaries of the same resolution group may count towards the resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if they are recognized as CET1 for the resolution entity under Basel III.	•	Regulatory capital instruments issued by the Covered BHC would count towards satisfying its TLAC requirement; however : O CET1 and Additional Tier 1 (AT1) instruments consisting of minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries would not be counted; and O Tier 2 instruments would only count to the extent they satisfy the proposed criteria for eligible external LTD (see "9. Eligibility Criteria" below). Instruments issued by subsidiaries may not count towards the Covered BHC's TLAC requirement.
7. Eligibility of Recapita	ılizat	ion Commitments ⁹
Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution authorities may count for up to 3.5% of a resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if: The relevant authorities consent; Such recapitalization can be effected even if senior creditors are not exposed to loss; and There is no legal limit on the amount that may be contributed under such commitments.	•	No analogous provision.
8. Is	suer	
External TLAC generally must be issued and maintained directly by resolution entities. Exceptions exist for certain regulatory capital instruments issued by subsidiaries (see "6. Relationship with Capital Instruments").	•	All eligible TLAC instruments, including eligible LTD, would have to be issued by the Covered BHC. No analogous exception for regulatory capital instruments issued by subsidiaries.
	There is an "expectation" that at least 33% of a G-SIB's TLAC will consist of eligible debt liabilities (including those that count as regulatory capital). Eligibility of Regulator Regulatory capital instruments may count towards a resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if the instruments: Meet the general TLAC eligibility criteria; and Are issued by the resolution entity. Regulatory capital instruments issued by subsidiaries of the same resolution group may count towards the resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if they are recognized as CET1 for the resolution entity under Basel III. 7. Eligibility of Recapital Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution authorities may count for up to 3.5% of a resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if: The relevant authorities consent; Such recapitalization can be effected even if senior creditors are not exposed to loss; and There is no legal limit on the amount that may be contributed under such commitments. 8. Is External TLAC generally must be issued and maintained directly by resolution entities. Exceptions exist for certain regulatory capital	Capitalization entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if the resolution entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if the resolution entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if they are recognized as CET1 for the resolution entity under Basel III. Prefunded recapitalization commitments by resolution entity's external TLAC requirement if: The relevant authorities consent; The relevant authorities consent; There is no legal limit on the amount that may be contributed under such commitments. External TLAC generally must be issued and maintained directly by resolution entities. Exceptions exist for certain regulatory capital instruments issued by subsidiaries (see

For the phase-in schedule, please see "21. Conformance Period" below.

FSB Standards	Federal Reserve Proposal		
9. Eligibility of	Debt Instruments		
 Eligible instruments must: Be paid in; Be unsecured; Not be subject to setoff or netting rights; and Not be funded by the resolution entity or a related party (unless the G-SIB is an MPOE G-SIB, the instrument is issued to the parent and home and host authorities agree). Eligible instruments must also be perpetual or have a remaining maturity of at least 1 year. 	 Eligibility criteria are consistent with the FSB Standards, but would include the following additional limitations: Cannot be guaranteed or subject to other arrangement that enhances the seniority; Cannot permit acceleration other than on fixed dates, insolvency or payment defaults; Cannot have credit-sensitive features; Cannot be structured notes; and Cannot provide for conversion into equity of the Covered BHC. Eligible instruments must also be perpetual or have a remaining maturity of at least 1 year. However: Instruments with a remaining maturity of greater than 1 year but less than 2 years would be haircut by 50%. 		
10. Liabilities Ex	cluded from TLAC		
Excluded liabilities include: Insured deposits, sight deposits and short-term deposits; Liabilities arising from derivatives; Debt instruments with derivative-linked features (e.g., structured notes); Non-contractual liabilities; Liabilities preferred to senior unsecured creditors under relevant insolvency law; and Liabilities that cannot be bailed-in or written down by the relevant resolution authority.	 Effectively excludes all liabilities except those meeting the eligibility criteria identified in "9. Eligibility of Debt Instruments" above from counting as TLAC. Imposes a separate limitation through the clean holding company requirements, which prohibit Covered BHCs from maintaining non-TLAC liabilities in excess of 5% of the value of the BHC's eligible external TLAC (see "11. Priority" below). By definition, none of these liabilities would count towards the minimum LTD or TLAC requirements. 		

	FSB Standards		Federal Reserve Proposal	
	11. Priority ¹⁰			
•	Eligible instruments must be subordinated to excluded liabilities contractually, structurally or by statute. Subordination requirements do not apply in jurisdictions where excluded liabilities are statutorily	•	No subordination requirement, but the structural subordination of Covered BHC debt to the liabilities of operating subsidiaries and the clean holding company requirements result in the subordination of TLAC liabilities to "excluded liabilities" under the FSB Standards.	
•	excluded from the bail-in tool. If the resolution authority has the power to exclude or partially exclude from bail-in all excluded liabilities, the appropriate authorities may permit otherwise eligible instruments that are pari passu with excluded liabilities to contribute up to 3.5% RWA (the permissible exclusion exception).		F3B Statituatus.	
	Clean Holding Com	npany	v Requirements	
•	No outright prohibition on maintaining certain liabilities.	•	The clean holding company requirements would prohibit Covered BHCs and Covered IHCs from:	
•	 A resolution entity may maintain excluded liabilities that are not senior to eligible instruments (the de minimis exception) if: Such excluded liabilities equal less than 5% of the resolution entity's total TLAC; The resolution authority has the authority to differentiate among pari passu creditors in resolution; and The liabilities do not have a material adverse effect on resolvability. A resolution entity may only rely on either the de minimis exception or the permissible exclusion 		 Issuing short-term debt instruments other than to affiliates; Entering into swaps or other "qualified financial contracts," other than with affiliates; Issuing instruments giving the holder the right to offset obligations to a subsidiary of the BHC or IHC against amounts due under the instrument; In the case of Covered IHCs, setoff is also prohibited with respect to obligations to the IHC itself. Guaranteeing their subsidiaries' liabilities if the Covered BHC's or Covered IHC's insolvency 	
	exception.	•	would result in the subsidiary's default; or • Entering into, or benefiting from, any agreement guaranteeing its liabilities by any subsidiary. The requirements would also cap the value of a Covered BHC's non-contingent, non-LTD liabilities to non-affiliates at 5% of the value of the Covered BHC's eligible external TLAC. • Covered IHCs would be prohibited from incurring any such liabilities (see "19. Core Features of Eligible Internal TLAC" below).	

¹⁰ For the phase-in schedule, please see item "21. Conformance Period."

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FSB Standards	Federal Reserve Proposal		
12. Redemption Restrictions			
Resolution entities may not redeem eligible instruments prior to maturity without supervisory approval if the redemption would lead to a breach of the TLAC requirements.	Similar restrictions would apply.		
13. Gover	rning Law		
Eligible instruments must be subject to the law of the resolution entity's jurisdiction of organization, unless:	Eligible instruments would have to be governed by US law.		
 The resolution authority's application of resolution tools is effective and enforceable pursuant to binding statutory or legally enforceable contractual provisions. 	 No exception for instruments that have a contractual recognition provision of US insolvency or resolution laws. 		
14. Triggers for Externally Issued TLAC			
Eligible instruments should contain a contractual trigger or be subject to a statutory mechanism that permits the resolution authority to write down the instrument or convert it into equity in resolution.	Eligible LTD <u>may not</u> contain conversion features.		

FSB Standards Federal Reserve Proposal 15. Deductions for TLAC Holdings All BHCs, savings and loan holding companies and G-SIBs must deduct from the calculation of their own TLAC or regulatory capital exposures to eligible state member banks subject to the Federal TLAC instruments issued by other G-SIBs in a Reserve's capital rules would be required to deduct manner parallel to the Basel III provisions regarding from Tier 2 capital any debt securities issued by a Covered BHC to the extent the banking holdings of other firms' regulatory capital organization's holdings in these securities exceeds instruments. 10% of its CET1 when aggregated with all other BCBS Consultation on TLAC Holdings nonsignificant investments 11 in the capital of unconsolidated financial institutions. In parallel with publication of the FSB Standards, the BCBS issued a Consultation Paper 12 that would Accordingly, the Federal Reserve Proposal is broaden the deduction approach applied to broader than the BCBS Consultation Paper, since commercial paper or structured notes investments in the regulatory capital instruments of issued by a Covered BHC would potentially be financial firms in the current Basel III framework to apply to "TLAC holdings" held by internationally subject to deduction if held by a banking active banking organizations. organization. This deduction treatment would apply The definition of a TLAC holding in the Consultation regardless of whether the debt securities issued Paper includes: by the Covered BHC are eligible LTD that Instruments that currently qualify as TLAC; qualifies as external TLAC. Instruments that were formerly included in TLAC The Federal Reserve has indicated that it intends to but no longer qualify (such as senior unsecured work with the other federal banking agencies to debt with a maturity of less than 1 year); and incorporate this deduction treatment into the Subordinated instruments that rank pari passu generally applicable capital requirements. with TLAC instruments but never qualified as TLAC (such as Tier 2 subordinated debt instruments with a maturity of less than 1 year). The deduction would be made from the banking

organization's Tier 2 capital, although the

Consultation Paper requests comment on whether the deduction should come from TLAC instruments.

An investment is considered nonsignificant so long as the banking organization owns less than 10% of the common stock of the issuer.

https://www.bis.org/bcbs/publ/d342.pdf

	FSB Standards	Federal Reserve Proposal	
	16.	Internal TLAC	
•	Internal TLAC must be pre-positioned at material subgroups only, not at resolution entities. A "material subgroup" consists of direct or indirect subsidiaries of a resolution entity that: Are not themselves resolution entities; Do not form part of another material subgroup; Are incorporated in the same jurisdiction outside the resolution entity's home jurisdiction; and Meet the eligibility criteria discussed in "17. Material Subgroups" below. The host authority, in consultation with the home authority, determines the composition of the material subgroup and the distribution of internal TLAC. Branches are not subject to internal TLAC requirements separate from the external or internal TLAC requirements applicable to the legal entity of which they are a part.	 Internal TLAC and LTD must be issued by (or pre-positioned at) all Covered IHCs, including IHCs of MPOE G-SIBs that are resolution entities. Such internal TLAC and LTD must be issued exclusively to a company "incorporated or organized outside the United States that directly or indirectly controls the Covered IHC." The Federal Reserve is considering imposing a domestic internal TLAC framework with respect to the material subsidiaries of Covered BHCs and Covered IHCs. 	
	17. Material Subgroups		
•	A subgroup is considered "material" if it meets at least one of the following criteria: Has more than 5% of the consolidated RWA of the G-SIB; Generates more than 5% of the total operating income of the G-SIB; Has a total leverage exposure measure larger than 5% of the G-SIB's consolidated leverage exposure; or Has been identified by the firm's CMG as material to the exercise of the firm's critical functions.	Internal TLAC applies to all Covered IHCs, irrespective of the materiality of its activities to the G-SIB's operations or to US financial stability.	

	FSB Standards		Federal Reserve Proposal
	18. Size of Internal TLAC Requirement ¹³		
•	Each material subgroup must maintain internal TLAC equal to at least 75% to 90% of the external TLAC that would apply if the material subgroup were a resolution group.	•	A Covered IHC that is a resolution entity of an MPOE G-SIB would have to maintain internal TLAC equal to the greater of: o 18% of RWA;
•	The host authority should determine the minimum internal TLAC requirement within the range in consultation with the home authority.		 6.75% of the Covered IHC's total leverage exposure (if the Covered IHC is required to maintain a minimum supplementary leverage
•	Exposures between entities within the same material subgroup should <u>not</u> be included in the denominator of the internal TLAC calculations.		ratio); <u>and</u>9% of the Covered IHC's total consolidated assets.
•	Exposures to affiliates in different material subgroups should be included in the denominator.	•	A Covered IHC of an SPOE G-SIB (i.e., that is <u>not</u> a resolution entity) would have to maintain internal TLAC equal to approximately 89% of the TLAC it would need to maintain were it a resolution entity—an amount equal to <u>the greater of</u> :
			o 16% of RWA;
			 6% of the Covered IHC's total leverage exposure (if the Covered IHC is required to maintain a minimum supplementary leverage ratio); and
			 8% of the Covered IHC's total consolidated assets.
		•	The Covered IHC would also have to maintain an Internal TLAC Buffer of CET1 equal to 2.5% RWA plus any applicable countercyclical capital buffer.
			 Like the External TLAC Buffer, the Internal TLAC Buffer applies over and above the RWA component, and CET1 held to satisfy regulatory capital buffers may be applied to satisfy the Internal TLAC Buffer.
		•	A Covered IHC would have to maintain minimum LTD equal to the greater of:
			o 7% of RWA;
			 3% of the Covered IHC's total leverage exposure (if the Covered IHC is required to maintain a minimum supplementary leverage ratio); and
			 4% of the Covered IHC's total consolidated assets.

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For the full phase-in schedule, please see "21. Conformance Period" below.

FSB Standards

Same as criteria for eligible external TLAC

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Same criteria as for external TLAC, except that

instruments, except for the issuing entity and permitted holders: Instruments that count as regulatory capital instruments must comply with the relevant provisions of Basel III and may not be issued externally, unless the instruments count as CET1. Instruments must be subject to write down by the host authority at the point of non-viability, without entry into resolution proceedings. Home and host authorities may agree to allow	instruments would have to be held by the Covered IHC's direct or indirect non-US parent company. Unlike the FSB Standards, no externally issued instruments would count towards a Covered IHC's internal TLAC or LTD requirements, even for Covered IHCs of MPOE G-SIBs. The clean holding company prohibitions on certain holdings (see "11. Priority" above) would apply to Covered IHCs as well. In place of the 5% cap on non-LTD liabilities applicable to Covered BHCs, all eligible internal LTD
collateralized guarantees to count as internal TLAC if certain conditions are met.	would be required to be subordinated to all third-party liabilities.
20. Public Disclosure by G	-SIBs of their Eligible TLAC
 G-SIBs must disclose the amount, maturity and composition of external and internal TLAC maintained by each legal entity. Resolution entities must disclose the amount, nature and maturity of any liabilities which in the relevant insolvency creditor hierarchy rank pari passu or junior to eligible instruments. 	Covered BHCs (but not Covered IHCs) would have to publicly disclose a description of the financial consequences to unsecured debtholders of the Covered BHC entering resolution proceedings under an SPOE strategy. Disclosure would have to be in the offering documents for eligible LTD and either the G-SIB's website or public financial report.
21. Con	formance Period
 Firms designated as G-SIBs before January 1, 2016, except for firms headquartered in an emerging market economy (EME), must maintain minimum external TLAC equal to the greater of 16% of RWA and 6% of the Basel III leverage ratio denominator by January 1, 2019 (and meet corresponding internal TLAC requirements). Beginning January 1, 2022, such firms must maintain minimum external TLAC equal to the greater of 18% of RWA and 6.75% of the Basel III leverage ratio denominator (and meet corresponding internal TLAC requirements). Other phase-in periods apply for EME G-SIBs, firms designated as G-SIBs after January 1, 2016, and G-SIBs that emerge from resolution. Firms may only count recapitalization commitments and the permissible exclusion exception for up to 2.5% of RWA until January 1, 2022. 	Presently designated G-SIBs would have until January 1, 2019 to comply, but requirements for external and internal TLAC would phase-in over a three year period, with maximum levels reached by January 1, 2022. From January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021, the RWA component of the external TLAC requirement would be 16% and the RWA component of internal TLAC would be 16% for MPOE Covered IHCs and 14% for SPOE Covered IHCs. There is no phase-in of the leverage components of either the external or internal TLAC requirements. Newly designated G-SIBs would have three years to comply. The Federal Reserve Proposal does not grandfather existing debt, meaning that existing debt that does not meet the eligibility requirements for external LTD may need to be replaced with eligible LTD.

19. Core Features of Eligible Internal TLAC

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