

Consumer Education Literature on SMA and NPA Classification

1. Introduction

This document, in compliance with RBI Circular on 'Prudential norms on Income recognition, Asset Classification and provisioning pertaining to Advances –clarifications' Ref: RBI/2021-2022/125 DOR.STR.REC.68/21.04.048/2021-22 dated November 12, 2021, is uploaded to facilitate the consumer to have awareness on the concept of overdue, SMA and NPA classification. The Consumer Education Literature with details / explanations on the concepts of SMA/NPA with clarifications and illustrative examples on due dates are furnished herewith.

2. General Information

2.1 Dues:

Indicate the principal/ interest/ any charges levied on the loan account which are payable within the period stipulated as per the terms of sanction of the credit facility

2.2 Overdue:

The demand out of the loan amount which customer fails to repay on time is known as the Loan Overdue Amount, i.e., the Loan Overdue Amount is the amount left unpaid even after the due date of payment.

In other words, any amount due to the bank under any credit facility is 'overdue' if it is not paid on the due date fixed by the bank.

2.3 Difference between Balance due and over due

The "Balance Due" that appears on the Statement of Accounts refer to the total amount that is currently outstanding for the account, while the "Overdue Balance" refers to the balance that has not been paid within the specified agreed period.

2.4 Method of Appropriation of payments into the loan account

The application of 'First in First out' (FIFO) is in place for appropriation of payments into the borrower account. The Principle of FIFO i.e., 'First In First Out accounting method is applied to arrive at the number of days of overdue for determining the SMA/NPA classification. In FIFO method, the oldest outstanding dues in the loan account will be cleared first. The FIFO method thus requires that what is due first must be paid by the borrower first.

For example: If in any loan account as on 01.01.2022 there are no overdues and an amount of Rs. A is due for payment towards principal instalment/interest any payment being credited on or after 01.01.2022 in the loan account will be appropriated towards the dues outstanding on 01.01.2022. If nothing is paid/or there is partial payment (Rs B) of dues on 02.02.2022, the overdue as on 01.02.2022 will be Rs. A-B. Additionally, an amount of



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Rs C becomes due as on 01.02.2022. Now any payment partial payment into the account on or after 01.02.2022 will be first utilized to payoff the partial due of 01.01.2022(A-B). If there is more recovery than A-B then after recovering dues of 01.01.2022, the remaining amount will be treated as recovery towards due of 01.02.2022.

2.5 NPA/SMA Classification will be Borrower wise and not facility wise.

All the facilities granted by the bank to a borrower and investment in all the securities issued by the borrower will be treated as NPA/NPI and not the particular facility/investment or part thereof which has become irregular

3. Definitions

3.1 Special Mention Account (SMA)

Special Mention Account (SMA) is an account which is exhibiting signs of incipient stress resulting in the borrower defaulting in timely servicing of his/her debt obligations, though the account has not yet been classified as NPA as per the extant RBI guidelines. Early recognition of such accounts will enable banks to initiate timely remedial actions to prevent their potential slippages to NPAs. An account/ facility would be classified as a Special Mention Account (SMA) category if the amount due and payable to bank is not paid by borrower on due date. Basis ageing of overdues, the bank reports the borrowers under following categories of SMA.

Loans other than revolving facilities

SMA SUB CATEGORIES	BASIC FOR CLASSIFICATION Principal or interest payment or any other amount wholly or Partly overdue
SMA-0	1 to 30 Days
SMA-1	More than 30 Days and Up to 60 Days
SMA-2	More than 60 Days up to 90 Days

Loans in the Nature of revolving facilities like Cash Credit /Overdraft

SMA SUB CATEGORIES	BASIC FOR CLASSIFICATION Outstanding balance remains continuously in excess of the sanctioned limit or drawing power, whichever is lower, for a period of
SMA-1	More than 30 Days and Up to 60 Days
SMA-2	More than 60 Days up to 90 Days

3.2 Non - Performing Asset:

A non-performing asset (NPA) is a loan or an advance where;

I. Interest and/ or instalment of principal remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in respect of a term loan,



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II. The account remains 'out of order' as indicated at paragraph 3.2.1 , in respect of an Overdraft/Cash Credit (OD/CC),

III. The bill remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in the case of bills purchased and discounted,

IV. In case of Agricultural advances, the instalment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for two crop seasons for short duration crops / the instalment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for one crop season for long duration crops,

V. When the account is restructured. Restructuring is an act in which lending institutions grant a concession to the borrower under financial difficulty for economic or legal reasons. Restructuring may involve modification of terms of the advances/securities, which would generally include, among others, alteration of payment period/payable amount/the amount of instalments/rate of interest, roll over of credit facilities, sanction of additional credit facility/release of additional funds for an account in default to aid curing of default/enhancement of existing credit limits, compromise settlements where time for payment of settlement amount exceeds three months.

VI. Non-commencement of commercial operations within the scheduled date and the grace period permitted by the regulator.

VII. Detection of fraud in the loan account.

VIII. Non-review/renewal of working capital credit limits within 180 days from the due date of previous sanction.

Advances against term deposits, National Savings Certificates (NSCs) eligible for surrender, Indira Vikas Patra (IVPs), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVPs) and life policies are not identified as NPAs, provided adequate margin is available in the accounts.

3.2.1 'Out of Order' status:

Cash credit/Overdraft (CC/OD) account will be classified as NPA under 'out of order' if:

- I. the outstanding balance in the CC/OD account remains continuously in excess of the sanctioned limit/drawing power for 90 days, or
- II. The outstanding balance in the CC/OD account is less than the sanctioned limit/drawing power but there are no credits continuously for 90 days, or the outstanding balance in the CC/OD account is less than the sanctioned limit/drawing power but credits are not enough to cover the interest debited during the previous 90 days period



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3.2.2 Upgradation of accounts classified as NPAs

It is clarified that loan accounts classified as NPAs may be upgraded as 'standard' asset only if entire arrears of interest and principal are paid by the borrower.

3.2.3 Income recognition policy for loans with moratorium on payment of interest

In cases of loans where moratorium has been granted for repayment of interest, lending institutions may recognize interest income on accrual basis for accounts which continue to be classified as 'standard'. However, income recognition norms for loans towards projects under implementation involving deferment of DCCO³ and gold loans for non-agricultural purposes⁴ shall continue to be governed as per the existing instructions.

4. Asset Classification Process

4.1 Asset Classification will be a part of day end process:

It is further clarified that borrower accounts will be flagged as overdue by the bank as part of day-end processes for the due date, irrespective of the time of running such processes. Similarly, classification of borrower accounts as SMA as well as NPA will be done as part of day-end process for the relevant date and the SMA or NPA classification date will be the calendar date for which the day end process is run. In other words, the date of SMA/NPA shall reflect the asset classification status of an account at the day-end of that calendar date.

Example:

If due date of a loan account is March 31, 2021, and full dues are not received before bank runs the day-end process for this date, the date of overdue shall be March 31, 2021. If it continues to remain overdue, then this account will be tagged as SMA-1 upon running day-end process on April 30, 2021 i.e. upon completion of 30 days of being continuously overdue. Accordingly, the date of SMA-1 classification for that account will be April 30, 2021.

Similarly, if the account continues to remain overdue, it will be tagged as SMA-2 upon running day-end process on May 30, 2021 and if continues to remain overdue further, it will be classified as NPA upon running day-end process on June 29, 2021.