

# Methodology and specifications guide

## Biofuels timing and increment guidelines

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## Introduction

S&P Global Commodity Insights' Platts assesses the value of biofuels globally using its Market on Close (MOC) assessment process, and Platts assessments are designed to reflect repeatable market value at the close of the assessment process.

In order to ensure that all firm bids and offers that still stand at the close of the MOC process have been fully tested in the market at large, Platts has established clearly defined timing guidelines and standards of incrementability that apply when publishing firm bids and offers in the MOC process.

All timings and increments have been established by Platts after an analysis of typical market movements and behavior, and as such differ among commodities and locations. Platts periodically reviews these published standards to ensure they remain relevant and appropriate, and seeks to notify market participants ahead of any change to them.

### Timing Guidelines

Timing cut-offs for the submission and subsequent publication of bids and offers are applied so that price information is available to the market in a clear and orderly manner, and to ensure that every bid and offer published by Platts is logistically executable.

Following the timing cut-off for new bids and offers, only the price and volume can be changed. In some markets, where price information and logistics may be more complex, Platts will not publish price changes to standing bids and offers close to the end of the MOC process. This is to ensure that those bids and offers fully test market value.

Following any trade, the original on-screen seller/buyer must revert immediately as to whether or not they are prepared to reoffer or rebid. An intention to rebid or reoffer must be received

by Platts within a reasonable time frame, typically 30-60 seconds after the trade depending on the specific market.

In some markets if there is a change in price to a standing bid or offer; or a rebid or reoffer following a trade, near to the close of the MOC process, this triggers an extension state. This is to adequately test the repeatability of that bid or offer.

In a Platts MOC using the eWindow communication tool, at market close the eWindow system will typically begin a withdrawal process of outstanding bids and offers consecutively at 4.30.00.000 local time in Europe and Asia and for Asia biodiesel at 6.00.00.000 local time and 2.30.00.000 ET in the US unless otherwise stated. As each bid and offer is withdrawn one by one, by 4.30.00.999 in Europe and Asia and for Asia biodiesel at 6.00.00.999 local and 2.30.00.999 in the US, all orders will have been withdrawn. Bids and offers may still trade before they have been withdrawn, and these trades would be considered valid for assessment purposes.

### Increment Guidelines

In order to ensure that all published MOC data is fully tested in the market, Platts has also established incrementability guidelines, which detail how quickly bids and offers may be improved when they have been published, and by what amount.

Platts may notify the market of any adjustment to the standard increments in the event of market volatility or a disruptive event. A market participant can withdraw a bid or offer from the Platts MOC process at any time, so long as no other potential trading counterparty has indicated that it has interest to buy or sell into the bid/offer.

The incrementability guidelines do not apply to bids and offers that are moving away from market value, though Platts analyzes bids and offers that are moved lower, and higher, respectively, to ensure reasonability.

### General Principles

Platts synchronizes its computer clocks daily in order to ensure that the cut-off points for new bids and offers, price changes and the market close are accurate. In markets using the eWindow communication tool, the eWindow clock will be used to determine the correct sequence of events when a bid or offer is amended, withdrawn or traded by an interested counterparty.

The timing guidelines are subject to change due to publication schedules, which can be found at <https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/our-methodology/holiday>. Platts may also notify the market of any adjustment to the standard increments in the event of market volatility or a disruptive event.

The timing cut-offs and standards of incrementability vary across the regions and markets assessed, and details can be found in the following tables.

The various product categories in the tables broadly cover details of individual markets. For full details on specifications, including volume and loading/delivery timings, as well as further details on Platts MOC data publishing principles, please refer to the global biofuels specifications guide at <https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/our-methodology/methodology-specifications/agriculture/biofuels-methodology>.

In product categories where the eWindow communication tool is in operation, market positions may still be entered manually via a Platts editor. In the event that a bid or offer is entered by a Platts editor on behalf of a trading entity into the eWindow system, timings and incrementability standards remain the same as those of the eWindow instrument. In the event that a bid or offer is published by a Platts editor manually, with no equivalent eWindow instrument, timings and incrementability standards revert to those of the relevant manual MOC environment.

## Europe Biofuels Timing Guidelines

Explanation of assessment guideline categories:		Outright or spreads	Physical cargoes, partials or paper swaps	Window or eWindow	Bids/offers due for window entry	Cut off for last price changes	Reaction time after a trade to repeat order	No more price changes	Market close	Repeat of an order which triggers extension of the window	Period of testing the repeatability of an order traded near close		
Region	Product	State	Environment	Pricing state	Repeatability	Final state			Extension trigger period	Extension state			
Europe	Biodiesel	Outright	Barges	Manual	3.59.59.99	4.27.59.99	Within 60 secs	4.28.00.00	4.29.59.99	4.29.40.00	4.29.59.99	4.30.00.00	4.32.59.99
Europe	Biodiesel	Spread	Barges	eWindow	4.05.00.99	4:30:00:99	Within 30 secs	N/A	4.30.00.99	4.29.40.99	4.30.00.99	4.30.01.00	4.31.00.99
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Barges	Manual	3.59.59.999	4.27.59.999	Within 60 secs	4.28.00.000	4.29.59.999	4.29.40.000	4.29.59.999	4.30.00.000	4.32.59.999
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Barges	eWindow	4.05.00.99	4:30:00:99	Within 30 secs	N/A	4.30.00.99	4.29.40.99	4.30.00.99	4.30.01.00	4.31.00.99
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Swaps	Manual	3.59.59.99	4.27.59.99	Within 60 secs	4.28.00.00	4.29.59.99	4.29.40.00	4.29.59.99	4.30.00.00	4.32.59.99

All times shown as local time in London.

## Europe Biofuels Increment Guidelines

Explanation of assessment guideline categories:		Outright or spreads	Physical cargoes, partials or paper swaps	Window or eWindow	Volume of physical or paper contract		The amount and frequency of sequential price movements necessary to test market reaction				
Region	Product	State	Environment		Volume		Increment		Unit	Frequency	
					Min	Max	Min	Max			
Europe	Biodiesel	Outright	Barges	Manual	1,000 mt	3,000 mt	25 cents	100 cents	\$/mt	per 60 secs	
Europe	Biodiesel	Spread	Barges	eWindow	1,000 mt	3,000 mt	25 cents	100 cents	\$/mt	per 20 secs	
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Barges	Manual	1,000 mt	2,000 mt	25 cents	100 cents	€/cu m	per 60 secs	
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Barges	eWindow	1,000 mt	2,000 mt	25 cents	100 cents	€/cu m	per 20 secs	
Europe	Ethanol	Outright	Swaps	Manual	1,000 mt	2,000 mt	25 cents	100 cents	€/cu m	per 60 secs	

## Americas Biofuels Timing Guidelines

Region	Product category	Outright or spreads	Market type	MOC environment	No more new bids/offers (Pricing state)	Reaction time after a trade to repeat order (repeatability)	No more price changes (Final state)	Market close	Repeat/Change of an order which triggers extension of the window (extension trigger period)	Period of testing the repeatability of an order repeated/changed near the close (Extension state)
Americas	Ethanol	Outright	Partials/Barges/Railcars	eWindow	2.00.00.000	Within 30 secs	2.29.00.000	2.30.00.999	2.29.40.000 to 2.30.00.000	2.30.01.000 to 2.31.00.999
Americas	Biodiesel	Outright	Railcars/ Truck	Window	2.00.00.00	Within 60 secs	2.28.00.00	2.30.00.00	2.29.30.00 to 2.30.00.00	2.30.00.01 to 2.32.00.00
Americas	D6 RINs	Outright	N/A	eWindow	2.00.00.000	Within 30 secs	N/A	2.30.00.999	2.29.40.000 to 2.30.00.000	2.30.01.000 to 2.31.00.999
Americas	Biodiesel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	2.00.00.00	Within 60 secs	2.28.00.00	2.30.00.00	2.29.30.00 to 2.30.00.00	2.30.00.01 to 2.32.00.00
Americas	Advanced Biofuel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	2.00.00.00	Within 60 secs	2.28.00.00	2.30.00.00	2.29.30.00 to 2.30.00.00	2.30.00.01 to 2.32.00.00
Americas	Cellulosic Biofuel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	2.00.00.00	Within 60 secs	2.28.00.00	2.30.00.00	2.29.30.00 to 2.30.00.00	2.30.00.01 to 2.32.00.00

Note: All times reflect Eastern Standard Time

## Americas Biofuels Increment Guidelines

Region	Product category	Outright or spreads	Market type	MOC environment	Min volume in each clip	Max volume in each clip	Min price movement	Max price increment
Americas	Chicago Ethanol	Outright	Partials/Railcars	eWindow	5,000 bbl	N/A	\$0.0005/gal	\$0.0010/gal per 15 secs
Americas	USAC Ethanol	Outright	Barges	eWindow	25,000 bbl	N/A	\$0.0005/gal	\$0.0025/gal per 30 secs
Americas	Houston Ethanol	Outright	Railcars/Truck	eWindow	10,000 bbl	N/A	\$0.0005/gal	\$0.0025/gal per 30 secs
Americas	R11 Ethanol	Outright	Railcars	eWindow	145,000 gal	N/A	\$0.0005/gal	\$0.0025/gal per 30 secs
Americas	California ethanol	Outright	Railcars	eWindow	145,000 gal	N/A	\$0.0005/gal	\$0.0025/gal per 30 secs
Americas	Biodiesel	Outright	Railcars/Truck	Window	150 bbl	3,000 bbl	\$0.0001/gal	\$0.0025/gal per 60 secs
Americas	D6 RINs	Outright	N/A	eWindow	500,000 RINs	N/A	\$0.0025/RIN	\$0.0025/RIN per 30 secs
Americas	Biodiesel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	250,000 RINs	N/A	\$0.0001/RIN	\$0.0025/RIN per 60 secs
Americas	Advanced Biofuel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	100,000 RINs	N/A	\$0.0001/RIN	\$0.0025/RIN per 60 secs
Americas	Cellulosic Biofuel RINs	Outright	N/A	Window	100,000 RINs	N/A	\$0.0001/RIN	\$0.0025/RIN per 60 secs

### Asia Biofuels Timing Guidelines

Explanation of assessment guideline categories:		Outright or spreads	Physical cargoes, partials or paper swaps	Window or eWindow	Bids/offers due for window entry	Cut off for last price changes	Reaction time after a trade to repeat order	No more price changes	Market close	Repeat of an order which triggers extension of the window	Period of testing the repeatability of an order traded near close		
Region	Product	State	Environment	Pricing state	Repeatability	Final state			Extension trigger period	Extension state			
Asia	Biodiesel	Outright	Cargoes	Manual	5.29.59.99	5.57.59.99	Within 60 secs	5.58.00.00	6.00.00.00	5.59.40.00	5.59.59.99	6.00.00.00	6.02.59.99
Asia	UCO/UCOME	Outright	Cargoes	eWindow	5.29.59.99	5.57.59.99	Within 60 secs	5.58.00.00	6.00.00.00	5.59.40.00	5.59.59.99	6.00.00.00	6.02.59.99
Asia	Ethanol	Outright	Cargoes	Manual	3.59.59.99	4.27.59.99	Within 60 secs	4.28.00.00	4.30.00.00	4.29.40.00	4.29.59.99	4.30.00.00	4.32.59.99

All times shown as local time in Singapore.

### Asia Biofuels Increment Guidelines

Explanation of assessment guideline categories:		Outright or spreads	Physical cargoes, partials or paper swaps	Window or eWindow	Volume of physical or paper contract			The amount and frequency of sequential price movements necessary to test market reaction				
Region	Product	State	Environment	Volume	Min	Max	Days ahead	Increment	Min	Max	Unit	Frequency
Asia	Biodiesel	Outright	Cargoes	Manual	2,000 mt	10,000 mt	1 calendar month from date of publication	25 cents	100 cents	\$/mt	per 60 secs	
Asia	UCO	Outright	Cargoes	eWindow	2,500 mt	5,000 mt	20 to 40 days from date of publication	100 cents	500 cents	\$/mt	per 60 secs	
Asia	UCOME	Outright	Cargoes	eWindow	2,500 mt	10,000 mt	20 to 40 days from date of publication	100 cents	500 cents	\$/mt	per 60 secs	
Asia	Ethanol	Outright	Cargoes	Manual	3,000 cu m	5,000 cu m	30 to 75 days from date of publication	25 cents	100 cents	\$/cu m	per 60 secs	

## Revision history

**March 2023:** Platts added increment ability and time stamp for Asia UCO and UCOME to the guide.

**October 2022:** Platts completed an annual review of this guide, reviewing all content, correcting typos, and making edits to language throughout.

**September 2021:** Platts completed an annual review of this methodology guide and made minor edits to the language for greater clarity.

**October 2020:** Platts completed an annual review of this guide. Platts reviewed all content, corrected typos and made minor edits to language. The guide was updated to reflect the change to the time stamp and assessed laycan for the FOB Southeast Asia biodiesel assessment. In the Americas, the table was updated to reflect the launch of eWindow instruments and timings for the California ethanol market.

**April 2020:** Updated to include timings for Americas California ethanol manual MOC process

**November 2019:** Platts completed an annual review of this guide. Platts reviewed all content and corrected typos. A new Introduction section was added at the beginning of the guide to provide context to the timing and increment tables. The tables were also revamped for further clarity.

**July 2019:** Platts updated incrementability for Platts Chicago Argo terminal assessment.

**November 2016:** Annual Review: Americas Increment Guideline for R11 was added and Americas Timing Guidelines for D6 RINs was updated.

**July 2016:** Updated all timings for the Americas MOC to reflect new close time of 2:30 pm Eastern Time.

**April 2016:** Updated to reflect new D6 RIN eWindow timings and increment guidelines.

**March 2016:** Updated guidelines for minimum increment timings for US ethanol eWindow to reflect correct minimum.

**May 2015:** Changes timing guidelines for EMEA T2 ethanol barges outright, and timing and increment guidelines for EMEA biodiesel barges spread; both changed to reflect correct eWindow timings.

**August 2014:** Platts revamped all Biofuel Methodology And Specifications Guides, adding a Biofuel Timing & Increments Guidelines, in August 2014. This revamp was completed to enhance the clarity and usefulness of all guides, and to introduce greater consistency of layout and structure across all published methodology guides. Methodologies for market coverage were not changed through this revamp, unless specifically noted in the methodology guide itself.