

Consumer Education Literature: FAQs on IRACP Norms

1. What is the meaning of the term 'Dues'?

The term 'Dues' mean, 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. What is the meaning of the term 'Over Dues'?

'Over Dues' mean the principal/interest/any charges levied on the loan account which are payable, but have not been paid on or before the period stipulated as per the terms of sanction of the credit facility.

3. What is 'Overdue' in the context of a loan with the lending institution?

Any amount due to the lending institution under any credit facility is 'Overdue' if it is not paid on or before the Due date fixed by the lending institution.

4. What is a 'Stressed Account'?

Borrowers are required to pay the EMI/Instalment/interest at periodic intervals as per the terms agreed before availing of the loan. In case such EMI/Instalments/interest dues are not paid on or before the due date on agreed terms, such account is called as a 'Stressed Account'.

5. What is a 'Special Mention Account' (SMA)?

A Loan account showing symptoms of stress as evidenced by a default in payment of dues will be classified as 'Special Mention Accounts' (SMA). Such accounts if not regularised within 90 days gets classified as 'Non Performing Asset' (NPA).

6. How SMA are categorised?

SMA's are classified under following Sub-categories as under:

Loans other than revolving facilities		Loans in thenature of revolving facilities like cash credit/overdraft	
SMA Sub-categories	Basis for classification – Principal or interest payment or any other amount wholly or partly overdue between:	SMA Sub-categories	Basis for classification – Outstanding balance remains continuously in excess of the sanctioned limit or drawing power, whichever is lower, for a period of:
SMA-0	Up to 30 days		
SMA-1	More than 30 days and up to 60 days	SMA-1	More than 30 days and up to 60 days
SMA-2	More than 60 days and up to 90 days	SMA-2	More than 60 days and up to 90 days

7. What are Non-performing Assets:

In a credit facility(ies) where stress/delinquency/short comings as indicated below are observed, such borrowal accounts are classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA).

- a. Interest and/or instalment of principal remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in respect of a term loan.
- b. The bill remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in the case of bills purchased and discounted.

- c. Agricultural Loans: The instalment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for two crop seasons in respect of short duration crops, and remains overdue for one crop season in respect long duration crops.
- d. The account remains 'out of order' in respect of an Overdraft/Cash Credit (OD/CC) facility as under:
 - 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'.

(Note: The 'Previous 90 days period' for determination of 'out of order' status of CC/OD account shall be inclusive of the day for which the day-end-process is being run by the lending institution.)
- e. An account where the regular/ad hoc credit limits have not been reviewed/renewed within 180 days from the due date/date of ad hoc sanction.
- f. Where Loans/Limits have been sanctioned against the Security of Stock & Book Debts, and, in such cases, if the position of such Stock & Book Debts is not submitted to the lenders to determine the Drawing Power, the outstanding in the account based on the Drawing Power calculated from Stock & Book Debts Statement older than three months would be deemed as 'irregular', and, if such irregularity exists for a continuous period of 90 days, the account will be classified as NPA.

8. Give Examples for classification of a loan as SMA-0, SMA-1, SMA-2 and NPA:

8.1 In respect of accounts where EMI Instalments are payable:

Example: If due date of a loan account is 31 March 2022, and full dues are not received before the lending institution runs the day-end process for this date, the date of overdue shall be 31 March 2022 and the account will be classified as SMA-0 as on 31.03.2022. If it continues to remain overdue, then this account shall get tagged as SMA-1 upon running day-end process on 30 April 2022 i.e. upon completion of 30 days of being continuously overdue. Accordingly, the date of SMA-1 classification for that account shall be 30 April 2022.

Similarly, if the account continues to remain overdue, it shall get tagged as SMA-2 upon running day-end process on 30 May 2022 and if continues to remain overdue further, it shall get classified as NPA upon running day-end process on 29 June 2022.

8.2 In respect of accounts in the nature of revolving facilities like cash credit/overdraft the account turns into an NPA when:

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'.

(Note: The 'Previous 90 days period' for determination of out of order' status of CC/OD account shall be inclusive of the day for which the day-end-process is being run by the lending institution).

8.3 Renewal Pending:

Regular and ad hoc credit limits need to be reviewed/regularized not later than three months from the due date/date of ad hoc sanction. In case of constraints such as non-availability of financial statements and other data from the borrowers, the branch should furnish evidence to show that renewal/review of credit limits is already on and would be completed soon. In any case, delay beyond six months is not considered desirable as a general discipline. Hence, an account where the regular/ad hoc credit limits have not been reviewed/renewed within 180 days from the due date/date of ad hoc sanction will be treated as NPA.

If the due date for renewal is 31.03.2022 and if the limit is not renewed till 26 September 2022, such account will be classified as NPA during Day end Process run on 26.09.2022.

8.4 Non Submission of Stock & Book Debt Statement:

If a CC/OD account is sanctioned against hypothecation of Stock & Book Debts, the borrower has to submit the Stock & Book Debt statements periodically to facilitate lenders to determine Drawing Power under the account. The outstanding in the account based on the Drawing Power calculated from Stock & Book Debts statements older than three months would be deemed as 'irregular'. If such irregularity exists for a continuous period of 90 days, the account will be classified as NPA.

9. At what periodicity the lending institutions undertake the classification of Accounts as SMA or NPA?

Lending institutions undertake the process of classification of Accounts as SMA NPA on daily basis during the Day-end-Process.

10. Whether all loan accounts of the borrower is classified as NPA if one of his loan account turns NPA?

Yes, NPA classification is borrower wise and not account wise. Hence if one loan account of the borrower is classified as NPA, all other loan accounts of the borrower also will be classified as NPA.

11. Whether amount paid/deposited during the day is considered during the NPA marking process?

Credits received before the day-end-process are considered for calculation of delinquency at the time of undertaking the Asset Classification process. Any credit received subsequently are treated as receipts for the subsequent day.

12. How borrower accounts are upgraded to regular status after being classified as NPA?

A loan account, classified as NPA will be upgraded to Standard Asset only upon regularization of all loan accounts of the borrower having arrears and rectification of attendant irregularities relating to Review/Renewal & Stock & Book Debts of the borrowal account.

13. What is the impact on the borrower if account is slipped to Stress/NPA?

As per the regulatory guidelines Bank has to report Stress/Default/NPA to Central Repository Information of Large Credit (CRILC), Credit Information Companies etc. from time to time which impact the credit history of the borrowers and attendant repercussions.

(Note: It is to be noted that the content of consumer education as stated above is illustrative in nature and as such, the IRACP norms and clarifications provided by RBI will prevail for implementation from time to time).