



Principles & Practices of Financial  
Management for Momentum Metropolitan  
Life Limited's Multi-Manager Smooth  
Growth Fund Range

**momentum**  
corporate

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# 1. Introduction

This document sets out the Principles and Practices of Financial Management (“PPFM”) of the smooth bonus products listed in section 1.1 below underwritten by Momentum Metropolitan Life Limited (hereinafter referred to as “the Insurer”). This introduction and any subsequent introductory sections are provided as background information and do not constitute Principles or Practices.

## 1.1. Business covered by this PPFM

This PPFM applies to the following fully vested and partially vested smooth bonus products, including additional bonus series that are launched under any of these products, underwritten by the Insurer:

### Partially vested:

- Momentum Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund Global
- Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund

### Fully vested:

- Momentum Multi-Manager Secure Growth Fund Global

The partially vested smooth bonus products declare monthly final bonuses in advance, consisting of vesting and non-vesting components. The fully vested smooth bonus product declares monthly final bonuses in advance consisting of a vesting component only.

The Principles and Practices of Financial Management for the other discretionary participation products underwritten by the Insurer are covered in separate PPFM documents.

## 1.2. Purpose of the Principles and Practices of Financial Management

All long-term insurers that carry on discretionary participation business are required, in terms of Directive 147.A.i (LT) issued by the Financial Services Board on 4 December 2006, to define, and make publicly available, the Principles and Practices of Financial Management (“PPFM”) that they apply in the management of their discretionary participation business.

In managing discretionary participation business, insurance companies rely on their ability to use discretion, particularly in the investment strategy, as well as smoothing and bonus policies. The purpose of this document is to:

- explain the nature and extent of the discretion used by the Insurer;
- show how the Insurer manages conflicting interests or expectations of different groups of policyholders, and of policyholders and shareholders, to ensure that all parties are treated fairly;
- give advisers and policyholders a better understanding of the possible risks and rewards to be expected from taking out a discretionary participation policy.

Managing discretionary participation products relies on a high degree of trust between policyholders and the Insurer. Decisions will be taken with the intention of being in the best interests of policyholders and the sustainability of the portfolios.

The Principles define the overarching standards, and describe the business model the Insurer adopts to manage discretionary participation products and to respond to longer-term changes in the business and economic environment.

The Practices describe the Insurer's approach to managing discretionary participation products and respond to changes in the business and economic environment in the shorter-term.

The Principles and Practices will be revised from time to time. The Insurer will inform policyholders of any changes to the Principles at least three months in advance of the effective date of the change. Policyholders will also be informed of any changes to the Practices within a reasonable period after any changes have taken effect.

It should be noted that the PPFM should not be read as a document providing advice on whether or not to invest in discretionary participation products. This document is intended only to provide information regarding the management of these products and any individual/group considering this as an investment opportunity should still seek financial advice in this regard.

**This document, together with a short summary, is available on our website:**

<https://www.momentum.co.za/for/business/products/employee-benefits-corporate/investments-and-annuities/principles-and-practices>

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### 1.3. Governance

The Insurer's Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of discretionary participation business. This includes the investment of underlying assets, the bonus distribution policy and the approval of any changes to the PPFM. For this purpose, the Board has set up a committee, the Discretionary Participation Committee (DPC), to consider the interests of discretionary participation policyholders and to monitor the Insurer's compliance with the PPFM. The DPC reports to the Board in this regard regularly, and at least annually. The Board must report on the extent to which they conduct their business in line with the PPFM in the annual statutory return.

The Board also ensures that monitoring is done at designated management committees. The duties of these committees include:

- Approve new product developments, or significant changes to existing products, after considering aspects such as fairness, capital requirements and bonus philosophy.
- Review products' bonus performance and asset allocations on a regular basis and report to executive management in this regard.
- Approve investment mandates, review them periodically, monitor performance against benchmarks and oversee the investment management process.

The bonus rates for smooth bonus products are declared monthly. The Board has delegated the responsibility for approval of these bonus rates to the Head of Actuarial Function. The Head of Actuarial Function reports to the Board annually in this regard.

## 2. Principles

The Insurer applies the following Principles in managing its smooth bonus business:

### 2.1. Contractual and legislative conditions

- The Insurer will adhere to the contractual obligations as set out in policy contracts, as well as to any legal and regulatory requirements. If there are any inconsistencies between these and this document, contractual and legal requirements take precedence.

### 2.2. Bonus declarations

- Monthly final bonus rates are set with the aim of providing a smoothed build-up of benefits over time.
- Vesting bonuses become guaranteed additions to the vested policy benefits.
- All policyholders will receive the bonus rate applicable to the bonus series in which they are invested.
- There will be no cross-subsidisation between different bonus series or products.
- There will, however, be cross-subsidisation between different generations of policyholders within a particular bonus series. This is an implicit feature of smooth bonus products.
- The bonuses declared for a particular product will be independent of bonuses declared for any other products.

### 2.3. Charges

- A capital/risk charge is levied on the underlying assets of a product to provide the Insurer with a return on its capital employed to support the guarantees inherent in the product. The capital/risk charge may be different for different products and policy conditions.
- A policy fee is also levied to compensate the Insurer for the services provided in the management and administration of the smooth bonus products.
- In addition to the policy fee and capital charge described above, management fees and performance fees may be payable by the Insurer to the managers of the underlying assets

as set out in the agreements between the Insurer and the managers.

- Charges can be amended subject to the provisions of the policy contracts.

#### **2.4. Surplus sharing**

- All surplus arising within the smooth bonus products will be retained for the sole benefit of existing and future policyholders in the smooth bonus products. The Insurer is not entitled to any surplus arising within the smooth bonus products.
- Products are managed on a stand-alone basis and do not participate in the profits or surplus of any other area of the business.

#### **2.5. Investment strategy**

- Underlying assets of the smooth bonus products are invested in a broad range of asset types which may include equities, bonds, property, cash and alternative investments.
- The allocations to different asset types will reflect the return objectives and guarantees of the different smooth bonus products.
- Each product's assets will be held separately from other products and will be clearly identifiable.
- The availability of suitable assets will influence the investment strategy.

#### **2.6. New business and inflows**

- A product / bonus series may be closed to new policyholders or inflows from existing policyholders if it is deemed that the cross-subsidy between new policyholders or inflows from existing policyholders and existing holdings in the product / bonus series will be unacceptably high.
- If a product / bonus series has been closed to new policyholders or inflows from existing policyholders, then a new bonus series may be opened for new policyholders and/or inflows from existing policyholders.

## **2.7. Partial disinvestments and terminations**

- Market value adjustments may be applied on partial disinvestments and termination. This is done to protect the interests of the remaining policyholders.
- For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, any surplus arising within a product on termination will be retained for the benefit of existing and future policyholders in the product. In this context, surplus is defined as the excess market value remaining once a policyholder has been paid out on termination. A separate market value is not held per policyholder for the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund. Therefore there will be no surplus arising on termination within the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund.
- The terms applicable to both partial disinvestments and termination will be as set out in the policy contracts.
- No additional charges will be levied on payments to policyholders, except as set out in the policy contracts.

## **2.8. Transfers between products**

- Policyholders may transfer their fund values between different products.
- For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, part or all of the difference between the policyholder's fund value and market value may be transferred with the fund value. A separate market value is not held per policyholder for the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund. In the event of a transfer from the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, part of the surplus of the product may be transferred with the fund value. The transfer of this difference will be done such that the transferring product will not be prejudiced by the transfer
- For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, part of any accumulated surplus that has arisen from previous terminations may be transferred with the fund value. The transfer of any accumulated surplus will be done such that the transferring product will not be prejudiced by the transfer. There is no surplus arising on termination in the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund and therefore there would be no accumulated surplus that has arisen from terminations.

- Transfers into a product will be subject to the Principles applicable to new business and inflows.
- The terms applicable to transfers will be as set out in the policy contracts.

## **2.9. Merger of products / bonus series**

- The Insurer may merge different products when the funding levels, investment objectives and the nature and level of guarantees of the respective products are sufficiently similar to allow them to be managed as a single product.
- The Insurer may merge different bonus series of a product when the funding levels of the respective bonus series are sufficiently similar to allow them to be managed as a single bonus series.

## **3. Practices**

### **3.1 How are policies administered?**

A separate fund value is held for each policyholder in a product. A policyholder's fund value is increased by premiums and bonuses and decreased by benefits, partial disinvestments, termination and charges. In the case of partially vesting products, the fund value may also be decreased by the removal of non-vesting bonuses under certain conditions (see section 3.3).

With the exception of the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, a separate market value is also held for each policyholder in a product. A policyholder's market value is made up of premiums, benefit payments, partial disinvestments, termination and charges accumulated with returns on the underlying assets of the product. The policyholder's funding level is defined as the policyholder's market value divided by the policyholder's fund value. A separate market value is not held for each policyholder under the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund. Furthermore, the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund does not track a policyholder funding level but instead only tracks a product funding level.

### **3.2 When and how are bonuses declared?**

Final monthly bonuses are declared in advance and may consist of a vesting component and where applicable a non-vesting component. For the fully vesting products, only vesting bonuses are declared. Monthly total and vesting bonuses are subject to a minimum of 0%, net of the policy fee. Bonuses target long-term inflation related returns, which are then adjusted by taking into account the underlying experience as implied by the products' current funding levels.

The bonus smoothing process results in monthly bonuses being different from the monthly returns earned on the underlying assets. The smoothing process will decrease returns to policyholders during times of above average investment returns, as some of the returns will be held back for future distribution, and will increase returns to policyholders during times of below average investment returns. The period over which the surplus is distributed or deficit recovered is dependent on the funding level and the smoothing philosophy of the particular product. Surpluses or deficits can arise from a number of contributory factors, including but not limited to, actual cash inflows and outflows from the product being different from expected, actual investment market conditions being different from expected and any profits/losses arising in the trading of the underlying assets of the products. The

higher the level of investment returns earned, the greater will be the proportion of total bonus declared that is non-vesting (where applicable).

A bonus smoothing formula is used to assist in the declaration of bonuses. The purpose of the formula is to provide an element of objectivity in the bonus declarations. The structure of the smoothing formulae used will be reviewed and adjusted when necessary to ensure that they continue to meet the objectives of the respective products. The assumptions, parameters and methods used to determine the monthly bonuses can be changed to:

- comply with any new legislative or regulatory requirements or guidance;
- ensure that the smooth bonus products can meet their reserving and capital adequacy requirements at all times;
- allow for the possible use of new financial management techniques; and
- respond to changes in financial markets and/or economic conditions.

The Insurer reserves the right to stop using any bonus smoothing formulae during periods of exceptional market conditions.

### **3.3 Are bonuses guaranteed once declared?**

Vesting bonuses are fully guaranteed and cannot be removed. The Insurer may however remove non-vesting bonuses (in whole or in part) if a product's funding level falls below the 100% level and there is no reasonable prospect of restoring it to an acceptable level within a reasonable period of time.

On 30 June and 31 December each year, a percentage of the non-vested account may be transferred to the vested account. The Insurer reserves the right to adjust this percentage depending on the financial position of the respective products and prevailing investment market conditions. The percentages transferred may be different for different products.

### **3.4 Charges**

Policy fees and other fees and charges are specified in the policy contracts. The policy fee and capital charge are set to remain stable over the long term and are only expected to be changed infrequently. The declared monthly bonuses are net of the capital charge and management fees and performance fees that are paid directly from the underlying assets but gross of the policy fees.

### **3.5 Surplus sharing**

Any surplus arising in a product / bonus series will remain within that product / bonus series. For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, such surplus may be held as a separately identifiable reserve in the product. Although all surplus arising does remain in the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, it is not held in a separately identifiable reserve.

### **3.6 How are the underlying assets invested?**

Given the nature and term of the liabilities and the inflation-related return objective, the investment strategy is built on those asset classes that are most likely to provide a real return over the long-term.

The existence of non-vesting bonuses within certain products implies that the investment strategy of such products may have significant exposure to equities and property versus fixed interest investments.

The underlying assets are actively managed by various asset managers in accordance with investment mandates and guidelines specified by the Insurer.

The areas of importance covered by the investment mandates may include:

- The approved asset classes that must be invested in to ensure an appropriately diversified investment strategy;
- Target percentage allocations for each of these asset classes;
- Asset allocation ranges - the minimum and maximum limits for each asset class that the investments must comply with;
- Benchmarks against which the performance of each asset class is measured;
- Limitations on credit and counterparty exposures; and
- The use of derivatives.

Derivative instruments or liability driven investment strategies can be used to reduce risk and improve the management of the portfolio.

Securities lending can be used to enhance the investment returns on the underlying assets subject to regulatory limits. Any losses arising from these transactions are borne by the shareholder, while any income arising (net of associated expense) will be shared between the shareholders and policyholders.

More information about the asset allocations and asset managers of the different smooth bonus products can be obtained from the fund fact sheets of the products. The fund fact sheets are published on a monthly basis and are available on the Insurer's website.

### **3.7 New business**

The funding level of a product will rarely be equal to 100%. Inflows into a product with a funding level that is different from 100% will result in cross-subsidies between new inflows and existing holdings. Although such cross-subsidy is an inherent and accepted feature of smooth bonus products, the cross-subsidy must be kept within reasonable limits. This can, in part, be achieved by closing a product to further inflows from new and/or existing policyholders. A product is likely to be closed to new inflows when the funding level is significantly above or below 100%. Different closure rules may apply to different products.

The product will typically be reopened again when the funding level has moved closer to 100%. A new bonus series in the same product may be opened for new inflows if an existing bonus series is closed to new inflows. This new bonus series will be treated as a separate product in terms of this PPFM. The multiple bonus series under a product will be merged once the funding levels of the bonus series have converged sufficiently

### **3.8 What happens if policyholders want to terminate their policies?**

For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, if a policyholder's funding level equals or exceeds 100%, payments are guaranteed at the policyholder's fund value for both partial disinvestments and terminations. If a policyholder's funding level is below 100%, then part or all of the partial disinvestment or termination value may be subject to a market value adjustment.

For the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, if the product's funding level equals or exceeds 100%, all payments are guaranteed at the policyholder's fund value for both partial disinvestments and terminations. However if the product's funding level is below 100%, then part or all of the partial disinvestment or full termination may be subject to a market value adjustment.

### **3.9 What happens if policyholders want to transfer their fund value to another smooth bonus product?**

A policyholder may transfer his fund value to some of the other smooth bonus products operated by the Insurer. The list of the smooth bonus portfolios to where transfers are allowed may change from time to time and can be obtained from the Insurer.

The policyholder's vested and non-vested fund values will be transferred to the receiving smooth bonus product. For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, part or all of the difference between the policyholder's fund value and market value may also be transferred with the fund value. A separate market value is not held per policyholder for the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund. In the event of a transfer from the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund part of the surplus of the product may be transferred with the fund value. This difference will be determined such that the transferring product will not be prejudiced by the transfer. For all products except the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund, part of any accumulated surplus that has arisen from previous terminations may be transferred with the fund value. The transfer of any accumulated surplus will be done such that the transferring product will not be prejudiced by the transfer. There is no surplus arising on termination in the Momentum Universal Multi-Manager Smooth Growth Fund and therefore there would be no accumulated surplus that has arisen from terminations.

Transfers into a product are subject to any normal restrictions that may apply to new business and inflows.

### **3.10 Merger of products**

Products / bonus series may be merged under the following circumstances:

- A product has reduced to a size that makes it unviable for it to continue to be managed separately. It will then be in the best interest of the policyholders as a group that the product is combined with a larger product that is sufficiently similar in terms of return objectives, guarantees and mandate.
- When a product is closed to new inflows, the Insurer may open a new bonus series under the same product to accommodate new inflows. The two bonus series of the same product will be merged once the funding levels of the two bonus series have converged sufficiently.

## 4. Glossary of Terms

<b>Board</b>	means the Board of Directors of the Insurer.
<b>Discretionary participation business</b>	This included products which have features that rely on the ability of the insurer to use discretion to manage them, in particular over the underlying assets, smoothing and bonus policies. These products are typically ones where premiums are invested in a pooled fund made up of a range of assets, a significant portion of which are usually in the form of equities, and where allocations to policies are smoothed to cushion policyholders from short-term fluctuations in asset prices or other possible experience variations. Guarantees may furthermore apply, which may increase over the lifetime of a policy.
<b>Discretionary Participation Committee (DPC)</b>	is a sub-committee of the Board responsible for considering the interests of discretionary participation policyholders and for monitoring the Insurer's compliance with the PPFM.
<b>Insurer</b>	Is Momentum Metropolitan Life Limited.
<b>Investments returns</b>	Realised and unrealised gains in the market value of underlying assets, as well as income from underlying assets including interests, dividends and rent.
<b>Market value adjustment</b>	refers to a reduction in the policyholder's fund value that may occur on partial disinvestment or full termination.
<b>Non – vesting bonuses</b>	are non-guaranteed bonuses. The Insurer may remove these bonuses if a product's funding level falls below the 100% level and there is no reasonable prospect of restoring it to an acceptable level within a reasonable period of time.
<b>Policyholder's fund value</b>	is made up of the policyholder's premiums and benefit payments, partial disinvestments, termination and charges, all accumulated with the bonuses of the product.

<b>Policyholder's funding level</b>	is the policyholder's market value divided by the policyholder's fund value. A policyholder funding level is not tracked for the Momentum Universal Smooth Growth Fund.
<b>Policyholder's market value</b>	is made up of the policyholder's premiums and benefit payments, partial disinvestments, termination and charges, all accumulated with actual returns on the underlying assets of the product. A policyholder market value is not tracked for the Momentum Universal Smooth Growth Fund.
<b>Product's fund value</b>	is made up of all premiums, benefit payments, partial disinvestment, termination and charges of the product accumulated with the bonuses of the product.
<b>Product's funding level</b>	is the product's market value divided by the product's fund value.
<b>Product's market value</b>	is made up of all premiums, benefit payments, partial disinvestments, termination and charges of the product accumulated with actual returns on the underlying assets of the product.
<b>Head of Actuarial Function</b>	As defined in the Prudential Standard Governance of Insurers (GOI) 3
<b>Surplus</b>	is the excess of a product's market value over a product's fund value. A surplus can also be negative, i.e. a deficit.
<b>Vesting bonuses</b>	are bonuses that are guaranteed and cannot be removed.

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