

---

## **MSCI to Refine Certain Withholding Tax Rates Rules Applied to MSCI Net Daily Total Return Indices**

**Geneva – September 15, 2009** - MSCI Inc (NYSE: MXB), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, including indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics, announced today that following the feedback received from the investment community, it will change certain withholding tax rates applied to the MSCI Net Daily Total Return (DTR) Indices, effective December 1, 2009.

Currently, MSCI applies a withholding tax rate on dividends based upon the company's country of classification in the MSCI Indices. In most cases, the MSCI country of classification of a company is the same than its country of incorporation. In a limited number of cases, the MSCI country of classification differs from the country of incorporation (as described in the Appendix III of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indices Methodology book).

Effective December 1, 2009, MSCI will use companies' country of incorporation (instead of the MSCI country of classification) to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates to be applied in the MSCI Net DTR Indices. The withholding tax rate used in the MSCI Net DTR Indices will therefore be the maximum rate prevailing in the company's country of incorporation applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties.

In cases where the withholding tax rate in the company's country of incorporation is higher than in the MSCI country of classification, MSCI will make a specific analysis to determine the actual withholding tax rate applied to non-resident institutional investors.

MSCI will review companies' countries of incorporation on a semi-annual basis and make changes, if any, to withholding tax rates coinciding with the May and November Semi-Annual Index Reviews.

In addition, in the first calendar quarter of 2010, MSCI will add a new field in the MSCI Net DTR products to show the withholding tax rates at security level.

The special treatment of withholding tax rates in China (based on the share types) as stated in the Appendix VI of the MSCI Index Calculation Methodology book will be maintained and will not be affected by the new rule.

The MSCI Gross DTR Indices will not be affected by the new rule because withholding taxes are only used in the MSCI Net DTR Indices.

MSCI will provide the final list of impacted securities to its clients coinciding with the November 2009 Semi-Annual Index Review announcements.

###

## About MSCI Inc.

MSCI Inc. is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investment institutions worldwide. MSCI Inc. products include indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics for use in managing equity, fixed income and multi-asset class portfolios.

The company's flagship products are the MSCI International Equity Indices, which include over 120,000 indices calculated daily across more than 70 countries, and the Barra risk models and portfolio analytics, which cover 56 equity and 46 fixed income markets. MSCI Inc. is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world.

**For further information on MSCI Inc., please visit our web site at [www.msclubarra.com](http://www.msclubarra.com)**

### For media enquiries please contact:

Sally Todd   Clare Milton, Penrose Financial, London	+ 44.20.7786.4888
Pen Pendleton   Patrick Clifford, Abernathy MacGregor, New York	+ 1.212.371.5999

### MSCI Barra Global Client Service:

Joe Pivarunas, MSCI Barra, London	+ 44.20.7618.2222
Elizabeth Turner, MSCI Barra, New York	+ 1.212.804.3901
Jackson Wang, MSCI Barra, San Francisco	+ 1.415.576.2323
Abbie Bao, MSCI Barra, Hong Kong	+ 852.2844.9333
Masao Ikeda, MSCI Barra, Tokyo	+ 813.5226.8222

- This document and all of the information contained in it, including without limitation all text, data, graphs, charts (collectively, the "Information") is the property of MSCI Inc. ("MSCI"), Barra, Inc. ("Barra"), or their affiliates (including without limitation Financial Engineering Associates, Inc.) (alone or with one or more of them, "MSCI Barra"), or their direct or indirect suppliers or any third party involved in the making or compiling of the Information (collectively, the "MSCI Barra Parties"), as applicable, and is provided for informational purposes only. The Information may not be reproduced or disseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI or Barra, as applicable.
- The Information may not be used to verify or correct other data, to create indices, risk models or analytics, or in connection with issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles based on, linked to, tracking or otherwise derived from any MSCI or Barra product or data.
- **Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction.**
- **None of the Information constitutes an offer to sell (or a solicitation of an offer to buy), or a promotion or recommendation of, any security, financial product or other investment vehicle or any trading strategy, and none of the MSCI Barra Parties endorses, approves or otherwise expresses any opinion regarding any issuer, securities, financial products or instruments or trading strategies. None of the Information, MSCI Barra indices, models or other products or services is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such.**
- The user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information.
- NONE OF THE MSCI BARRA PARTIES MAKES ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION (OR THE RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE USE THEREOF), AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, MSCI AND BARRA, EACH ON THEIR BEHALF AND ON THE BEHALF OF EACH MSCI BARRA PARTY, HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ORIGINALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE INFORMATION.
- Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the maximum extent permitted by law, in no event shall any of the MSCI Barra Parties have any liability regarding any of the Information for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential (including lost profits) or any other damages even if notified of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not by applicable law be excluded or limited, including without limitation (as applicable), any liability for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from the negligence or willful default of itself, its servants, agents or sub-contractors.
- Any use of or access to products, services or information of MSCI or Barra or their subsidiaries requires a license from MSCI or Barra, or their subsidiaries, as applicable. MSCI, Barra, MSCI Barra, EAFE, Aegis, Cosmos, BarraOne, and all other MSCI and Barra

---

product names are the trademarks, registered trademarks, or service marks of MSCI, Barra or their affiliates, in the United States and other jurisdictions. The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. "Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)" is a service mark of MSCI and Standard & Poor's.