

September 30, 2022

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited: Provisional [ICRA]AAA(SO) assigned to PTC Series A backed by vehicle loan receivables issued by DBS VF Platinum Trust Sep 2022 III; Provisional [ICRA]BBB+(SO) assigned to second loss facility

Summary of rating action

Trust Name	Instrument*	Current Rated Amount (Rs. crore)	Rating Action
DBS VF Platinum Trust Sep 2022 III	PTC Series A	386.86	Provisional [ICRA]AAA(SO); Assigned
	Second Loss Facility	14.51	Provisional [ICRA]BBB+(SO); Assigned

*Instrument details are provided in Annexure I

Rating in the absence of pending actions/documents	No rating would have been assigned as it would not be meaningful
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Rationale

ICRA has assigned provisional ratings to the pass-through certificates (PTCs) and second loss facility (SLF) issued under a securitisation transaction originated by Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited {CIFCL; rated [ICRA]AA+ (Stable)}. The PTCs are backed by a pool of Rs. 386.86-crore (pool principal; receivables of Rs. 472.24 crore) vehicle loan receivables.

The provisional ratings are based on the strength of the cash flows from the selected pool of contracts, CIFCL's track record in the vehicle loan business and the credit enhancement available in the form of (i) a credit collateral (CC) of 6.75% of the pool principal to be provided by the originator, (ii) subordination of the entire excess interest spread (EIS) in the structure, as well as the integrity of the legal structure. The ratings are subject to the fulfilment of all the conditions under the structure and the review of the documentation pertaining to the transaction by ICRA.

Key rating drivers

Credit strengths

- Established position in vehicle finance market backed by its strong franchisee base and fairly diverse product portfolio
- Availability of credit enhancement in the form of EIS and cash collateral (CC)
- Absence of delinquent contracts in the pool as on the cut-off date
- Average seasoning of around 11 months

Credit challenges

- Proportion of contracts with loan-to-value (LTV) ratio of more than 80% is high at ~77%
- Pool's performance will remain exposed to any fresh disruptions that may arise due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Description of key rating drivers highlighted above

According to the transaction structure, the loan pool receivables will be assigned at par to the PTC investors. The monthly cash flow schedule comprises the promised interest payment to PTC Series A at the predetermined interest rate on the principal outstanding and the promised principal (100% of the pool principal billed). Any surplus EIS after making the payments to Series A PTCs will flow back to the originator on a monthly basis. The cash collateral will be used for any shortfall in the interest payment in any month and for any shortfall in the payment of the promised principal.

The first line of support for meeting the scheduled PTC payouts is the subordination of the EIS in the structure. Further credit support is available through a CC of 6.75% of the initial pool principal amount (Rs. 26.11 crore). The CC will be split into a first loss facility (FLF) amounting to Rs. 11.61 crore (3.00% of initial pool principal) and a second loss facility (SLF) amounting to Rs. 14.51 crore (3.75% of initial pool principal).

There are no overdues in the pool as on the cut-off date. It is characterised by contracts with a weighted average seasoning of 11.1 months and is well diversified with low obligator concentration. The pool consists of only vehicle loan contracts and comprises new and used medium and heavy commercial vehicle (New MHCV; ~20% and Used MHCV; ~7%) and new and used light commercial vehicle (New LCV; ~69% and Used LCV; ~4%) loans. It has a high share of contracts with an LTV ratio of more than 80%. Further, the performance of the pool would remain exposed to any fresh disruptions that may arise on account of the pandemic.

Past rated pools: ICRA has ratings outstanding on three vehicle finance PTC transactions as of September 2022. Overall, the performance of all live pools has remained healthy till the August 2022 payouts. Any CC utilisation in the past has been fully topped up in subsequent months and there has been no CC utilisation in the past 12 months.

Key rating assumptions

ICRA's cash flow modelling for rating asset-backed securitisation (ABS) transactions involves the simulation of potential delinquencies, losses (shortfall in principal collection during the tenor of the pool) and prepayments in the pool. The assumptions for the loss and coefficient of variation (CoV) are arrived at after taking into account the performance of the originator's portfolio as well as the characteristics of the specific pool being evaluated. Additionally, the assumptions may be adjusted to factor in the current operating environment and any industry-specific factors that ICRA believes could impact the performance of the underlying pool of contracts.

After making these adjustments, the expected mean shortfall in principal collection during the tenure of the pool is estimated at 2.50-3.50% of the initial pool principal, with certain variability around it. The average prepayment rate for the underlying pool is estimated 12.0% p.a.

Liquidity position

For PTC Series A: Superior

The liquidity of the rated transaction is expected to be superior, supported by the healthy collections expected from the pool of contracts and the presence of a CC amounting to 6.75% of the pool principal amount. Even assuming a monthly collection efficiency of only 50% in the underlying pool of contracts in a stress scenario, the CC would cover the shortfalls in the scheduled PTC payouts for a period of five months.

For SLF: Adequate

An FLF is available in the transaction, amounting to 3.00% of the pool principal amount, along with the EIS for the top-up of the SLF if needed, as per the defined waterfall mechanism.

Rating sensitivities

Positive factors – Not applicable for the PTCs; the rating for the SLF can be upgraded on the sustained strong collection performance of the underlying pool of contracts, resulting in an increase in the credit enhancement cover available for the SLF.

Negative factors – Pressure on the ratings could emerge on the sustained weak collection performance of the underlying pool (monthly collection efficiency of <90% on a sustained basis), leading to higher-than-expected delinquency levels and credit enhancement utilisation levels.

Analytical approach

The rating action is based on the analysis of the performance of CIFCL's portfolio till June 2022, the key characteristics and composition of the current pool, the performance expected over the balance tenure of the pool, and the credit enhancement cover available in the transaction.

Analytical Approach	Comments
Applicable rating methodologies	Rating Methodology for Securitisation Transactions
Parent/Group support	Not Applicable
Consolidation/Standalone	Not Applicable

Pending actions/documents required to be completed for conversion of the provisional rating into final

The assigned ratings are provisional and would be converted into final upon the execution of:

1. Trust deed
2. Assignment agreement
3. Legal opinion
4. Trustee letter
5. Chartered Accountant's Know Your Customer (KYC) certificate
6. Any other documents executed for the transaction

Validity of the provisional rating

The Trust is expected to complete the pending actions/execute the pending documents in the near term. However, in case of continued pendency of the actions/documents beyond one year of this publication, the provisional ratings would be withdrawn for the transaction even if the instrument has been issued.

Risks associated with the provisional rating

In case the issuance is completed, but the pending actions/documents are not completed for the transaction within one year (validity period) from the assignment of the ratings, the provisional ratings will be withdrawn in accordance with ICRA's Policy on Provisional Ratings available at www.icra.in.

About the company

CIFCL, a non-banking financial company, is a part of the Chennai-based Murugappa Group of companies. Incorporated in 1978, it operates through 1,148 branches across 29 states and Union Territories (UTs) with net assets under management (AUM) of Rs. 81,925 crore as of June 2022. The company's core business segments include vehicle finance (69%) and home equity (HE) loans (22%). It also provides housing loans and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) loans, which largely constitute the rest of the portfolio.

CIFCL has two wholly-owned subsidiaries, viz. Cholamandalam Home Finance Limited (erstwhile Cholamandalam Distribution Services Limited) and Cholamandalam Securities Limited, and an associate entity – White Data Systems India Private Limited (31% stake).

Key financial indicators (audited)

CIFCL (standalone)	FY2021	FY2022	Q1 FY2023
Total income	9,520	10,139	2,771
Profit after tax	1,515	2,147	566
Assets under management (AUM)	69,996	76,907	81,925
Gross stage 3	4.0%	4.37%	4.20%
Net stage 3	2.2%	2.64%	2.50%

Source: Company & ICRA Research; Amount in Rs. crore

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: None

Rating history for past three years

	Trust Name	Current Rating (FY2023)				Chronology of Rating History for the Past 3 Years		
		Instrument	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Amount Outstanding (Rs. crore)	Date & Rating in FY2023	Date & Rating in FY2022	Date & Rating in FY2021	Date & Rating in FY2020
					September 30, 2022			
1	DBS VF Platinum Trust Sep 2022 III	PTC Series A	386.86	386.86	Provisional [ICRA]AAA(SO)	-	-	-
		Second Loss facility	14.51	14.51	Provisional [ICRA]BBB+(SO)	-	-	-

Complexity level of the rated instrument

Instrument	Complexity Indicator
PTC Series A	Simple
Second Loss Facility	Simple

The Complexity Indicator refers to the ease with which the returns associated with the rated instrument could be estimated. It does not indicate the risk related to the timely payments on the instrument, which is rather indicated by the instrument's credit rating. It also does not indicate the complexity associated with analysing an entity's financial, business, industry risks or complexity related to the structural, transactional or legal aspects. Details on the complexity levels of the instruments are available on ICRA's website: www.icra.in

Annexure I: Instrument details

Trust Name	Instrument	Date of Issuance / Sanction	Coupon Rate	Maturity Date*	Amount Rated (Rs. crore)	Current Rating
DBS VF Platinum Trust Sep 2022 III	PTC Series A	September 2022	7.40%	November 2027	386.86	Provisional [ICRA]AAA(SO)
	Second Loss facility	September 2022	-	November 2027	14.51	Provisional [ICRA]BBB+(SO)

* Scheduled PTC maturity date at transaction initiation; may change on account of prepayments

Source: Company

Annexure II: List of entities considered for consolidated analysis

Not Applicable

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About ICRA Limited:

ICRA Limited was set up in 1991 by leading financial/investment institutions, commercial banks and financial services companies as an independent and professional investment Information and Credit Rating Agency.

Today, ICRA and its subsidiaries together form the ICRA Group of Companies (Group ICRA). ICRA is a Public Limited Company, with its shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors Service is ICRA's largest shareholder.

For more information, visit www.icra.in

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