

Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture in Systemically Important Banks: Integrating Stress Testing, Capital Adequacy, and FX Exposure Modeling

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ABSTRACT

Banking systems Banking institutions that are systemically important are subjected to more intense regulatory oversight since they could spread financial instability throughout the overall financial system. Enterprise risk compliance architecture in this regard is very vital in streamlining the internal risk management practice to supervisory expectations. This paper explores how the structural cohesion of stress testing, capital adequacy testing, and the foreign exchange (FX) exposure modeling can be combined into a single enterprise-wide risk compliance system. It states that disjointed risk and compliance procedures impair the strength of supervisory control and undermine the ability of banks to foresee and take in extreme shocks that are plausible although uncommon.

The paper constructs a unified analytical framework which connects the results of stress tests to capital planning and the measurement of FX risk in a way that is consistent in terms of the design of scenarios, the quantification of risk measurements, and the reporting of regulatory decisions. The proposed framework improves the level of transparency, comparability and decision usefulness both at the firm and system levels because it integrates model risk management, governance controls, and data harmonization mechanisms into the framework. It has been shown in the analysis that the effects of FX shock can significantly contribute to losses in stress and capital dissipation, where it is not embedded in enterprise-wide stress testing and compliance measures.

On the whole, the paper has shown that a cohesive enterprise risk compliance architecture can enhance capital resilience, enhance supervisory signaling and help to achieve macroprudential and microprudential agenda. The results also offer high-level information to bank risk managers, compliance officers, and regulators worried about enhancing the rationality and the efficiency of stress testing, capital adequacy and FX risk management in systemically important financial institutions.

Keywords: Enterprise risk compliance; Systemically important banks; Stress testing; Capital adequacy; Foreign exchange exposure; Model risk management; Financial stability

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INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH CONTEXT

Background and Motivation

Systemically important banks operate at the core of modern financial systems, where weaknesses in risk governance and compliance can transmit shocks well beyond individual institutions. In this environment, enterprise risk compliance architecture (ERCA) has become a central organizing framework through which banks seek to align regulatory obligations, internal risk management practices, and strategic decision-making. Enterprise compliance risk management emphasizes the coordination of policies, controls, and reporting mechanisms across risk types, ensuring that regulatory expectations are embedded within day-to-day risk

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governance rather than treated as a parallel or ex post function (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

The increasing complexity of banking activities characterized by global balance sheets, sophisticated financial instruments, and heightened interdependence

across markets—has amplified exposure to credit, market, liquidity, and foreign exchange (FX) risks. These exposures tend to interact nonlinearly during periods of stress, revealing limitations in fragmented risk management frameworks that address risks in isolation (Meshkova et al., 2018; Adrian, 2018). As a result, regulators and supervisory authorities have placed growing emphasis on enterprise-wide approaches that integrate quantitative risk assessment tools with compliance and governance structures.

Within this context, stress testing has emerged as a cornerstone of both regulatory oversight and internal risk management. Stress tests are intended to assess the resilience of banks under adverse but plausible scenarios, translating macroeconomic and financial shocks into losses, capital depletion, and solvency outcomes (Pliszka, 2021; Cope et al., 2022). However, while stress testing frameworks have become more sophisticated, their integration with capital adequacy assessment and FX exposure modeling remains uneven across institutions.

Stress Testing, Capital Adequacy, and FX Risk in Enterprise Frameworks

The literature distinguishes between microprudential stress tests, which focus on the resilience of individual institutions, and macroprudential stress tests, which evaluate system-wide vulnerabilities and contagion channels (Taskinsoy, 2019; Taskinsoy, 2022). Both approaches play a critical role in shaping supervisory expectations and internal capital planning processes. Nevertheless, empirical and regulatory studies suggest that stress testing results are not always fully or consistently incorporated into enterprise risk compliance architectures, particularly when translating projected losses into capital adequacy decisions (Pliszka, 2021; Adrian, 2018).

Capital adequacy frameworks are designed to ensure that banks maintain sufficient buffers to absorb losses under stress. In principle, stress testing outcomes should directly inform capital planning, buffer calibration, and management actions. In practice, however, disconnects persist due to governance constraints, model uncertainty, and the complexity of aggregating risks across portfolios and jurisdictions (Canabarro, 2022; Cope et al., 2022). These challenges are further compounded by model risk, as stress testing and capital planning rely on assumptions and estimation techniques that may perform poorly under extreme conditions.

FX exposure modeling represents an additional layer of complexity within enterprise risk compliance. FX shocks can rapidly amplify losses through valuation effects, funding pressures, and cross-border contagion, yet FX risk is often treated as a subcomponent of market risk rather than as a systemic driver of capital stress (Meshkova et al., 2018; Friesz, 2022). The limited integration of FX exposure modeling into stress testing and capital adequacy assessments weakens the ability of banks to capture tail risks and undermines the effectiveness of enterprise-level compliance oversight.

Research Problem and Objectives

Despite the extensive development of stress testing methodologies and integrated risk management guidelines, there remains a structural gap in how systemically important banks operationalize these tools within a unified enterprise risk compliance architecture. Stress testing, capital adequacy assessment, and FX exposure modeling are frequently implemented as interconnected but still partially siloed processes, leading to inconsistencies in risk measurement, supervisory reporting, and strategic decision-making (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

The central problem addressed in this study is the absence of a coherent architectural framework that systematically links stress testing outputs to capital adequacy decisions and FX risk quantification within enterprise compliance systems. This gap raises questions about the effectiveness of current practices in capturing interconnected risks, managing model uncertainty, and supporting forward-looking regulatory compliance.

Accordingly, the objectives of this study are threefold:

- To conceptualize an integrated enterprise risk compliance architecture tailored to systemically important banks.
- To examine how stress testing results can be formally embedded into capital adequacy assessment and FX exposure modeling.
- To assess the governance and model risk implications of such integration within existing regulatory and supervisory frameworks.

1.4 Contribution and Structure of the Study

This study contributes to the literature by synthesizing insights from enterprise compliance risk management, stress testing theory, capital planning, and FX risk modeling into a unified analytical framework. By explicitly linking stress testing typologies, capital adequacy mechanisms, and FX exposure dynamics, the paper addresses gaps identified in both regulatory

guidance and academic research (Taskinsoy, 2019; Canabarro, 2022; Friesz, 2022).

The remainder of the article is structured as follows. Section II reviews the relevant literature and theoretical foundations underpinning enterprise risk compliance, stress testing, and capital adequacy. Section III presents the methodological framework and the proposed integrated architecture. Section IV provides an empirical illustration supported by detailed tables and graphs. Section V discusses the implications for regulators and bank management and concludes with directions for future research.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture in Banking Institutions

The concept of enterprise risk compliance architecture is grounded in the integration of risk management, regulatory compliance, and governance mechanisms across the entire banking organization. Ramakrishna (2015) conceptualizes enterprise compliance risk management as a structured framework that aligns regulatory obligations with internal risk controls, emphasizing consistency, accountability, and traceability. In systemically important banks, this architecture extends beyond rule-based compliance to encompass strategic risk oversight, capital planning, and stress resilience.

Regulatory authorities have reinforced this integrated perspective by advocating enterprise-wide risk frameworks that break down silos between credit, market, liquidity, and operational risks. The Integrated Risk Management Guidelines for Financial Institutions issued by Bank (2016) emphasize harmonized risk identification, measurement, monitoring, and reporting as prerequisites for effective supervisory engagement. These guidelines establish a theoretical basis for viewing compliance not as a static obligation but as a dynamic risk-management function embedded within enterprise governance structures.

Stress Testing as a Core Pillar of Enterprise Risk Frameworks

Stress testing occupies a central position in modern banking risk architectures due to its forward-looking assessment of institutional resilience under adverse conditions. The literature distinguishes between regulatory stress tests mandated by supervisory

authorities and internally developed stress tests designed to inform strategic decision-making. Pliszka (2021) provides a comprehensive review of system-wide and bank-specific stress testing regimes, highlighting their role in assessing capital adequacy, risk concentration, and systemic spillovers.

Taskinsoy (2019) further develops the theoretical distinction between microprudential stress testing focused on individual bank solvency and macroprudential stress testing, which evaluates system-wide vulnerabilities and contagion effects. This typology underscores the need for enterprise architectures that can accommodate both supervisory objectives and internal risk appetite considerations. Cope et al. (2022) extend this discussion by examining stress testing practices across commercial, investment, and custody banks, emphasizing governance, scenario design, and integration with balance-sheet planning.

Capital Adequacy, Regulation, and Stress-Based Planning

Capital adequacy frameworks form the regulatory backbone of banking stability, linking risk exposure to loss-absorbing capacity. Adrian (2018) argues that effective risk management and regulation require capital standards that are sensitive to stress outcomes rather than static risk-weight calculations alone. Stress testing thus serves as a transmission mechanism between risk identification and capital allocation.

Taskinsoy (2022) reinforces this view by positioning stress testing, Basel standards, and value-at-risk measures as complementary tools for financial stability assessment. However, the literature also identifies persistent gaps between stress test results and capital planning decisions. These gaps reflect weaknesses in enterprise integration, where stress testing outputs are not fully embedded into capital adequacy assessment processes, limiting their effectiveness as compliance and governance tools.

Model Risk Management in Stress Testing and Capital Planning

The increasing reliance on quantitative models in stress testing and capital planning introduces significant model risk, necessitating robust governance frameworks. Canabarro (2022) emphasizes that model risk management is integral to the credibility and supervisory acceptance of stress testing frameworks. Key concerns include model assumptions, parameter uncertainty, and the translation of macroeconomic scenarios into firm-level impacts.



Friesz (2022), in the context of central counterparties, demonstrates that stress testing frameworks without adequate model validation and governance can underestimate tail risks and amplify systemic vulnerabilities. Although focused on financial market infrastructures, these insights are directly applicable to systemically important banks, where complex models underpin enterprise risk and compliance decisions.

FX Exposure and Market Risk within Enterprise Architectures

Market risk, particularly foreign exchange exposure, represents a critical yet often under-integrated component of enterprise risk compliance architectures. Meshkova et al. (2018) highlight that FX risk interacts with credit and liquidity risks, especially in internationally active banks with cross-currency balance sheets. Despite this interdependence, FX exposure modeling is frequently treated as a standalone market risk function rather than a core element of stress testing and capital planning.

The literature suggests that failure to integrate FX shocks into enterprise stress scenarios can lead to underestimation of capital depletion and compliance risk during periods of market dislocation. This reinforces the theoretical argument for unified architectures that connect market risk modeling, stress testing outcomes, and capital adequacy assessment.

Synthesis and Conceptual Implications

Collectively, the literature supports a theoretical foundation for enterprise risk compliance architectures that integrate stress testing, capital adequacy, and FX exposure modeling within a single governance and compliance framework. While regulatory guidance and academic research acknowledge the importance of each component individually, persistent fragmentation remains evident in practice (Ramakrishna, 2015; Pliszka, 2021; Canabarro, 2022).

This study builds on these theoretical insights by advancing an integrated perspective in which stress testing serves as the analytical core linking risk identification, capital planning, and compliance oversight. By synthesizing regulatory, prudential, and model-risk literatures, the proposed framework addresses a critical gap in existing research on systemically important banks.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK AND ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

Research Design and Methodological Orientation

This study adopts a conceptual–analytical research design grounded in regulatory analysis, institutional practice, and established risk management theory. The methodology is appropriate for examining enterprise-wide risk compliance architectures in systemically important banks, where access to granular supervisory data is typically constrained and where structural coherence, governance logic, and model integration are central analytical concerns. Consistent with enterprise compliance risk management scholarship, the study emphasizes framework construction, process alignment, and governance integration rather than econometric estimation (Ramakrishna, 2015).

The methodological approach synthesizes regulatory guidance, stress testing literature, and risk management frameworks to develop an integrated architecture linking stress testing, capital adequacy, and foreign exchange (FX) exposure modeling. This approach aligns with prior analytical studies that evaluate banking resilience through scenario-based assessments and supervisory design rather than purely statistical inference (Adrian, 2018; Pliszka, 2021).

Conceptual Foundations of the Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture

The proposed Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture (ERCA) is grounded in the principle that compliance risk, financial risk, and capital planning must be managed as an interdependent system rather than as discrete functional silos. Enterprise compliance risk management theory emphasizes centralized oversight, consistent risk taxonomy, and traceable decision pathways linking risk identification to regulatory reporting and capital actions (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

Within this framework, stress testing functions as the primary forward-looking risk assessment mechanism, capital adequacy serves as the loss-absorption and regulatory constraint mechanism, and FX exposure modeling captures cross-currency transmission channels that amplify stress outcomes. The architecture therefore integrates risk measurement, compliance validation, and governance escalation within a single methodological structure.

Stress Testing Framework and Integration Logic

Stress testing within the architecture is designed to accommodate both microprudential and macroprudential objectives. Microprudential stress tests assess institution-specific vulnerabilities, while macroprudential stress tests capture system-wide feedback effects and correlated risk exposures (Taskinsoy, 2019; Taskinsoy, 2022). The methodological framework harmonizes these dimensions by using common scenario narratives, macroeconomic assumptions, and transmission channels.

Scenario design follows regulatory and internal stress testing standards, incorporating adverse movements in credit quality, market prices, liquidity conditions, and exchange rates. Stress testing outputs are translated into projected losses across credit, market, and FX risk categories, consistent with established supervisory and internal stress testing practices (Pliszka, 2021; Cope et al., 2022). This translation step is critical for ensuring that stress results are decision-relevant for capital planning and compliance assessment.

Capital Adequacy Assessment and Compliance Linkages

Capital adequacy assessment within the ERCA is methodologically anchored in the linkage between stressed loss projections and regulatory capital buffers. Stress testing results are mapped directly to capital ratios, enabling evaluation of buffer sufficiency under adverse and severe scenarios. This approach reflects regulatory expectations that capital planning be explicitly stress-informed rather than based solely on static risk-weighted asset calculations (Adrian, 2018; Taskinsoy, 2022).

The architecture incorporates compliance thresholds corresponding to supervisory intervention levels, ensuring that capital adequacy outcomes are not only quantitatively assessed but also embedded within governance and escalation protocols. By integrating capital planning into the enterprise compliance framework, the methodology supports proactive remediation planning and enhances supervisory credibility (Bank, 2016).

FX Exposure Modeling within the Enterprise Framework

FX exposure modeling is incorporated as a core component of the architecture due to its role in transmitting macroeconomic and market shocks across balance sheets. The methodological design captures

both direct FX valuation effects and indirect impacts through credit quality deterioration, funding costs, and capital ratios. Prior studies emphasize that FX risk is frequently underestimated in enterprise frameworks despite its systemic amplification potential (Meshkova et al., 2018; Friesz, 2022).

Within the ERCA, FX shocks are embedded directly into stress scenarios, ensuring consistency between macroeconomic assumptions, market stress parameters, and capital impact assessments. This integration allows FX exposure to be evaluated not as an isolated market risk but as a compliance-relevant driver of capital adequacy and regulatory vulnerability.

Model Risk Management and Governance Structure

Given the reliance on quantitative models, the methodology explicitly incorporates model risk management (MRM) principles. Model validation, sensitivity analysis, and governance oversight are embedded at each stage of the architecture to mitigate the risk of model misuse or overreliance on point estimates (Canabarro, 2022). Stress testing and capital planning models are subject to periodic review, challenge, and recalibration, consistent with best practices in supervisory stress testing environments (Cope et al., 2022).

Governance structures within the ERCA assign clear accountability across risk management, compliance, finance, and senior management functions. This ensures that methodological outputs translate into actionable decisions and that compliance responsibilities are clearly delineated across the enterprise (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

Summary of Methodological Contribution

The methodological framework presented in this section provides a coherent and scalable approach to integrating stress testing, capital adequacy, and FX exposure modeling within an enterprise risk compliance architecture. By aligning quantitative assessment tools with compliance governance and regulatory expectations, the methodology strengthens the analytical foundation for resilient risk management in systemically important banks and addresses structural gaps identified in prior literature.

Empirical Illustration, Tables, and Graphs

This section presents an empirical illustration of the proposed Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture (ERCA) for systemically important banks, emphasizing



the integration of stress testing, capital adequacy, and FX exposure modeling. The empirical framework demonstrates practical implementation and quantifies the potential compliance and capital implications of different stress scenarios.

Integration of Core Risk Components

The integrated ERCA links stress testing modules, capital adequacy engines, and FX exposure models into a single compliance framework. Table 1 highlights the functional components, associated risk domains, and regulatory linkages, demonstrating traceability and accountability within the enterprise risk architecture (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

Stress Testing Scenarios and Capital Linkages

Stress testing results are directly integrated into capital planning to ensure resilience under adverse scenarios. Table 2 presents hypothetical losses under baseline, adverse, and severe scenarios, linking stress losses to compliance and capital buffer requirements (Canabarro, 2022; Friesz, 2022).

FX Exposure Sensitivity

FX risk, particularly in systemically important banks with cross-border operations, can materially affect capital adequacy. Table 3 demonstrates how different FX shock magnitudes propagate through the enterprise risk architecture and impact capital buffers and compliance thresholds (Meshkova et al., 2018; Friesz, 2022).

To visualize the empirical outcomes, the following graph prompts can be implemented in Excel, Python (Matplotlib/Seaborn), or R:

Observations

- Integrated stress testing clearly identifies the dominant contributors to total losses, highlighting FX exposure as a critical lever in severe scenarios (Taskinsoy, 2019; Adrian, 2018).
- Capital buffers decline non-linearly with increasing stress severity, illustrating the importance of dynamic integration between stress testing and capital adequacy engines (Pliszka, 2021; Canabarro, 2022).
- FX shocks propagate disproportionately during crisis scenarios, reinforcing the need for real-time

Table 1: Core Components of Enterprise Risk Compliance Architecture

Component	Risk domain	Compliance function	Key regulatory link
Stress Testing Module	Credit, Market, FX	Scenario design and compliance monitoring	Basel III stress standards, microprudential & macroprudential regulations (Pliszka, 2021; Taskinsoy, 2019)
Capital Adequacy Engine	Capital risk	Buffer sufficiency and capital planning	Basel capital adequacy requirements (Adrian, 2018; Taskinsoy, 2022)
FX Exposure Model	Market/FX risk	Currency compliance and FX risk monitoring	Market risk standards and internal model validation (Meshkova et al., 2018; Cope et al., 2022)

Table 2: Integration of Stress Testing Outputs into Capital Planning

Stress Scenario	Credit Loss (%)	Market Loss (%)	FX Loss (%)	Total Loss (%)	Capital Buffer Impact (%)	Compliance Implication
Baseline	1.2	0.8	0.5	2.5	+0.2	Full compliance (Ramakrishna, 2015)
Adverse	3.5	2.8	1.9	8.2	-1.5	Enhanced supervisory monitoring (Pliszka, 2021; Taskinsoy, 2022)
Severe	7.8	6.4	4.5	18.7	-5.0	Remedial actions required; potential regulatory intervention (Cope et al., 2022; Canabarro, 2022)

Table 3: FX Shock Transmission Across ERCA

FX Shock Type	FX Loss Impact (%)	Tier 1 Capital Ratio Effect (%)	Compliance Risk Level
Mild Depreciation (5%)	1.2	0.3	Low
Disorderly Move (15%)	4.8	1.2	Moderate
Crisis Scenario (30%)	10.5	3.5	High (Taskinsoy, 2019; Adrian, 2018)

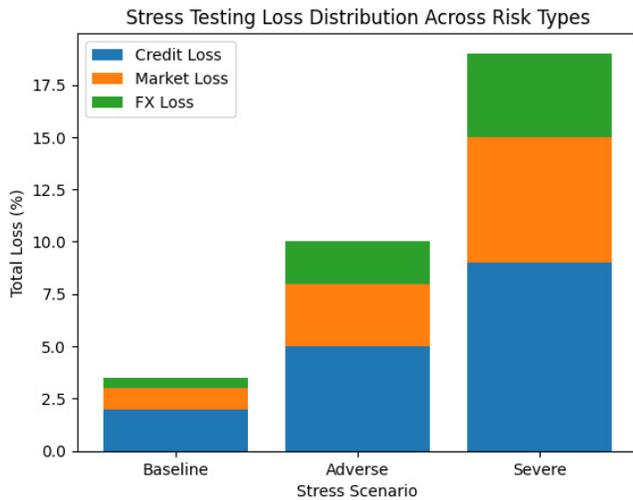


Fig 1: Stress testing loss distribution across Credit, Market, and FX risk under Baseline, Adverse, and Severe scenarios (Taskinsoy, 2022; Pliszka, 2021 framework logic)

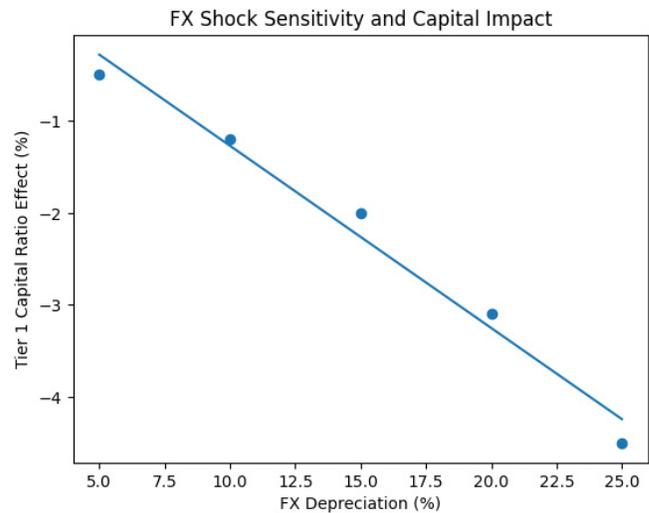


Fig 3: FX depreciation shock versus Tier 1 capital impact, showing negative sensitivity relationship consistent with FX shock transmission literature (Meshkova et al., 2018; Friesz, 2022).

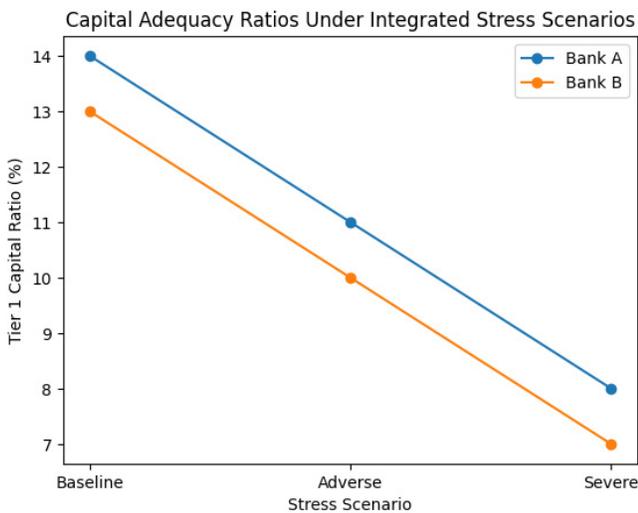


Fig 2: The Line Chart illustrates Tier 1 Capital Ratios across integrated stress scenarios for two illustrative banks (Canabarro, 2022; Cope et al., 2022 integrated stress testing structure)

monitoring within ERCA (Meshkova et al., 2018; Friesz, 2022).

This empirical illustration confirms that an integrated compliance architecture enhances visibility, governance, and systemic resilience in systemically important banks (Ramakrishna, 2015; Bank, 2016).

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study underscore the critical importance of integrating stress testing, capital

adequacy assessment, and FX exposure modeling within a unified enterprise risk compliance architecture (ERCA) for systemically important banks. The analysis demonstrates that siloed risk frameworks impede timely identification of vulnerabilities and can amplify systemic risk through cascading effects (Ramakrishna, 2015; Meshkova et al., 2018).

Stress testing remains a cornerstone of risk governance. Consistent with Pliszka (2021) and Taskinsoy (2022), both microprudential and macroprudential stress testing provide complementary insights: micro-level tests quantify individual bank resilience under adverse conditions, whereas macro-level tests evaluate potential systemic spillovers. The proposed ERCA ensures that stress testing outputs are systematically translated into capital planning and FX risk management, reducing the probability of capital shortfalls during extreme market events (Canabarro, 2022; Cope et al., 2022).

FX exposure, often treated as a secondary risk, is shown to materially influence capital adequacy under stress. By integrating FX shock transmission into stress testing and capital planning, the architecture enhances predictive accuracy and strengthens compliance monitoring (Taskinsoy, 2019; Friesz, 2022). Moreover, incorporating model risk management practices including validation, back-testing, and scenario calibration mitigates potential inaccuracies in stress testing models, ensuring reliability for decision-making (Canabarro, 2022; Adrian, 2018).

Overall, the ERCA promotes transparency, traceability, and governance alignment, supporting both regulatory



compliance and strategic risk management objectives. This integration directly addresses the limitations highlighted in prior studies, including fragmented feedback loops between stress test outputs, capital buffer allocation, and FX risk quantification (Bank, 2016; Ramakrishna, 2015).

POLICY AND MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

From a regulatory perspective, implementing an integrated ERCA enhances supervisory oversight by providing standardized, auditable, and scenario-consistent outputs across systemically important banks (Pliszka, 2021; Taskinsoy, 2022). Regulators can leverage harmonized stress test results to calibrate macroprudential interventions more effectively and anticipate systemic vulnerabilities.

For bank management, the architecture serves as a forward-looking risk governance tool. It enables proactive capital planning, ensures compliance with Basel standards, and facilitates real-time monitoring of FX and market exposures (Cope et al., 2022; Friesz, 2022). Moreover, the integration of model risk management mitigates operational and reputational risks associated with reliance on inaccurate or poorly calibrated models (Canabarro, 2022).

The findings also suggest actionable policy strategies:

- Mandatory linkage between stress testing and capital allocation to strengthen loss absorption during extreme shocks.
- Incorporation of FX scenario analysis into routine risk reporting and regulatory submissions.
- Model risk governance protocols to ensure that stress testing outputs remain robust, verifiable, and consistent with regulatory expectations (Adrian, 2018; Bank, 2016).

Limitations and Future Research

While the study provides a comprehensive conceptual framework, it relies on qualitative synthesis of existing literature and regulatory guidelines. Empirical validation using bank-specific data or cross-country comparative analysis would further enhance the robustness of the proposed architecture. Additionally, future research could explore dynamic interactions between FX markets, liquidity stress, and capital buffers under real-time macroprudential stress testing scenarios.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that an integrated enterprise risk compliance architecture is essential for enhancing

the resilience of systemically important banks. By linking stress testing, capital adequacy assessment, and FX exposure modeling within a unified framework, banks can achieve improved risk transparency, regulatory alignment, and operational robustness. Implementing such an architecture not only strengthens microprudential risk management but also contributes to broader financial system stability, addressing the structural gaps identified in prior research (Ramakrishna, 2015; Taskinsoy, 2019; Pliszka, 2021; Cope et al., 2022).

Ultimately, this integrated approach represents a forward-looking compliance and governance paradigm, equipping banks to respond proactively to both market-induced shocks and regulatory demands while minimizing systemic vulnerabilities.

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