

**SUBMISSION COVER SHEET**

**IMPORTANT:** Check box if Confidential Treatment is requested

**Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional):** 18-171 (1 of 4)

**Organization:** Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. ("CME")

**Filing as a:**     **DCM**     **SEF**     **DCO**     **SDR**

**Please note - only ONE choice allowed.**

**Filing Date (mm/dd/yy):** 04/19/18

**Filing Description:** Amendments to CME and CBOT Rule 524. ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS") and Basis Trade at Index Close ("BTIC") Transactions") and NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524. ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS") and Trading at Marker ("TAM") Transactions and Issuance of CME Group Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1803-5 and RA1804-5.

**SPECIFY FILING TYPE**

**Please note only ONE choice allowed per Submission.**

**Organization Rules and Rule Amendments**

- Certification § 40.6(a)
- Approval § 40.5(a)
- Notification § 40.6(d)
- Advance Notice of SIDCO Rule Change § 40.10(a)
- SIDCO Emergency Rule Change § 40.10(h)

**Rule Numbers:** 524.

**New Product**

**Please note only ONE product per Submission.**

- Certification § 40.2(a)
- Certification Security Futures § 41.23(a)
- Certification Swap Class § 40.2(d)
- Approval § 40.3(a)
- Approval Security Futures § 41.23(b)
- Novel Derivative Product Notification § 40.12(a)
- Swap Submission § 39.5

**Official Product Name:**

**Product Terms and Conditions (product related Rules and Rule Amendments)**

- Certification § 40.6(a)
- Certification Made Available to Trade Determination § 40.6(a)
- Certification Security Futures § 41.24(a)
- Delisting (No Open Interest) § 40.6(a)
- Approval § 40.5(a)
- Approval Made Available to Trade Determination § 40.5(a)
- Approval Security Futures § 41.24(c)
- Approval Amendments to enumerated agricultural products § 40.4(a), § 40.5(a)
- "Non-Material Agricultural Rule Change" § 40.4(b)(5)
- Notification § 40.6(d)

**Official Name(s) of Product(s) Affected:**

**Rule Numbers:**

April 19, 2018

**VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL**

Mr. Christopher J. Kirkpatrick  
Office of the Secretariat  
Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Three Lafayette Centre  
1155 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20581

**Re: CFTC Regulation 40.6(a) Certification. Notification Regarding Amendments to CME and CBOT Rule 524. (“Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) and Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions”) and NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524. (“Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) and Trading at Marker (“TAM”) Transactions”) and Issuance of CME Group Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1803-5 and RA1804-5. CME Submission No. 18-171 (1 of 4)**

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) Regulation 40.6(a), Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. (“CME”) and The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc. (“CBOT”) hereby notify the Commission that they are self-certifying amendments to CME and CBOT Rule 524. (“Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) and Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions”) and New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. (“NYMEX”) and Commodity Exchange, Inc. (“COMEX”) (collectively, the “Exchanges”) hereby notify the Commission that they are self-certifying amendments to NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524. (“Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) and Trading at Marker (“TAM”) Transactions”) effective on Sunday, May 13, 2018, for trade date Monday, May 14, 2018.

The amendments to CME and CBOT Rule 524. adopt new Section C. - (“Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) Transactions”) to enable TACO transactions. A TACO transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). CME will begin to permit TACO transactions in the CME E-mini Standard & Poor’s 500 Stock Price Index futures contract (the “Contract”) for trading on the CME Globex electronic trading platform and for submission of clearing on CME ClearPort on trade date Monday, May 14, 2018. (See CME Submission 18-131 also dated April 19, 2019.) While CBOT is adopting identical amendments to CME Rule 524. to enable TACO transactions for its Equity Index futures products, CBOT is not making such transactions available in any CBOT Equity Index product at this time.

In addition to the amendments described above, the Exchanges are also adopting minor clarifying and harmonizing amendments to Rule 524.

The amendments to CME/CBOT/NYMEX/COMEX Rule 524. are set forth in Exhibit A with additions underscored and deletions ~~overstruck~~.

In connection with the launch of TACO transactions, the Exchanges will issue CME/CBOT/NYMEX/COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1803-5 (“RA1803-5”) and RA1804-5 (“RA1804-5”) concerning, respectively, Rule 524. and Rule 526. (“Block Trades”), on April 20, 2018. RA1803-5 is set forth in Exhibit B and RA1804-5 is set forth in Exhibit C.

The Exchanges reviewed the designated contract market core principles (“DCM Core Principles”) as set forth

in the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA” or “Act”) and identified that the rule amendments and the issuance of RA1803-5 and RA1804-5 may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

Core Principle 2 – Compliance with Rules: The adoption of TACO transactions in Rule 524. constitutes a term and condition of the Exchange products to which it applies, and is in compliance with this core principle.

Core Principle 7 – Availability of General Information: The rule amendments will be posted publicly on the CME Group website in satisfaction of this core principle. In addition, RA1803-5 and RA1804-5 will be posted publicly on the CME Group website and emailed to subscribers.

Core Principle 9 – Execution of Transactions: In connection with permitting TACO transactions in the Contract, CME will also permit block trading in the Contract at the same 500 contract block trade minimum threshold applicable to Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) block trades in the Contract pursuant to CME Submission No. 18-131 dated April 19, 2018.

There were no substantive opposing views to this proposal.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulation 40.6(a), the Exchanges certify that the amendments to Rule 524. and the issuance of RA1803-5 and RA1804-5 comply with the Act and regulations thereunder.

The Exchanges certify that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchanges’ website at <http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html>.

If you require any additional information regarding this submission, please contact the undersigned at 212.299.2200 or via email at [CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com](mailto:CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com).

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher Bowen  
Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachments: Exhibit A: CME/CBOT/NYMEX/COMEX Rule 524. (blackline format)  
Exhibit B: RA1803-5  
Exhibit C: RA1804-5

# EXHIBIT A

## Chapter 5 Trading Qualifications and Practices

(Additions are underscored; Deletions are ~~overstruck~~.)

### CME

#### 524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”), ~~AND~~ BASIS TRADE AT INDEX CLOSE (“BTIC”) AND BASIS TRADE AT CASH OPEN (“TACO”) TRANSACTIONS

The Exchange shall determine the products~~commodities~~, contract months and time periods during which TAS, ~~and~~ BTIC, and TACO transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, ~~or~~ BTIC, or TACO transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) ~~set forth in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section at the end~~ of Chapter 5.

##### 524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts ~~is~~are available for TAS trading on Globex and during ~~such each~~ TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transactions ~~executed on Globex or as a block trade~~ may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

##### 524.B. Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions

A Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) ~~t~~Transaction is an Exchange futures transaction which is priced with reference to the closing level~~price~~ of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index on a particular ~~t~~Trading Day (the “Basis”). The following shall govern BTIC transactions:

1. A ~~Globex-eligible~~ BTIC orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable futures contracts ~~is~~are available for BTIC trading on Globex and during ~~such each~~ BTIC-eligible futures contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any BTIC order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a BTIC-eligible product~~commodities~~ and contract months may be executed as a block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, except that a BTIC block trades ~~may~~ cannot be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring BTIC-eligible futures contract.
3. The Basis established in any BTIC transaction~~negotiated between the parties~~ must be stated in admissible futures price increments for the applicable~~specific~~ futures contract as set forth in the applicable futures product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such of the BTIC transaction shall be the closing level of the applicable cash Index ~~closing price~~ for that ~~t~~Trading Day adjusted by the negotiated Basis established in such BTIC transaction~~above or below the underlying futures contract’s Index closing price~~.

For any BTIC-eligible futures contract, tThe magnitude of the Basis in for a BTIC block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A BTIC futures transactions may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.

4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange~~market~~ for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index), all pending and executed BTIC transactions in the corresponding futures contract~~based on that Index~~ shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion, and may include, without limitation, an unscheduled early closure for the day of the primary listing exchange~~equity securities market~~ (or applicable national bourse or market) or a NYSE Rule 80B trading halt declared in response to a Level 3 (20%) decline in the S&P 500 Index that necessitat~~es~~ ing an early closure of the primary listing exchange~~securities market~~.
5. Additional product-specific BTIC requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

##### 524.C. Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) Transactions

A Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). The following shall govern TACO transactions:

1. A TACO order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TACO trading on Globex and during such TACO-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TACO order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TACO-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, provided that for any expiring TACO-eligible contract, a TACO block trade is prohibited with reference to such contract’s cash Index SOQ for the last day of trading in such contract.
3. The Basis established in any TACO transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such TACO transaction shall be the next following regularly scheduled SOQ of the applicable cash Index adjusted by the Basis established in such TACO transaction.  
For any TACO-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a TACO block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A TACO futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.
4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index) such that the administrator of such cash Index is unable to produce a regularly scheduled SOQ, all pending and executed TACO transactions in the corresponding futures contract shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion.
5. Additional product-specific TACO requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

## CBOT

### 524. **TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”), ~~AND~~ BASIS TRADE AT INDEX CLOSE (“BTIC”) ~~AND~~ BASIS TRADE AT CASH OPEN (“TACO”) TRANSACTIONS**

The Exchange shall determine the ~~products~~~~commodities~~, contract months and time periods during which TAS, ~~and~~ BTIC, ~~and~~ TACO transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, ~~or~~ BTIC, ~~or~~ TACO transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) ~~set forth in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section at the end~~ of Chapter 5.

#### 524.A. **Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions**

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts ~~is~~are available for TAS trading on Globex and during ~~such each~~ TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. ~~Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a~~ TAS transactions ~~executed on Globex or as a block trade~~ may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

#### 524.B. **Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions**

A Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) ~~T~~ transaction is an Exchange futures transaction which is priced with reference to the closing ~~level~~~~price~~ of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index on a particular ~~T~~ trading ~~d~~Day (the “Basis”). The following shall govern BTIC transactions:

1. A ~~Globex-eligible~~ BTIC orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable ~~futures~~ contracts ~~is~~are available for BTIC trading on Globex and during ~~such each~~ BTIC-eligible ~~futures~~ contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any BTIC order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. ~~Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a~~ BTIC-eligible ~~product~~~~commodities~~ and contract months may be executed as ~~a~~ block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, except that ~~a~~ BTIC block trades ~~may~~ ~~can~~not be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring ~~BTIC-eligible futures~~ contract.
3. The Basis ~~established in any BTIC transaction negotiated between the parties~~ must be stated in admissible ~~futures~~ price increments for the ~~applicable~~~~specific~~ futures contract as set forth in the applicable ~~futures~~ product chapter. The ~~assigned~~ futures price ~~corresponding to such of the~~ BTIC transaction shall be the ~~closing level of the applicable~~ cash Index ~~closing price~~ for that ~~T~~ trading ~~D~~day adjusted by the

~~negotiated~~ Basis established in such BTIC transaction ~~above or below the underlying futures contract's Index closing price.~~

~~For any BTIC-eligible futures contract, t~~The magnitude of the Basis ~~in for~~ a BTIC block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. ~~A BTIC futures transactions~~ may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.

4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing ~~exchangemarket~~ for a given cash Index ~~(or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index)~~, all pending and executed BTIC transactions ~~in the corresponding futures contractbased on that Index~~ shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion, and may include, without limitation, an unscheduled early closure ~~ure for the day~~ of the primary ~~listing exchangeequity securities market (or applicable national bourse or market)~~ or a NYSE Rule 80B trading halt declared in response to a Level 3 (20%) decline in the S&P 500 Index ~~that necessitatesing~~ an early closure of the primary ~~listing exchange~~ securities market.
5. Additional product-specific BTIC requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

#### **524.C. Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) Transactions**

A Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). The following shall govern TACO transactions:

1. A TACO order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TACO trading on Globex and during such TACO-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TACO order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TACO-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, provided that for any expiring TACO-eligible contract, a TACO block trade is prohibited with reference to such contract’s cash Index SOQ for the last day of trading in such contract.
3. The Basis established in any TACO transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such TACO transaction shall be the next following regularly scheduled SOQ of the applicable cash Index adjusted by the Basis established in such TACO transaction.

~~For any TACO-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a TACO block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A TACO futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.~~

4. ~~In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index) such that the administrator of such cash Index is unable to produce a regularly scheduled SOQ, all pending and executed TACO transactions in the corresponding futures contract shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion.~~
5. ~~Additional product-specific TACO requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.~~

### **NYMEX and COMEX**

#### **524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”) AND TRADING AT MARKER (“TAM”) TRANSACTIONS**

The Exchange shall determine the ~~productseommodities~~, contract months and time periods during which TAS and TAM transactions shall be permitted. ~~Specific products, TAS- and TAM-eligible commodities and contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS or TAM transactions~~ are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) ~~in the Interpretation Section~~ at the end of Chapter 5.

##### **524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions**

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. ~~A~~ TAS order~~s~~ may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract~~s~~ ~~isare~~ available for TAS trading on Globex and during ~~sucheach~~ TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.

2. Unless otherwise specified in the ~~TAS~~-Table, a TAS-eligible ~~product~~~~commodities~~ and contract months may be executed as a block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transactions executed on Globex or as a block trade may be executed at the current day's settlement price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

**524.B. Trading at Marker ("TAM") Transactions**

The following shall govern TAM transactions:

1. A TAM orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts ~~is~~~~are~~ available for TAM trading on Globex and during ~~such~~~~each~~ TAM-eligible contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAM-eligible ~~product~~~~commodities~~ and contract months may be executed as a block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAM transactions executed on Globex or as a block trade may be executed at the current day's applicable marker price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable marker price.

## EXHIBIT B

### MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

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<b>Exchange</b>	<b>CME, CBOT, NYMEX &amp; COMEX</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO Transactions</b>
<b>Rule References</b>	<b>Rule 524</b>
<b>Advisory Date</b>	<b>April 20, 2018</b>
<b>Advisory Number</b>	<b>CME Group RA1803-5</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>May14, 2018</b>

Effective on trade date Monday, May 14, 2018, and pending all relevant CFTC regulatory review periods, this Market Regulation Advisory Notice will supersede CME Group Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1601-5 from January 12, 2016. It is being issued based on amendments to CME and CBOT Rule 524 that incorporate provisions concerning Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transactions into the Rule. A TACO transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). Effective on Sunday, May 13, 2018, for trade date Monday, May 14, 2018, TACO transactions will begin to be permitted in CME E-mini S&P 500 futures.

Additional information on TACO transactions in CME E-mini S&P 500 futures may be viewed [here](#).

Information on the specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, TAM, BTIC, or TACO transactions is contained in the Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Table set forth in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section at the end of Chapter 5 of each Exchange’s Rulebook. The table may also be accessed [here](#).

Important information on regulatory considerations for market participants engaging in TAS or TAM transactions appears in Section 2 of this Advisory Notice.

TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO transactions are subject to the information contained in the Advisory Notice, each Exchange’s Rule 524, and, for BTIC and TACO transactions, provisions contained in applicable CME and CBOT equity futures product chapters. The text of each Exchange’s Rule 524 appears in Section 6 of this Advisory Notice.

#### **1. General Information on TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO Transactions**

TAS permits parties to trade at a differential to the current day’s not-yet-known futures settlement price. TAM permits parties to trade at a differential to the current day’s not-yet-known Exchange-determined marker price.

Orders for CME and CBOT TAS-eligible futures products may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the current day’s settlement price or any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

Orders for NYMEX and COMEX TAS- and TAM-eligible futures products may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the current day’s settlement or marker price, as applicable, or any valid price



increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable settlement or marker price, except for spot month Copper futures which may be executed on CME Globex and priced solely at the settlement price, or TAS flat.

Certain NYMEX and COMEX futures products may also be executed as block trades and priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement or marker price, except for spot month Copper futures which may be priced solely at the settlement price, or TAS flat.

BTIC permit parties to trade at a differential (basis) to an eligible futures contract's underlying cash Index closing level which is not-yet-known.

TACO permits parties to trade a differential (basis) to an eligible futures contract's underlying cash Index special opening quotation ("SOQ") which is not-yet-known.

Orders for certain CME and CBOT equity index futures products may be entered CME Globex for execution at the current day's underlying cash Index closing price or any fair and reasonable basis above or below the current day's underlying cash Index closing price.

Certain CME and CBOT equity Index futures products may be executed as a block trade and priced at the underlying futures contracts' cash Index closing price or at a differential (basis) to the equity cash Index closing price.

Effective on May 14, 2018, orders for CME E-mini S&P 500 futures may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the next following regularly scheduled SOQ or any fair and reasonable basis above or below the next following regularly scheduled SOQ. Also, effective on May 14, 2018, CME E-mini S&P 500 futures may be executed as a block trade and priced at the next following regularly scheduled SOQ or at a differential (basis) to the SOQ.

The basis must be stated in admissible futures price increments for the specific futures contract. In the case of a BTIC or TACO block trade, the negotiated basis must fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration.

Information on products eligible to be executed as block trades and priced as TAS, TAM, BTIC, or TACO transactions may be found here:

<http://www.cmegroup.com/clearing/trading-practices/block-trades.html>

## **2. Regulatory Considerations**

All market participants are reminded that any trading activity that is intended to disrupt orderly trading or to manipulate or attempt to manipulate a settlement or marker price to benefit a TAS or TAM position, including a TAS or TAM block position, will subject the member and/or the market participant to disciplinary action for any of a number of rule violations, including, but not limited to:

- price manipulation or attempted price manipulation
- wash trading
- conduct detrimental to the interest or welfare of the Exchange or conduct which tends to impair the dignity or good name of the Exchange
- engaging in conduct inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade

Investigation of suspected manipulative or disruptive activity related to TAS and TAM, or activity in the related underlying markets will include the Market Regulation Department's ("Department") review of positions and trading activity in the applicable Exchange markets and any related markets to determine if

such activity was disruptive, collusive, and/or caused or attempted to cause aberrant price movement during these periods. Pursuant to Rule 432.L.3, market participants are reminded that it is an offense to fail to produce any books or records requested by authorized Exchange staff within 10 days after such request is made or such shorter period of time as determined by the Exchange in exigent circumstances. The Department always has the authority to request books and records as well as other relevant information regarding the nature of a participant's trading and positions in Exchange products and in any related markets as part of its regulatory program.

### **3. Entry of TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO Orders on CME Globex**

Rule 524 permits the initiation of TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO orders into CME Globex only subsequent to the beginning of each group's pre-open state and during the time period the applicable contracts are available for TAS, TAM, BTIC, or TACO trading on CME Globex, as applicable. The initiation of any TAS, TAM, BTIC, or TACO order on CME Globex outside of these time periods is strictly prohibited.

Any market participant who initiates the entry of a TAS, TAM, BTIC, or TACO order prior to receipt of the security status message indicating that market has transitioned to the pre-open will be subject to disciplinary action by a panel of the Business Conduct Committee, notwithstanding that the order may have been rejected by the CME Globex system. Sanctions for noncompliance may include a fine, disgorgement of any profits realized as a result of any orders accepted by CME Globex which were initiated prior to receipt of the security status message and/or a suspension of access to the market. Market participants must have appropriate protocols in place to ensure that TAS, TAM, BTIC, and TACO orders are not initiated prior to receipt of the security status message.

### **4. TAS and TAM Calendar Spreads**

As set forth in the TAS Table, certain intra-commodity calendar spreads are permitted to be entered into CME Globex and priced at the settlement or marker price, or a specified number of ticks above or below the settlement or marker price.

Additionally, certain NYMEX and COMEX intra-commodity calendar spreads are permitted to be executed as block trades and priced at the settlement or marker price or at a positive or negative differential.

The legs of TAS and TAM spread trades executed at **zero** or at a **negative differential** (negative 1 through negative 10 for eligible NYMEX and COMEX products) (negative 1 through negative 4 for eligible CME and CBOT products) on CME Globex or, where allowable, as block trades will be priced as follows:

- If the spread trades at zero, each leg will be priced at the settlement or market price, as applicable, for the respective contract months.
- If the spread trades at a negative differential, the **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **minus** the allowable TAS or TAM price increment traded.

The legs of TAS and TAM spread trades executed at a **positive differential** (positive 1 through positive 10 for eligible NYMEX and COMEX products) (positive 1 through positive 4 for eligible CME and CBOT products) will be priced as follows:

#### **Where execution occurs on CME Globex:**

- If the spread trades at a positive differential, the **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **plus** the TAS or TAM price increment traded.

### **Where execution occurs as a block trade:**

- If the spread trades at a positive differential, the **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **minus** the allowable TAS or TAM price increment traded.

### **5. TAS, BTIC, and TACO Pricing and Daily Price Limits**

Notwithstanding that CME Live Cattle, Feeder Cattle and Lean Hogs futures and CBOT Corn, Soybean, Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, Wheat and KC HRW Wheat futures are subject to daily price limits, market participants executing a trade in one of those products which is priced at a tick increment above or below the settlement price (negative 4 through negative 1 or positive 1 through positive 4) may result in a final trade price above or below the daily price limit.

Similarly, BTIC and TACO transactions may result in an assigned futures price outside of the applicable futures daily price limits.

### **6. Text of CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524**

#### **CME & CBOT**

#### **524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”), BASIS TRADE AT INDEX CLOSE (“BTIC”) AND BASIS TRADE AT CASH OPEN (“TACO”) TRANSACTIONS**

The Exchange shall determine the products, contract months and time periods during which TAS, BTIC, and TACO transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, BTIC, or TACO transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) at the end of Chapter 5.

##### **524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions**

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAS trading on Globex and during such TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transaction executed on Globex or as a block trade may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

##### **524.B. Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions**

A Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction which is priced with reference to the closing level of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index on a particular trading day (the “Basis”). The following shall govern BTIC transactions:

1. A BTIC order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable futures contract is available for BTIC trading on Globex and during such BTIC-eligible futures contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any BTIC order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a BTIC-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, except that a BTIC block trade cannot be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring BTIC-eligible futures contract.
3. The Basis established in any BTIC transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such BTIC transaction shall be the closing level of the applicable cash Index for that trading day adjusted by the Basis established in such BTIC transaction.

For any BTIC-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a BTIC block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A BTIC futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.

4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index), all pending and executed BTIC transactions in the corresponding futures contract shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion, and may include, without limitation, an unscheduled early close of the primary listing exchange (or applicable national bourse or market) or a NYSE Rule 80B trading halt declared in response to a Level 3 (20%) decline in the S&P 500 Index that necessitates an early close of the primary listing exchange.
5. Additional product-specific BTIC requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

**524.C. Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) Transactions**

A Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). The following shall govern TACO transactions:

1. A TACO order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TACO trading on Globex and during such TACO-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TACO order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TACO-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, provided that for any expiring TACO-eligible contract, a TACO block trade is prohibited with reference to such contract’s cash Index SOQ for the last day of trading in such contract.
3. The Basis established in any TACO transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such TACO transaction shall be the next following regularly scheduled SOQ of the applicable cash Index adjusted by the Basis established in such TACO transaction.

For any TACO-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a TACO block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A TACO futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.

4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index) such that the administrator of such cash Index is unable to produce a regularly scheduled SOQ, all pending and executed TACO transactions in the corresponding futures contract shall be cancelled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion.
5. Additional product-specific TACO requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

**NYMEX and COMEX**

**524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”) AND TRADING AT MARKER (“TAM”) TRANSACTIONS**

The Exchange shall determine the products, contract months and time periods during which TAS and TAM transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS or TAM transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) at the end of Chapter 5.

**524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions**

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAS trading on Globex and during such TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAS-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transaction executed on Globex or as a block trade may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

**524.B. Trading at Marker (“TAM”) Transactions**

The following shall govern TAM transactions:

1. A TAM order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAM trading on Globex and during such TAM-eligible contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAM-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAM transaction executed on Globex or as a block trade may be executed at the current day's applicable marker price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable marker price.

Questions regarding this Advisory Notice may be directed to the following individuals in Market Regulation:

Jennifer Dendrinis, Director, Investigations, 312.341.7812

Andrew Vrabel, Executive Director, Investigations, 312.435.3622

Erin Middleton, Lead Rules & Regulatory Outreach Specialist, 312.341.3286

Shawn Tan, Senior Rules & Regulatory Outreach Specialist, +65 6593 5580

Robert Sniegowski, Executive Director, Rules & Regulatory Outreach, 312.341.5991

For media inquiries concerning this Advisory Notice, please contact CME Group Corporate Communications at 312.930.3434 or [news@cmegroup.com](mailto:news@cmegroup.com).

## EXHIBIT C

### MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

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<b>Exchange</b>	<b>CME, CBOT, NYMEX &amp; COMEX</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Block Trades</b>
<b>Rule References</b>	<b>Rule 526</b>
<b>Advisory Date</b>	<b>April 20, 2018</b>
<b>Advisory Number</b>	<b>CME Group RA1804-5</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>May 14, 2018</b>

Effective on trade date Monday, May 14, 2018, and pending all relevant CFTC regulatory review periods, this Market Regulation Advisory Notice will supersede CME Group Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1802-5 from March 6, 2018. Effective on May 14, 2018, CME will begin to permit Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transactions in E-mini S&P 500 futures, including TACO block trades.

Additional information on TACO transactions in CME E-mini S&P 500 futures may be found in Section 13 of this Advisory Notice and [here](#).

This Advisory Notice contains the following Sections:

1. [Definition](#)
2. [Participation](#)
3. [Different Accounts with Common Beneficial Ownership](#)
4. [Eligible Products](#)
5. [Time and Prices](#)
6. [Minimum Quantities](#)
7. [Block Trade Submission](#)
8. [Recordkeeping](#)
9. [Error Remediation](#)
10. [Dissemination of Block Trade Information](#)
11. [Use of Nonpublic Information](#)
12. [TAS & TAM Block Trades](#)
13. [Basis Trade at Index Close \(“BTIC”\) Block Trades](#)
14. [Text of Rule 526](#)
15. [Contact Information](#)

All block trades are subject to the conditions set forth in Rule 526 and in this Advisory Notice. Violations of the Rule or any of the requirements and prohibitions set forth in this Advisory Notice may result in disciplinary action.

#### **1. Definition of Block Trades**

Block trades are privately negotiated futures, options or combination transactions that meet certain quantity thresholds which are permitted to be executed apart from the public auction market.

It is not permissible to facilitate the execution of block trades in Exchange-traded products on a system or facility accessible to multiple parties that allows for the electronic matching of or the electronic acceptance of bids and offers. Parties may use communication technologies to bilaterally request block quotes from one or more participants and to conduct privately negotiated block trades. Parties may also utilize technologies supported by third parties which allow for the electronic posting of indicative block markets displayed to multiple market participants. However, block trades executed between parties based on such electronically displayed indicative markets may be transacted only through direct bilateral communications involving the broker, where applicable, and the parties to the trade.

## **2. Participation in Block Trades**

Each party to a block trade must be an Eligible Contract Participant as that term is defined in Section 1a(18) of the Commodity Exchange Act. Eligible Contract Participants generally include exchange members and member firms, broker/dealers, government entities, pension funds, commodity pools, corporations, investment companies, insurance companies, depository institutions and high net-worth individuals. Commodity trading advisors and investment advisors who are registered or exempt from registration, and foreign persons performing a similar role and subject as such to foreign regulation, may participate in block transactions provided they have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for their customers.

A customer order may be executed by means of a block trade only if the customer has specified that the order be executed as a block trade.

## **3. Block Trades between Different Accounts with Common Beneficial Ownership**

Block trades between different accounts with common beneficial ownership are prohibited unless 1) each party's decision to enter into the block trade is made by an independent decision-maker; 2) each party has a legal and independent bona fide business purpose for engaging in the block trade; and 3) the block trade is executed at a fair and reasonable price. In the absence of satisfying all the aforementioned requirements, the transaction may constitute an illegal wash trade prohibited by Rule 534 ("Wash Trades Prohibited"). Common beneficial ownership is defined as not only accounts with the same beneficial ownership, but also accounts with common beneficial ownership that is less than 100%.

## **4. Block-Eligible Products**

A complete list of block eligible products may be found here:

[CME, CBOT, NYMEX & COMEX Block Trade-Eligible Products and Minimum Quantity Thresholds](#)

The marketplace is notified of block trade minimum quantity thresholds and any changes thereto via a Special Executive Report issued by Research & Product Development. Interested market participants may receive these reports via email by visiting the CME Group Subscription Center located at:

<http://www.cmegroup.com/tools-information/subscriptions/advisory-subscribe.html>

## **5. Time and Prices of Block Trades**

Block trades may be executed at any time, including times during which the public auction market is closed. Block trades may not be executed after the expiration of the underlying futures or options on futures contract month.

Block trades must be transacted at prices that are "**fair and reasonable**" in light of (i) the size of the transaction, (ii) the prices and sizes of other transactions in the same contract at the relevant time, (iii) the prices and sizes of transactions in other relevant markets, including, without limitation, the underlying cash market or related futures markets, at the relevant time, and (iv) the circumstances of the markets or the parties to the block trade.

The trade price must be consistent with the minimum tick increment for the market in question. Additionally, each outright transaction and each leg of any block eligible spread or combination trade must be executed at a single price.

Block trade prices do not elect conditional orders (e.g. stop orders) or otherwise affect orders in the regular market.

## **6. Block Trade Minimum Quantities for Outrights, Spreads and Combinations**

The block trade minimum quantity requirements for outright futures and outright options may be found using the link below.

In certain CBOT Agricultural futures and options products, block trades executed during Regular Trading Hours (“RTH”) are subject to a higher minimum threshold than block trades executed during either European Trading Hours (“ETH”) or Asian Trading Hours (“ATH”). The block trade minimum quantity requirements for these products may also be found using the link below. For purposes of determining which minimum threshold applies, RTH for CBOT Agricultural futures and options products is defined as 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday on regular business days, and ETH and ATH are defined as 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday on regular business days and at any time on weekends.

[CME, CBOT, NYMEX & COMEX Block Trade-Eligible Products and Minimum Quantity Thresholds](#)

The bunching of block trade orders is not permitted except in the case of eligible CTAs or foreign Persons performing a similar role.

Information with respect to spreads and combinations executed as block trades appears below:



	<b>CME and CBOT Products</b>	<b>NYMEX and COMEX Products</b>
<b>Intra-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations</b>	The <i>sum</i> of the quantities of the legs of the transaction must meet the minimum block quantity threshold. <b>* Exceptions apply in intra-commodity Agricultural, Foreign Exchange, U.S. Treasury and S&amp;P GSCI, S&amp;P GSCI ER and Bloomberg Roll Select Commodity Index futures spreads</b>	The <i>sum</i> of the quantities of the legs of the transaction must meet the minimum block quantity threshold
<b>Intra-Commodity Options Spreads and Options Combinations</b>	<i>Each leg of the spread</i> must meet the designated minimum quantity threshold.	
<b>Inter-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations</b>	<i>Each leg of the spread</i> must meet the <i>larger</i> of the threshold requirements for the underlying products. <b>** Exceptions apply in:</b> i) Short Term Interest Rate Futures; ii) U.S. Treasury and 10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread Futures; and iii) Deliverable Interest Rate Swap Futures (“DSF”) & Deliverable Euro Interest Rate Swap Futures (“EUR IRS”) iv) U.S. Treasury Futures and Forward-Starting Libor Reference Interest Rate Swaps (“Treasury Invoice Spreads”)	The <i>sum</i> of the quantities of the legs of the transaction must meet the <i>larger</i> of the threshold requirements for the underlying products.
<b>Inter-Commodity Options Spreads and Options Combinations</b>	<i>Each leg of the spread</i> must meet the <i>larger</i> of the threshold requirements for the underlying products.	
<b>Options/Futures Spreads</b>	The options component of the spread must meet the minimum quantity threshold for the outright option or option combination and the quantity of futures executed must be consistent with the delta of the options component of the spread. <b>*** Exceptions apply in Weather and Housing options/futures spreads</b>	The options component of the spread must meet the minimum quantity threshold for the outright option or option combination and the quantity of futures executed must be consistent with the delta of the options component of the spread.

**\* Exceptions for Intra-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combination:**

- i) Intra-Commodity Agricultural Futures Spreads

For intra-commodity CME and CBOT Agricultural futures spreads, each leg of the spread must meet the designated minimum quantity threshold.

- ii) Intra-Commodity Foreign Exchange Futures Spreads

For intra-commodity Foreign Exchange futures spreads, where the legs of the spread have different minimum quantity thresholds, the sum of the quantities of the legs of the transaction must meet the larger of the threshold requirements.

iii) Intra-Commodity U.S. Treasury Futures Spreads

*Intra-commodity calendar spread block trades are prohibited in CBOT U.S. Treasury futures. Parties may not execute contingent block trades in outright contracts to circumvent the prohibition on the execution of block trades in intra-commodity calendar spreads. Additionally, Tandem spreads (a trade combining calendar spreads in two different Treasury futures) may not be executed as block trades.*

iv) Intra-Commodity S&P GSCI, S&P GSCI ER and Bloomberg Roll Select Commodity Index Futures Spreads

For the above-referenced futures products, the block trade minimum is 50 contracts for each leg of the spread or combination. For example, the minimum quantity for an S&P GSCI calendar spread would require 50 contracts in each leg of the spread for a total of 100 contracts while a Bloomberg Roll Select Commodity Index futures butterfly would require a minimum volume of 200 contracts (50 contracts in each of the four legs of the butterfly).

**\*\* Exceptions for Inter-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations**

i)a) Short Term Interest Rate Futures, excluding Three Month Eurodollar-30-Day Federal Funds ("ED-FF") Spreads

In Short Term Interest Rate futures (Eurodollars, Eurodollar E-minis, Euribor, T-Bills, OIS, One-Month Eurodollar, Euroyen and 30-Day Fed Funds), inter-commodity futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided the sum of the legs of the spread meets the larger of the threshold requirements for the underlying products. For example, the minimum quantity thresholds for One-Month Eurodollar and Eurodollars during ETH are 200 and 2,000 contracts, respectively. Therefore, a block trade in the One-Month Eurodollar/Eurodollar spread can be executed provided the sum of the legs is at least 2,000 contracts.

i)b) ED-FF Spreads

For ED-FF spreads, the quantity of the ED leg must meet the designated minimum quantity threshold applicable to ED futures and the sum of the FF legs must meet the minimum threshold for a FF intra-commodity spread, which permits summing the legs to meet the minimum threshold.

For example, if the block trade is negotiated using the Globex-defined ratio of 10 ED futures opposite three of each of the next two FF futures contract months, the minimum block trading threshold of the spread would require the purchase (sale) of 4,000 March ED futures and the sale (purchase) of 1,200 April FF futures and 1,200 May FF futures. For avoidance of doubt, market participants are not required to execute a ED-FF spread block trade using the Globex-defined ratios provided that both sides of the spread meet the applicable minimum quantity threshold and the terms of the trade are consistent with all other CME Group block trading requirements.

ii) U.S. Treasury and 10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread Futures

In U.S. Treasury and 10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread futures, inter-commodity futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided each leg of the spread meets the minimum threshold requirement for the respective underlying products. For example, the minimum quantity thresholds for 10-Year Notes and U.S. Treasury Bonds during RTH are 5,000 and 3,000 contracts, respectively. Therefore, a block trade in the NOB spread (10-Year Note/Treasury Bond spread) can be executed only if the minimum quantity of the 10-Year Note leg of the spread is at least 5,000 contracts and the minimum quantity of the Treasury Bond leg of the spread is at least 3,000 contracts.

iii) Deliverable Interest Rate Swap Futures (“DSF”) & Deliverable Euro Interest Rate Swap Futures (“EUR IRS”)

Inter-commodity futures spreads or combinations composed only of DSF or composed only of EUR IRS (e.g., 2-Year DSF v. 10-Year DSF) may be executed as block trades provided the sum of the legs of the spread meets the larger of the threshold requirements for the underlying products. For example, the minimum block trade thresholds for 2-Year DSF and 10-Year DSF are 3,000 and 1,000 contracts, respectively. Thus, a spread between these two contracts may be executed as a block trade if the sum of the quantities of the legs is at least 3,000 contracts.

Inter-commodity futures spreads or combinations excluding those composed only of DSF or composed only of EUR IRS (e.g., 10-Year Treasury Notes vs. 10-Year DSF) may be executed as block trades provided each leg of the spread meets the minimum threshold requirement for the respective underlying products. For example, the minimum block trade thresholds for 10-Year Treasury Note futures and 10-Year DSF during RTH are 5,000 contracts and 1,000 contracts, respectively. A spread between these two contracts can be executed as a block trade, therefore, only if the quantity of the 10-Year Treasury Note leg is at least 5,000 contracts and the quantity of the 10-Year DSF leg is at least 1,000 contracts.

iv.) U.S. Treasury Futures and Forward-Starting Libor Reference Interest Rate Swaps (“Treasury Invoice Spreads”)

Contingent trades in Treasury Invoice Spreads where the block trade minimum thresholds for block trades in outright CBOT Treasury futures are circumvented are prohibited.

**\*\*\* Exceptions for Options/Futures Spreads**

Weather and Housing

An exception applies to Weather and Housing options/futures spreads, where the legs of the spread may be summed to meet the 20-contract minimum threshold.

**7. Block Trade Submission**

Block trades in CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX products must be submitted via CME Direct or CME ClearPort.

**a) Submission Time Requirements**

After a block trade is consummated it must be submitted to the Exchange via CME Direct or CME ClearPort within 5 or 15 minutes, depending on the product. Submission via CME Direct or CME ClearPort will result in a price report to the marketplace and submission to CME Clearing provided both sides of the trade pass the required credit check and the relevant terms of the respective sides of the trade match.

Where it is necessary for parties to agree to the individual leg prices on certain spread and combination trades to submit the trade, parties must do so as expeditiously as possible after agreeing to engage in the block trade.

Block trade prices are reported independently of transaction prices in the regular market and are not included as part of the daily trading range.

<b>CME/ CBOT</b>	
<b>Reported within 5 Minutes</b>	<b>Reported within 15 Minutes</b>
<p>Except as specified in the boxes to the right of this table, block trades in all block-eligible CME and CBOT products must be submitted within 5 minutes of execution.</p> <p>Inter-commodity block spread or combination trade that includes a DSF or EUR IRS leg(s) and a leg(s) subject to a 5-minute submission requirement requires that the block spread or combination trade be submitted within 5 minutes of execution.</p>	<p>Block Trades during European or Asian hours (ETH or ATH)* in Foreign Exchange and Interest Rate products, including Treasury Invoice Spreads must be submitted within 15 minutes of execution.</p> <p>Block trades in select CME and CBOT Agricultural futures products and all CME and CBOT Agricultural options products must be submitted within 15 minutes of execution.</p>
	<p>Block trades in Weather, Housing, DSF and EUR IRS contracts must be submitted within 15 minutes of execution.</p>

\* For purposes of CME Foreign Exchange and CME and CBOT Interest Rate products, the following times apply:

ETH: 12:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. CT, Monday through Friday on regular business days

RTH: 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday on regular business days

ATH: 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. CT, Monday through Friday on regular business days and at any time on weekends

<b>NYMEX/ COMEX</b>	
<b>Reported within 5 Minutes</b>	<b>Reported within 15 Minutes</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Outright Futures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial futures (BZ)</li> <li>• Light Sweet Crude Oil futures (CL)</li> <li>• New York Harbor ULSD Heating Oil futures (HO)</li> <li>• Henry Hub Natural Gas futures (NG)</li> <li>• RBOB Gasoline futures (RB)</li> <li>• Gold futures (GC)</li> <li>• Silver futures (SI)</li> <li>• Copper futures (HG)</li> </ul>	<p>All other block-eligible NYMEX and COMEX futures and options products and all spreads and combinations in block-eligible NYMEX and COMEX futures and options products must be submitted within 15 minutes of execution.</p>

**b) Additional Submission Requirements and Obligations**

Since July 17, 2017, all block trades have been required to be submitted directly to CME Clearing via CME Direct, the CME ClearPort User Interface (UI), or the CME ClearPort API through proprietary or 3<sup>rd</sup> party software. CME Direct connects to the CME ClearPort API.

For the block trade to be price reported to the marketplace and submitted to CME Clearing, both sides of the trade must pass the required credit check and the relevant terms of the respective sides of the trade must match. If either side does not pass the required credit check or the terms do not match, the block trade price will not be reported to the marketplace and the block trade will remain uncleared.

Entry into CME Direct or CME ClearPort may be done by each of the counterparties to the trade (single-sided entry) or via a broker or other authorized representative (dual-sided entry).

For single-sided entry, the buyer and seller of a block trade may agree to separately enter their side of the block trade into CME Direct or CME ClearPort, indicating each other as the opposite party. In this circumstance, **both** the buyer and seller must enter their respective side of the transaction within the required time-period.

For single-sided entry, one side of a trade (either the buyer or seller) may agree to enter their respective side of the trade and allege that trade against the other party. In this circumstance, the other party must ensure the alleged trade is accepted (complete with the correct account information for their side) within the required time-period. Consequently, the first party entering their side of the trade should ensure the information being entered is correct and must leave enough time for the second party to accept the trade within the requisite time-period.

For dual-sided entry where a broker or other representative is entering the buy and sell side of the block trade on behalf of the counterparties, the broker or other representative is responsible for the entry of the block trade within the requisite time-period.

#### Block Trades in CME and CBOT Products

Block trades may be entered in CME Direct or CME ClearPort from 6:00 p.m. CT through 5:45 p.m. CT each business day. CME Direct and CME ClearPort do not permit the entry of CME and CBOT block trades between 5:45 p.m. CT and 6:00 p.m. CT each business day or at any time on weekends. CME and CBOT block trades negotiated immediately prior to and during the time that block trade entry is not permitted must be entered by 6:05 p.m. CT for products subject to a 5-minute reporting requirement or by 6:15 p.m. CT for products subject to a 15-minute reporting requirement.

#### Block Trades in NYMEX and COMEX Products

Block trades may be entered in CME Direct or CME ClearPort from 5:00 p.m. CT/6:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET") through 4:00 p.m. CT/5:00 p.m. ET each business day. CME Direct and CME ClearPort do not permit the entry of NYMEX and COMEX block trades between 4:00 p.m. CT/5:00 p.m. ET and 5:00 p.m. CT/6:00 p.m. ET each business day or at any time on weekends. NYMEX and COMEX block trades negotiated immediately prior to and during the time that block trade entry is not permitted must be entered by 5:05 p.m. CT/6:05 p.m. ET for products subject to a 5-minute reporting requirement or by 5:15 p.m. CT/6:15 p.m. ET for products subject to a 15-minute reporting requirement.

Block trades negotiated at any other time during which CME Direct or CME ClearPort are closed must be submitted no later than 5 or 15 minutes after the time CME Direct or CME ClearPort reopens, depending on the reporting requirement for the specific product.

Block trades may also be reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk/Global Command Center by calling +1 800 438 8616 in the U.S., +44 20 7623 4747 in Europe, +65 6532 5010 in Asia, or via email at [FacDesk@cmegroup.com](mailto:FacDesk@cmegroup.com). **Please note that for the Facilitation Desk to submit the trade, the counterparty accounts must be registered with credit limits and product permissions set up in CME Account Manager.**

The Facilitation Desk is closed from 4:30 p.m. CT/5:30 p.m. ET Friday through 5:00 p.m. CT/6:00 p.m. ET Sunday.

### c) Information Required for Reporting Block Trades to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk

When reporting a block trade to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk, the following information will be required:

- Contract, contract month and contract year for futures, and, additionally for options, strike price and put or call designation for standard options, as well as the expiration date and exercise style for flex options;
- Quantity of the trade or, for spreads and combinations, the quantity of each leg of the trade;
- Price of the trade or, for certain spreads and combinations, the price of each leg of the trade;
- Account numbers for each side of the trade;
- Buyer's clearing firm and seller's clearing firm;
- Name and phone number of the party reporting the trade (for block trades reported via telephone or email);
- For block trades reported via phone or email, counterparty name and contact information must also be provided for trade verification purposes; and
- Execution time (to the nearest minute in Central/Eastern Time) of the trade. The execution time is the time at which the trade was consummated.

A block trade in a block-eligible option may be executed up to and including the day on which an option contract expires for purposes of offsetting an open option position, provided the offsetting block trade is submitted via CME Direct or CME ClearPort no later than the beginning of the CME ClearPort maintenance window which begins at 4:00 p.m. Central Time each business day.

The failure to submit timely, accurate and complete block trade reports may subject the party responsible for the reporting obligation to disciplinary action. Parties shall not be sanctioned for block reporting infractions deemed to arise from factors beyond the reporting party's control (e.g. the block trade fails the CME ClearPort automated credit check).

**Please note that the execution time of a block trade is the time that the parties agree to the trade. Market participants must accurately report the execution time of the block trade. The reporting of inaccurate execution times may result in disciplinary action.**

### **8. Block Trade Recordkeeping**

Complete order records for block trades must be created and maintained pursuant to Rule 536 and CFTC Regulations. Additionally, the time of execution of the block trade must also be recorded for all block trades.

### **9. Error Remediation**

#### Dual-Sided Entry

For dual-sided entry where a broker or other representative has entered the buy and sell side of the block trade on behalf of the counterparties and the trade has cleared, but for which the broker or other representative has made an error in the terms of the trade, the error may be corrected as follows: If the error is discovered on the same CME Direct or CME ClearPort trade date on which submission occurred (5:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central Time each business day), the broker or other representative may void the erroneous submission and resubmit the block trade with the correct information.

If the error is discovered after the CME Direct or CME ClearPort trade date on which submission occurred, the broker or other representative may request the Exchange to correct the error within three business days.

#### Single-Sided Entry

For single-sided entry where the trade has cleared, but where an error has been made in the terms of the trade, either party may request the Exchange to correct the error within three business days.

All correction requests made to the Exchange must include evidence that the counterparties to the block trade agree to the correction request. All correction requests are subject to review and approval by the Exchange.

To request a correction please contact the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk/Global Command Center at 1.800.438.8616 in the U.S., +44 20 7623 4747 in Europe, +65 6532 5010 in Asia, or via email at [FacDesk@cmegroup.com](mailto:FacDesk@cmegroup.com).

Error correction requests received after the three-business-day window may not take place without the express approval of CME Clearing. Market participants should contact CME Clearing Services at 312.207.2525.

### **10. Dissemination of Block Trade Information**

The date, execution time, contract month, price and quantity of block trades are automatically reported once they are cleared. Block trade information is reported on the MerQuote system and may be accessed by entering the code "BLK". Block trade information is also displayed on the CME Group website at the following link: <http://www.cmegroup.com/tools-information/blocktrades.html>. Block trade information is also displayed on the trading floor.

Block trade prices are published separately from transactions in the regular market.

Block trade volume is also identified in the daily volume reports published by the Exchange.

### **11. Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades**

#### a) General

Parties involved in the solicitation or negotiation of a block trade may not disclose the details of those communications to any other party for any purpose other than to facilitate the execution of the block trade. Parties privy to nonpublic information regarding a consummated block trade may not disclose such information to any other party prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. A broker negotiating a block trade on behalf of a customer may disclose the identity of the customer to potential counterparties, including the counterparty with which the block trade is consummated, only with the permission of the customer.

Parties solicited to provide a two-sided block market are not deemed to be in possession of nonpublic information provided side of market interest is not disclosed in the context of the solicitation.

#### b) Pre-Hedging/Anticipatory Hedging

Parties to a potential block trade may engage in pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of the position that they believe in good faith will result from the consummation of the block trade, except for an intermediary that takes the opposite side of its own customer order. In such instances, prior to the consummation of the block trade, the intermediary is prohibited from offsetting the position established by the block trade in any account which is owned or controlled, or in which an ownership interest is held, or for the proprietary

account of the employer of such intermediary. The intermediary may enter into transactions to offset the position only after the block has been consummated.

It shall be a violation of Rule 526 for a person to engage in the front running of a block trade when acting on material nonpublic information regarding an impending transaction by another person, acting on nonpublic information obtained through a confidential employee/employer relationship, broker/customer relationship, or in breach of a pre-existing duty.

The Exchange may proceed with an enforcement action when the facts and circumstances of pre-hedging suggest deceptive or manipulative conduct by any of the involved parties, including when an intermediary handling a customer order acts against its customer's best interests.

This guidance applies only in the context of pre-hedging of block trades. This guidance does not affect any requirement under the CEA or Commission Regulations.

## **12. TAS & TAM Block Trades**

Certain block-eligible futures contract months may be executed as block trades and assigned the current day's settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price ("TAS block trades"). Certain block-eligible futures contract months may also be executed as block trades and assigned the current day's marker price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the marker price ("TAM block trades").

Additionally, intra-commodity calendar spreads may be executed as TAS or TAM block trades provided the underlying spread is eligible for TAS or TAM trading. Please refer to the most recent Advisory Notice on TAS and TAM transactions for the list of products, contract months and spreads for which TAS or TAM pricing is permitted.

The pricing of the legs of a TAS or TAM calendar spread block trade will be calculated as follows:

- The nearby leg of the spread will always be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month.
- The far leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract **minus** the allowable TAS or TAM price increment traded (-10 through +10), except in circumstances where the traded TAS or TAM price is the actual settlement or marker price of the contract.

TAS block trades, including eligible TAS calendar spread block trades, may not be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring contract.

The products and contract months in which TAS and TAM block trades are permitted are set forth in the list of block trade eligible products which is available on the CME Group website via the following link:

[NYMEX & COMEX Block Trade-Eligible Products and Minimum Quantity Thresholds](#)

## **13. Basis Trade at Index Close ("BTIC") and Basis Trade at Cash Open ("TACO") Block Trades**

A BTIC transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the applicable cash Index closing level. For a BTIC block trade executed on a given Trading Day on or before the scheduled close of the underlying primary securities market, the corresponding futures price shall be made by reference to the Index closing value for the current Trading Day. BTIC block trades are not permitted on the last day of trading in an expiring contract month.



A TACO transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index. Effective on Sunday, May 13, 2018, for trade date Monday, May 14, 2018, TACO transactions, including TACO block trades, will begin to be permitted in CME E-mini S&P 500 futures.

A list of BTIC block-eligible products and block minimum thresholds is available on the CME Group website via the following link:

[BTIC Block Trades Table](#)

The futures price assigned to a BTIC block trade will be the current day’s applicable cash Index closing level adjusted by any valid price increment (the “Basis”) higher or lower than the current day’s cash Index closing level.

The futures price assigned to a TACO block trade will be the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of the applicable cash Index adjusted by any valid Basis higher or lower than the SOQ.

The Basis in BTIC and TACO transactions must be stated in full tick increments as set forth in the applicable product chapter, and must be fair and reasonable taking into account financing rates, expected dividend income and the time remaining until the applicable futures contract expires.

The futures price of a BTIC block trade will be determined by the Exchange at 3:45 p.m. Central Time and the Exchange-determined price will be final at that time. In the event of an early scheduled close of the primary securities market, the futures price of a BTIC block trade will be determined by the Exchange 45 minutes after the early scheduled close time for the primary securities market, and the Exchange-determined price will be final at that time. In the event of an equity market disruption in the primary securities market, all BTIC block trades will be cancelled for that trade date.

The futures price of a TACO block trade will be determined by the Exchange shortly after the SOQ is disseminated by Standard & Poor’s. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index such that the administrator of such cash Index is unable to produce a regularly scheduled SOQ, all TACO block trades which rely on that SOQ will be cancelled.

BTIC and TACO block trades **may not** be executed as a spread transaction. Parties wishing to effectuate a block spread transaction will be required to negotiate the transaction as separate outright BTIC block trades, with each leg meeting the applicable block trade minimum threshold.

#### **14. Text of Rule 526**

##### **Rule 526 BLOCK TRADES**

The Exchange shall designate the products in which block trades shall be permitted and determine the minimum quantity thresholds for such transactions. Additionally, with respect to block trades in swaps, the minimum size for such transactions shall be established at levels at or in excess of those set forth in Appendix F to Part 43 of CFTC Regulations *[this sentence appears solely in CBOT’s rule]*. The following shall govern block trades:

- A. A block trade must be for a quantity that is at or in excess of the applicable minimum threshold. Orders may not be aggregated in order to achieve the minimum transaction size, except by those entities described in Sections I. and J.
- B. Each party to a block trade must be an Eligible Contract Participant as that term is defined in Section 1a(18) of the Commodity Exchange Act.
- C. A member shall not execute any order by means of a block trade for a customer unless such customer has specified that the order be executed as a block trade.
- D. The price at which a block trade is executed must be fair and reasonable in light of (i) the size of the block trade, (ii) the prices and sizes of other transactions in the same contract at the relevant time, (iii) the prices and sizes

of transactions in other relevant markets, including without limitation the underlying cash market or related futures markets, at the relevant time, and (iv) the circumstances of the markets or the parties to the block trade.

- E. Block trades shall not set off conditional orders (e.g., Stop Orders and MIT Orders) or otherwise affect orders in the regular market.
- F. Unless otherwise agreed to by the principal counterparties to the block trade, the seller, or, in the case of a brokered transaction, the broker handling the block trade, must ensure that each block trade is reported to the Exchange within the time period and in the manner specified by the Exchange. The report must include the contract, contract month, price, quantity of the transaction, the respective clearing members, the time of execution, and, for options, strike price, put or call and expiration month. The Exchange shall promptly publish such information separately from the reports of transactions in the regular market.
- G. Block trades must be reported to the Clearing House in accordance with an approved reporting method.
- H. Clearing members and members involved in the execution of block trades must maintain a record of the transaction in accordance with Rule 536.
- I. A commodity trading advisor ("CTA") registered or exempt from registration under the Act, including, without limitation, any investment advisor registered or exempt from registration under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, shall be the applicable entity for purposes of Sections A., B., C., and D., provided such advisors have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for the customers of such advisors.
- J. A foreign Person performing a similar role or function to a CTA or investment advisor as described in Section I, and subject as such to foreign regulation, shall be the applicable entity for purposes of Sections A., B., C., and D., provided such Persons have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for the customers of such Persons.

## **15. Contact Information**

Questions regarding this Advisory Notice may be directed to the following individuals:

Market Regulation:	Jennifer Dendrinis, Director, Investigations	312.341.7812
	Urmi Graft, Manager, Investigations	312.341.7639
	Mary Cantagallo, Lead Investigator, Investigations	312.341.7632
	Erin Middleton, Lead Rules & Regulatory Outreach Specialist	312.341.3286
	Shawn Tan, Senior Rules & Regulatory Outreach Specialist	+65 65935580
	Robert Sniegowski, Executive Director, Rules & Regulatory Outreach	312.341.5991

For media inquiries concerning this Advisory Notice, please contact CME Group Corporate Communications at 312.930.3434 or [news@cmegroup.com](mailto:news@cmegroup.com).