

April 5, 2013

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Melissa Jurgens
Office of the Secretariat
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581

**RE: Regulation 40.6(a) Rule Certification. Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc./The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc./New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc./Commodity Exchange, Inc.
Submission # 13-127: Issuance of CME & CBOT Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1303-3 and NYMEX and COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1307-4**

Dear Ms. Jurgens:

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. ("CME") and The Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, Inc. ("CBOT") are notifying the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") that they are self-certifying the issuance of CME & CBOT Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1303-3 ("RA1303-3") and New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX") and Commodity Exchange, Inc. ("COMEX") (NYMEX, COMEX, CME and CBOT, collectively, "the Exchanges") are notifying the Commission that they are self-certifying the issuance of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1307-4 ("RA1307-4"). The Advisory Notices concern the adoption of block trade minimum thresholds in nine new Realized Variance futures contracts and additional guidance regarding the disclosure and use of nonpublic information regarding block trades.

Realized Variance Futures

CME, NYMEX and COMEX will be launching several Realized Variance futures contracts on Sunday, April 21, 2013, for trade date Monday, April 22, 2013. Concurrent with the launch, block trading will be permitted in the following products (the "products") at a minimum threshold of 10:

- CME Australian Dollar/U.S. Dollar ("AUD/USD") Realized Variance futures
- CME Great British Pound/U.S. Dollar ("GBP/USD") Realized Variance futures
- CME Euro/U.S. Dollar ("EUR/USD") Realized Variance futures
- CME Japanese Yen/U.S. Dollar ("JPY/USD") Realized Variance futures
- NYMEX WTI Crude Oil Realized Variance futures
- NYMEX Brent Crude Oil Realized Variance futures
- NYMEX Natural Gas Realized Variance futures
- COMEX Gold Realized Variance futures
- COMEX Silver Realized Variance futures

Additional information on the products will be provided via separate submissions. When establishing the block level of 10 contracts, CME, NYMEX and COMEX considered that at the present time there are no comparable futures products of this type being offered to the marketplace and the block level has been set relatively low given that there is no established pool of liquidity in these products. CME, NYMEX and COMEX will review the appropriateness of the block levels on an annual basis or more frequently should market circumstances warrant a change to the initially established minimum thresholds.

Additional Guidance Regarding the Disclosure and Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades

On October 24, 2012, CME & CBOT and NYMEX & COMEX issued revised Advisory Notices concerning block trades in response to questions from market participants (see Submission 12-351 from October 23, 2012). The October 24, 2012 Advisory Notices clarified that no party solicited to participate in a block trade or otherwise involved in the negotiation of a block trade could trade on the basis of nonpublic information obtained through solicitation or negotiation with the exception that the principal counterparties to a consummated block trade were not precluded from trading following consummation but prior to the block trade being publicly reported.

As a result of the issuance of those Advisory Notices, the Market Regulation Department received questions from affected market participants requesting additional clarification on various aspects of the guidance. RA1303-3 and RA1307-4 are being issued in response to those requests, and provide the following additional guidance:

- 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.
- Pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of any portion of a block trade in the same product or a closely-related product based upon a solicitation to participate in a block trade is not permitted. A closely related product is a product that is highly correlated to, serves as a substitute for, or is the functional economic equivalent of the product being traded as a block.
- Counterparties to a block trade are permitted to initiate trades to hedge or offset the risk associated with the block trade following the consummation of the block trade, including during the period preceding the public report of the block trade by the Exchange.
- Except as provided above, parties privy to nonpublic information attendant to a block trade are prohibited from trading in the same product or a closely-related product for the purpose of taking advantage of such information prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. This prohibition is not intended to preclude such parties from continuing to transact in the marketplace in the context of their normal business; rather, it precludes parties in possession of actionable nonpublic information regarding an imminent block trade or report of a block trade from specifically using such information to their advantage. Information regarding a block trade is considered to be nonpublic until such time that the block trade details have been disseminated to the marketplace by the Exchange or the information can otherwise be demonstrated to have become stale or obsolete.
- Parties solicited to provide a two-sided block market are not deemed to be in possession of nonpublic information provided that side of market interest is not disclosed in the context of the solicitation.

RA1303-3 and RA1307-4 will be issued to the marketplace on April 8, 2013, and will become effective on April 22, 2013.

The Market Regulation Department and the Legal Department collectively reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA" or the "Act"). During the review, we have identified that the issuance of RA1303-3 and RA1307-4 may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

Compliance with Rules: The Market Regulation Advisory Notices being issued provide additional guidance to the marketplace on the prohibition concerning the disclosure of nonpublic information

concerning block trades. This guidance is intended to assist market participants in remaining in compliance with Rule 526 (“Block Trades”) and is therefore in compliance with this Core Principle.

Availability of General Information: As required by this Core Principle, the Exchanges are publicly issuing RA1303-3 and RA1307-4 to ensure that market participants 1) have sufficient information attendant to the prohibition on the disclosure of nonpublic order information concerning block trades and 2) are aware of the block trade level of 10 contracts for each of the nine Realized Variance futures contracts being launched for trade date April 22, 2013.

Execution of Transactions: Core Principle 9 permits a designated contract market (“DCM”) to authorize for bona fide business purposes transactions executed away from the DCM’s centralized marketplace, and the Exchanges have established block levels in a wide array of futures and options products for quite some time. The establishment of the block trade minimum threshold in the nine Realized Variance futures products is intended to provide eligible contract participants with an additional execution mechanism for these contracts, which will also be available for competitive execution on CME Globex.

Protection of Market Participants: The guidance concerning disclosure mentioned in connection with Core Principle 2 above is intended to remind parties involved in the solicitation and negotiation of block trades that misuse of the information obtained during those discussions is impermissible and will result in disciplinary action. The restriction on the use of non-public order information is expressly intended to ensure that market participants are not harmed by agents or others who have access to information concerning the block trade, and, as such, ensures that the Exchanges have established rules and guidance designed to protect market participants from such abusive practices.

CME and CBOT certify that the issuance of RA1303-3 and CME certifies that the establishment of block trade minimum thresholds in four FX Realized Variance futures products complies with the Act and regulations thereunder. NYMEX and COMEX certify that the issuance of RA1307-4 and the establishment of block trade minimum thresholds in three Energy and two Metals Realized Variance futures products comply with the Act and regulations thereunder. RA1303-3 appears in Exhibit 1 and RA1307-4 appears in Exhibit 2.

The additional guidance concerning the disclosure and use of nonpublic information concerning block trades set forth in RA1303-3 and RA1307-4 is being issued in response to questions from various market participants. The Market Regulation Department has discussed the revised guidance with numerous market participants. The prohibition on anticipatory hedging is neither universally embraced by all market participants nor deemed necessary. While the Market Regulation Department is aware of these opposing views, the additional guidance is an accurate representation of the current regulatory position of the Exchanges, which will be reexamined subsequent to the Commission’s publication of its final rules on block trades.

CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX certify that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchange’s website at <http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Robert Sniegowski, Market Regulation, at 312.341.5991 or via email at Robert.Sniegowski@cmegroup.com. Alternatively, you may contact me at 212.299.2200 or via email at Christopher.Bowen@cmegroup.com. Please reference CME/CBOT/NYMEX/COMEX Submission 13-127 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/Christopher S. Bowen
Managing Director, Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – RA1303-3
Exhibit 2 – RA1307-4

Exhibit 1

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	CME & CBOT
Subject	Block Trades
Rule References	Rule 526
Advisory Date	April 8, 2013
Advisory Number	CME & CBOT RA1303-3
Effective Date	April 22, 2013

This Advisory Notice supersedes CME & CBOT Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1302-3 from February 8, 2013. It is being issued to notify the marketplace that pending all relevant regulatory review periods, 1) CME will permit block trading pursuant to Rule 526 ("Block Trades") in four FX Realized Variance futures contracts at a block trade minimum threshold of 10 contracts concurrent with the launch of trading in those contracts on Sunday, April 21, 2013, for trade date April 22, 2013, and 2) CME and CBOT will adopt clarifying language in Section 10 to provide additional guidance regarding the disclosure and use of nonpublic information regarding block trades.

Block Trading in CME FX Realized Variance Futures

Effective Sunday, April 21, 2013, for trade date Monday, April 22, 2013, CME will permit block trading in the following four FX Realized Variance futures contracts concurrent with the launch of trading in the contracts at a block trade minimum threshold of 10 contracts:

- Australian Dollar/U.S. Dollar ("AUD/USD") Realized Variance futures
- Great British Pound/U.S. Dollar ("GBP/USD") Realized Variance futures
- Euro/U.S. Dollar ("EUR/USD") Realized Variance futures
- Japanese Yen/U.S. Dollar ("JPY/USD") Realized Variance futures

Disclosure and Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades

Specifically, the language in Section 10 of the Advisory Notice clarifies the following:

- 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.
- Pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of any portion of a block trade in the same product or a closely-related product based upon a solicitation to participate in a block trade is not permitted. A closely related product is a product that is highly correlated to, serves as a substitute for, or is the functional economic equivalent of the product being traded as a block.

- Counterparties to a block trade are permitted to initiate trades to hedge or offset the risk associated with the block trade following the consummation of the block trade, including during the period preceding the public report of the block trade by the Exchange.
- Except as provided above, parties privy to nonpublic information attendant to a block trade are prohibited from trading in the same product or a closely-related product for the purpose of taking advantage of such information prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. This prohibition is not intended to preclude such parties from continuing to transact in the marketplace in the context of their normal business; rather, it precludes parties in possession of actionable nonpublic information regarding an imminent block trade or report of a block trade from specifically using such information to their advantage. Information regarding a block trade is considered to be nonpublic until such time that the block trade details have been disseminated to the marketplace by the Exchange or the information can otherwise be demonstrated to have become stale or obsolete.
- Parties solicited to provide a two-sided block market are not deemed to be in possession of nonpublic information provided that side of market interest is not disclosed in the context of the solicitation.

CME and CBOT products in which block trading is or will be permitted, and the relevant quantity thresholds, appear in Section 12, and the text of CME and CBOT Rule 526 appears in Section 13 of this Advisory Notice.

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 shall not be 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 on the basis of such electronically displayed indicative markets may be transacted only through direct bilateral communications involving the broker, where applicable, and the parties to the trade.

All block trades are subject to the conditions set forth in CME and CBOT Rule 526 and in this Advisory Notice. Additionally, BTIC (“Basis Trade at Index Close”) block trades in Select Sector futures and DJUSRE futures are also subject to the requirements set forth in CME Rule 36906.A. (“BTIC Block Trade Requirements”) or CBOT Rule 30107.A. (“BTIC Block Trade Requirements”), as applicable. Additional information on BTIC block trades appears in Section 9 of this Advisory Notice.

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 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.

Orders may not be bunched to meet the minimum block quantity thresholds.

3. Time and Prices of Block Trades

Block trades may be executed at any time, including times during which the public auction market is closed, except that BTIC block trades may not take place on the last day of trading in an expiring 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 Basis applied to a BTIC block trade must also be fair and reasonable taking into account financing rates, expected dividend income and the time remaining until the applicable futures contract expires pursuant to the requirements of CME Rule 36906 (“Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions”) or CBOT Rule 30207 (“Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions”), as applicable.

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 are reported independently of transaction prices in the regular market and are not included as part of the daily trading range. Block trade prices do not elect conditional orders (e.g. stop orders) or otherwise affect orders in the regular market.

4. Block Trade Minimum Quantities for Outrights, Spreads and Combinations

The block trade minimum quantity requirements for outright futures and options are set forth in the list of block trade eligible products in Section 12 of this Advisory Notice. Additional information with respect to spreads and combinations executed as blocks appears below:

a) Intra-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations

- i) All Products Excluding U.S. Treasury, OTR Treasury Yield, 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap and GSCI Futures

Intra-commodity futures spreads and futures combinations may be executed as block trades provided that the **sum** of the quantities of the legs meets the minimum block quantity threshold. For example, 2,000 Eurodollar future calendar spreads executed during RTH hours would meet the Eurodollar futures minimum quantity requirement of 4,000 contracts.

- ii) U.S. Treasury, OTR Treasury Yield and 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap Futures

Intra-commodity calendar spread block trades are prohibited in CBOT U.S. Treasury futures, OTR Treasury Yield and 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap 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.

iii) GSCI Futures

In GSCI futures and GSCI Excess Return Index futures the block trade minimum is 300 contracts for each leg of the spread or combination. For example, the minimum quantity for a GSCI calendar spread would require 300 contracts in each leg of the spread for a total of 600 contracts while a GSCI futures butterfly would require a minimum volume of 1,200 contracts.

b) Inter-Commodity Futures Spreads

i) Short Term Interest Rate Futures

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 that 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 that the sum of the legs is at least 2,000 contracts.

ii) U.S. Treasury, OTR Treasury Yield, 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap and 10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread Futures

In U.S. Treasury, OTR Treasury Yield, 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap and 10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread futures, inter-commodity futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided that **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")

Inter-commodity futures spreads or combinations composed only of DSF (e.g., 2-Year DSF v. 10-Year DSF) may be executed as block trades provided that 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 (e.g., 10-Year Treasury Notes v. 10-Year DSF) may be executed as block trades provided that **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) All Other Products

In all other block-eligible products, inter-commodity futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided that the quantity of **each leg of the spread** meets the **larger** of the threshold requirements for the underlying products.

c) Intra-Commodity Option Spreads and Combinations

Intra-commodity option spreads and combinations may be executed as block trades provided that the quantity of **each leg of the spread** meets the designated minimum quantity threshold.

d) Inter-Commodity Option Spreads and Combinations

Inter-commodity option spreads and combinations may be executed as block trades provided that the quantity of **each leg of the spread** meets the **larger** of the threshold requirements for the underlying products.

e) Options/Futures Spreads

In general, options/futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided that the options component of the spread meets the minimum quantity threshold for the outright option or option combination and the quantity of futures executed is consistent with the delta of the options component of the spread. 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.

5. Block Trade Price Reporting Requirements

a) Time Requirements

With the exceptions noted below, all block trades must be price reported to the Exchange within **five minutes** of the transaction.

i) Block Trades during European or Asian hours (ETH or ATH) in Interest Rate Products **Excluding** DSF

Interest rate block trades executed during ETH or ATH must be price reported to the Exchange within **15 minutes** of the transaction. With the exception of DSF, interest rate block trades executed during RTH must be reported within five minutes.

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 all times on weekends

ii) Weather, Housing, and DSF Block Trades

Block trades in Weather, Housing and DSF contracts must be price reported to the Exchange within **15 minutes** of the transaction.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the execution of any inter-commodity block spread or combination trade that includes a DSF leg(s) and a leg(s) subject to a 5 minute price reporting requirement requires that the block spread or combination trade be reported within 5 minutes of execution.

b) Reporting Obligation

Price reporting obligations are the responsibility of the seller, unless otherwise agreed to by the principal counterparties to the block trade; however, in the case of a brokered transaction, the price reporting obligation is the responsibility of the broker handling the block trade, unless otherwise agreed to by the principal counterparties to the block trade. For purposes of the foregoing, the term “seller” refers to the principal counterparty acting as the seller of the block trade.

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).

c) Reporting Methods

Block trades must be price reported to the Exchange via one of the following methods.

i) Global Command Center ("GCC")

All block trades (except for block trades in Weather futures and options executed between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Chicago time, Monday – Friday on regular business days) may be price reported to the GCC. The seller or broker reports the trade by calling the GCC at **312.456.2391**. When the GCC is closed – for example, during the weekend – the block trade must be reported no later than five minutes prior to the opening of the next electronic trading session for that product.

ii) CME ClearPort

Block trades in all products with the exception of CME Weather may be electronically submitted directly to CME Clearing via CME ClearPort.

Block trades may also be price reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk by calling **1.866.246.9639** or via email at FacDesk@cmegroup.com. In either case, all of the data and information elements required in d) below must be submitted.

For information on reporting block trades through CME ClearPort, please contact customer service at 1.800.438.8616 or via email at ClearPort@cmegroup.com.

iii) Weather Blocks on CME Clearing360 via Pivot Instant Markets

Block trades in Weather futures and options may be price reported electronically to CME Clearing360 via Pivot Instant Markets by eligible inter-dealer brokers. For additional information on price reporting block trades via Pivot Instant Markets, please contact Angie DiCarlo, Senior Director, Client Development & Sales, at 312.930.4515 or via email at Angie.DiCarlo@cmegroup.com.

iv) Weather Block Trades Executed Between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Block trades in Weather futures and options executed between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Chicago time, Monday – Friday on regular business days should be price reported to Exchange staff by calling 312.648.3935 or 312.648.3936.

d) Information Required When Reporting Block Trades

When price reporting a block trade, 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 spreads and combinations, the price of each leg of the trade; and
- Buyer's clearing firm and seller's clearing firm;
- Name and phone number of the party reporting the trade (for block trades reported to the GCC or reported via telephone or email to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk);
- For block trades reported via phone or email to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk, counterparty name and contact information must also be provided for trade verification purposes; and

- Execution time (to the nearest minute in Central Time) of the trade. The execution time is the time at which the trade was consummated.

Market participants must exercise diligence in accurately reporting the execution time of the block trade. The reporting of inaccurate execution times may result in disciplinary action.

6. Block Trade Submission Requirements to CME Clearing

Block trades price reported to the GCC or Exchange staff as described in numbers i) or iv) above must be submitted to CME Clearing through the FEC User Interface via the portal under BLOCK entry. For block trades executed between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. **Central Time**, firms must submit the trade within one hour. For block trades executed between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. **Central Time**, firms must submit the trade no later than 7:00 a.m. **Central Time**.

Block trades are entered by both the buyer's and seller's clearing firm and go through a two-sided match process. Upon entry, confirmation records will be routed back to the firms for bookkeeping purposes. When reporting spread or combination transactions, each leg must be entered individually. The execution time is required to be entered and must be the actual time at which the transaction was consummated by the two parties, not the time at which the trade is reported by the parties to their respective firms. Thus, if the clearing member has not acted as either principal or agent in the transaction, it must ensure that its customer provides an accurate execution time.

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. The offsetting block trade must be price reported to the GCC pursuant to the requirements of Section 5 above, and the offset must be submitted to CME Clearing no later than the Position Change Submission ("PCS") deadline on the day on which the option contract expires. The PCS deadline for CME and CBOT products is 7:30 p.m. Central Time.

7. 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.

8. Dissemination of Block Trade Information

The date, execution time, contract details, price and quantity of block trades are reported upon receipt of the block information by GCC. Block trade information is reported on the MerQuote system and may be accessed by entering the code "BLK". The information will also be displayed on cmegroup.com 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.

9. BTIC Block Trades

A BTIC Transaction is a futures transaction that is priced with reference to the applicable cash index close price. BTIC Transactions in Select Sector futures and BTIC Transactions in DJUSRE futures may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 ("Block Trades"), this Advisory Notice and the applicable provisions in the corresponding product chapter (CME Chapter 369 for Select Sector futures and CBOT Chapter 30 for DJUSRE futures).

The current minimum threshold of 50 contracts applicable to each product will also apply to BTIC block trades in the products. BTIC block trades will not be permitted on the last day of trading in an expiring contract month.

BTIC block trades **may not** be executed as a spread transaction pursuant to the requirements in Section 4 of this Advisory Notice. Parties wishing to effectuate a block spread transaction in either product will be required to negotiate the transaction as separate outright BTIC block trades, and each leg must meet the minimum threshold of 50 contracts.

The futures price assigned to a Select Sector futures BTIC block trade will be based on the current day's Select Sector cash index close price, or the current day's Select Sector cash index close price adjusted by any valid price increment (the "Basis") higher or lower than the Select Sector cash index close price. The Basis must be stated in full tick increments as set forth in CME Rule 36901 ("Commodity Specifications").

The futures price assigned to a DJUSRE futures BTIC block trade will be based on the current day's Dow Jones US Real Estate cash index close price, or the current day's Dow Jones US Real Estate cash index close price adjusted by any valid price increment higher or lower than the Dow Jones US Real Estate cash index close price. The Basis must be stated in full tick increments as set forth in CBOT Rule 30102 ("Trading Specifications").

BTIC block trades must be reported to the Exchange at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled close of the underlying primary securities market to establish the BTIC futures price on the current trading day. A BTIC block trade that is not reported at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled close of the underlying primary securities market will be priced based on the index close price for the next available trading day for the primary securities market.

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.

10. Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades

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.

Pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of any portion of a block trade in the same product or a closely-related product based upon a solicitation to participate in a block trade is not permitted. A closely related product is a product that is highly correlated to, serves as a substitute for, or is the functional economic equivalent of the product being traded as a block.

Counterparties to a block trade are permitted to initiate trades to hedge or offset the risk associated with the block trade following the consummation of the block trade, including during the period preceding the public report of the block trade by the Exchange.

Except as provided above, parties privy to nonpublic information attendant to a block trade are prohibited from trading in the same product or a closely-related product for the purpose of taking advantage of such information prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. This prohibition is not intended

to preclude such parties from continuing to transact in the marketplace in the context of their normal business; rather, it precludes parties in possession of actionable nonpublic information regarding an imminent block trade or report of a block trade from specifically using such information to their advantage. Information regarding a block trade is considered to be nonpublic until such time that the block trade details have been disseminated to the marketplace by the Exchange or the information can otherwise be demonstrated to have become stale or obsolete.

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

11. Block Trades between Affiliated Parties

Block trades between the accounts of affiliated parties are permitted provided that 1) the block trade is executed at a fair and reasonable price; 2) each party has a legal and independent bona fide business purpose for engaging in the trade; and 3) each party's decision to enter into the block trade is made by an independent decision-maker. In the absence of satisfying the requirements above, the transaction may constitute an illegal wash trade prohibited by Rule 534 ("Wash Trades Prohibited").

12. CME & CBOT Block Trade-Eligible Products

For purposes of the interest rate products in the tables, 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 all times on weekends

CME Products	Futures	Options	Flex Options
Eurodollars (RTH)	4,000 contracts - or 1,000 contracts provided that a minimum of 1,000 contracts are transacted in yrs 6-10	10,000 contracts	Not Available
Eurodollars (ETH)	2,000 contracts – or 500 contracts provided that a minimum of 500 contracts are transacted in yrs 6-10	5,000 contracts	Not Available
Eurodollars (ATH)	1,000 contracts – or 250 contracts provided that a minimum of 250 contracts are transacted in yrs 6-10	2,500 contracts	Not Available
Eurodollar E-mini futures (RTH)	40,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
Eurodollar E-mini futures (ETH)	20,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
Eurodollar E-mini futures (ATH)	10,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
3-Month Overnight Index Swaps (OIS)(RTH)	2,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
3-Month Overnight Index Swaps (OIS)(ETH)	1,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
3-Month Overnight Index Swaps (OIS)(ATH)	500 contracts	Not available	Not available

CME Products	Futures	Options	Flex Options
3-Month OIS/Eurodollar spread (RTH)	4,000 contracts (all legs combined)	Not available	Not available
3-Month OIS/Eurodollar spread (ETH)	2,000 contracts (all legs combined)	Not available	Not available
3-Month OIS/Eurodollar spread (ATH)	1,000 contracts (all legs combined)	Not available	Not available
T-Bills (RTH)	100 contracts	Not available	Not available
T-Bills (ETH)	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
T-Bills (ATH)	25 contracts	Not available	Not available
Euroyen (RTH)	200 contracts	200 contracts	Not available
Euroyen (ETH)	100 contracts	100 contracts	Not available
Euroyen (ATH)	50 contracts	50 contracts	Not available
One-Month Eurodollar (RTH)	400 contracts	400 contracts	Not available
One-Month Eurodollar (ETH)	200 contracts	200 contracts	Not available
One-Month Eurodollar (ATH)	100 contracts	100 contracts	Not available
10-Year Sovereign Yield Spread	250 contracts	Not available	Not available
Three-Month Euribor	2,000 contracts (nearest 20 March quarterly cycle delivery months and non-March quarterly cycle delivery months)	Not available	Not available
	500 contracts (farthest 20 March quarterly cycle delivery months)		
Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
Eurozone Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
S&P 500*	Not available	250 contracts	250 contracts
NASDAQ-100*	200 contracts - outright only	100 contracts	100 contracts
S&P SmallCap 600, E-mini S&P SmallCap 600, E-mini NASDAQ Composite Index, E-mini S&P Select Sector Stock Index	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
E-mini Yen Denominated Nikkei Stock Average Index	250 contracts	Not available	Not available
E-mini S&P CNX Nifty Index	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
E-micro S&P CNX Nifty Index	250 contracts	Not available	Not available
S&P MidCap 400*, S&P 500/Citigroup Growth, S&P 500/Citigroup Value, Nikkei 225	50 contracts	250 contracts	250 contracts
Custom Stock Index/SGI Wise US	50 contracts	Not Available	Not available
Goldman Sachs Commodity Index (GSCI), GSCI Excess Return Index	50 contracts for outright – 300 contracts for each leg of a spread transaction	Not available	Not available
EUR/USD 1-Month and 3-Month Realized Volatility	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
EUR/USD*, JPY/USD*	150 contracts	250 contracts	Not available

CME Products	Futures	Options	Flex Options
AUD/USD*, CAD/USD*, CHF/USD*, GBP/USD*, MXN/USD	100 contracts	250 contracts	Not available
EUR/GBP, EUR/CHF, EUR/JPY, NZD/USD, BRL/USD, CZK/USD, CZK/EUR, HUF/EUR, HUF/USD, ILS/USD, KRW/USD, PLN/USD, PLN/EUR, RMB/USD, RMB/EUR, RMB/JPY, RUB/USD, ZAR/USD, USD/TRY, EUR/TRY	50 contracts	250 contracts	Not available
AUD/CAD, AUD/JPY, AUD/NZD, CAD/JPY, CHF/JPY, EUR/AUD, EUR/CAD, EUR/NOK, EUR/SEK, GBP/JPY, GBP/CHF, INR/USD, NOK/USD, SEK/USD, USD/RMB (STD)	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
Realized Variance: AUD/USD, GBP/USD, EUR/USD, JPY/USD	10 contracts	Not available	Not available
Dow Jones CME FX\$INDEX	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
Weather	20 contracts	20 contracts	Not available
Housing	20 contracts	20 contracts	Not available
U.S. Dollar Cash Settled Crude Palm Oil	10 contracts	Not available	Not available
Cheese	20 contracts	Not available	Not available

* NOT applicable to E-mini or E-micro FX or E-mini equity indexes except those listed above.

CBOT Products	Futures	Options	Flex Options
2-Year Treasury Notes (RTH)	5,000 contracts**	2,000 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
2-Year Treasury Notes (ETH)	2,500 contracts**	1,000 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
2-Year Treasury Notes (ATH)	1,250 contracts**	500 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
3-Year Treasury Notes (RTH)	5,000 contracts**	Not available	Not available
3-Year Treasury Notes (ETH)	2,500 contracts**	Not available	Not available
3-Year Treasury Notes (ATH)	1,250 contracts**	Not available	Not available
5- and 10-Year Treasury Notes (RTH)	5,000 contracts**	7,500 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
5- and 10-Year Treasury Notes (ETH)	2,500 contracts**	3,750 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
5- and 10-Year Treasury Notes (ATH)	1,250 contracts**	1,875 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
U.S. Treasury Bonds (RTH)	3,000 contracts**	7,500 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
U.S. Treasury Bonds (ETH)	1,500 contracts**	3,750 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
U.S. Treasury Bonds (ATH)	750 contracts**	1,875 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
Long-Term (Ultra) Treasury Bonds (RTH)	2,000 contracts**	Not available	Not available
Long-Term (Ultra) Treasury Bonds (ETH)	1,500 contracts**	Not available	Not available
Long-Term (Ultra) Treasury Bonds (ATH)	750 contracts**	Not available	Not available

CBOT Products	Futures	Options	Flex Options
2-, 5- and 10-Year OTR Treasury Yield (RTH)	2,000 contracts**	Not available	Not available
2-, 5- and 10-Year OTR Treasury Yield (ETH)	1,000 contracts**	Not available	Not available
2-, 5- and 10-Year OTR Treasury Yield (ATH)	500 contracts**	Not available	Not available
30-Day Fed Funds (RTH)	2,000 contracts	1,500 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
30-Day Fed Funds (ETH)	1,000 contracts	750 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
30-Day Fed Funds (ATH)	500 contracts	375 contracts	Same as Non-Flex Options
5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swaps (RTH)	2,000 contracts	500 contracts	Not available
5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swaps (ETH)	1,000 contracts	500 contracts	Not available
5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swaps (ATH)	500 contracts	500 contracts	Not available
2-Year DSF	3,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
5-Year DSF	1,500 contracts	Not available	Not available
10-Year DSF	1,000 contracts	Not available	Not available
30-Year DSF	500 contracts	Not available	Not available
Dow Jones-UBS Commodity Index Excess Return	300 contracts	Not available	Not available
Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Index	50 contracts	Not available	Not available
Ethanol	10 contracts	10 contracts	Not available
Denatured Ethanol Forward Month	10 contracts	Not available	Not available
Distillers' Dried Grain	10 contracts	Not available	Not available
Black Sea Wheat	10 contracts	Not available	Not available

** Block trading of intra-commodity Treasury, OTR Treasury Yield and 5-, 7-, 10- and 30-Year Interest Rate Swap futures calendar spreads is prohibited.

13. Text of CME & CBOT 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. 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. **CME** –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 five minutes of the time of execution; except that block trades in interest rate futures and

options executed outside of Regular Trading Hours (7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday – Friday on regular business days) and Housing and Weather futures and options must be reported within fifteen minutes of the time of execution. 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.

- F. **CBOT** - 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 five minutes of the time of execution; except that block trades in interest rate futures and options executed outside of Regular Trading Hours (7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday – Friday on regular business days) must be reported within fifteen minutes of the time of execution. 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.

14. Contact Information

Questions regarding this advisory may be directed to the following individuals:

Market Regulation:	Colin Garvey, Investigations	312.435.3656
	Robert Sniegowski, Rules & Regulatory Outreach	312.341.5991
	Erin Schwartz, Rules & Regulatory Outreach	312.341.3083
CME Clearing:	CME Clearing Support	312.207.2525

For media inquiries concerning this Advisory Notice, please contact CME Group Corporate Communications at 312.930.3434 or news@cmegroup.com.

Exhibit 2

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	NYMEX & COMEX
Subject	Block Trades
Rule References	Rule 526
Advisory Date	April 8, 2013
Advisory Number	NYMEX & COMEX RA1307-4
Effective Date	April 22, 2013

This Advisory Notice supersedes NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1305-4 from March 18, 2013. It is being issued to notify the marketplace that pending all relevant regulatory review periods, NYMEX and COMEX will 1) permit block trading pursuant to Rule 526 ("Block Trades") in three energy and two metals Realized Variance futures contracts at a block trade minimum threshold of 10 contracts concurrent with the launch of trading in those contracts on Sunday, April 21, 2013, for trade date April 22, 2013, and 2) adopt clarifying language in Section 10 to provide additional guidance regarding the disclosure and use of nonpublic information regarding block trades.

Block Trading in NYMEX Energy and COMEX Metals Realized Variance Futures

Effective Sunday, April 21, 2013, for trade date Monday, April 22, 2013, NYMEX and COMEX will permit block trading in the following three NYMEX Energy and two COMEX Metals Realized Variance futures contracts concurrent with the launch of trading in the contracts at a block trade minimum threshold of 10 contracts:

- NYMEX WTI Crude Oil Realized Variance futures
- NYMEX Brent Crude Oil Realized Variance futures
- NYMEX Natural Gas Realized Variance futures
- COMEX Gold Realized Variance futures
- COMEX Silver Realized Variance futures

Disclosure and Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades

Specifically, the language in Section 10 of the Advisory Notice clarifies the following:

- 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.

- Pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of any portion of a block trade in the same product or a closely-related product based upon a solicitation to participate in a block trade is not permitted. A closely related product is a product that is highly correlated to, serves as a substitute for, or is the functional economic equivalent of the product being traded as a block.
- Counterparties to a block trade are permitted to initiate trades to hedge or offset the risk associated with the block trade following the consummation of the block trade, including during the period preceding the public report of the block trade by the Exchange.
- Except as provided above, parties privy to nonpublic information attendant to a block trade are prohibited from trading in the same product or a closely-related product for the purpose of taking advantage of such information prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. This prohibition is not intended to preclude such parties from continuing to transact in the marketplace in the context of their normal business; rather, it precludes parties in possession of actionable nonpublic information regarding an imminent block trade or report of a block trade from specifically using such information to their advantage. Information regarding a block trade is considered to be nonpublic until such time that the block trade details have been disseminated to the marketplace by the Exchange or the information can otherwise be demonstrated to have become stale or obsolete.
- Parties solicited to provide a two-sided block market are not deemed to be in possession of nonpublic information provided that side of market interest is not disclosed in the context of the solicitation.

A complete list of NYMEX and COMEX products in which block trading is or will be permitted, and the relevant quantity thresholds, is available on the CME Group website via the following link:

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

The text of Rule 526 appears in Section 12 of this Advisory Notice.

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 shall not be 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; block trades transacted in such manner do not satisfy the privately negotiated standard. 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 on the basis of such electronically displayed indicative markets may be transacted only through direct bilateral communications involving the broker, where applicable, and the parties to the trade. All block trades are subject to the conditions set forth in NYMEX and COMEX Rule 526 and in this Advisory Notice.

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 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.

Orders may not be bunched to meet the minimum block quantity thresholds.

3. 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 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 are reported independently of transaction prices in the regular market and are not included as part of the daily trading range. Block trade prices do not elect conditional orders (e.g. stop orders) or otherwise affect orders in the regular market.

4. Block Trade Minimum Quantities for Outrights, Spreads and Combinations

The block trade minimum quantity requirements for outright futures and options 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](#)

- a) Intra-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations and Intra-Commodity Options Spreads and Options Combinations

These spreads and combination transactions may be executed as block trades provided that the sum of the quantities of the legs of the transaction meets the minimum block quantity threshold.

- b) Inter-Commodity Futures Spreads and Futures Combinations and Inter-Commodity Options Spreads and Options Combinations

These spreads and combination transactions may be executed as block trades provided that the sum of the quantities of the legs of the transaction meets the larger of the threshold requirements for the underlying products.

- c) Options/Futures Spreads

Options/futures spreads may be executed as block trades provided that the options component of the spread meets the minimum quantity threshold for the outright option or option combination and the quantity of futures executed is consistent with the delta of the options component of the spread.

5. 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 in the nearby month/second month spread and the second month/third month spread may be executed as TAS or TAM block trades provided that the underlying product is eligible for TAS or TAM trading.

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](#)

6. Block Trade Price Reporting Requirements

a) Time Requirements

Block trades in the following list of products must be price reported to the exchange within **five minutes** of the transaction.

- Brent Crude Oil Penultimate Financial futures (BB)
- Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial futures (BZ)
- Light Sweet Crude Oil futures (CL)
- Gulf Coast Sour Crude Oil futures (MB)
- New York Harbor ULSD Heating Oil futures (HO)
- Henry Hub Natural Gas futures (NG)
- RBOB Gasoline futures (RB)
- NYMEX Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton and No. 11 Sugar futures (CJ, KT, TT and YO)
- Gold futures (GC)
- Silver futures (SI)
- Copper futures (HG)

Block trades in all other block-eligible NYMEX and COMEX products must be price reported to the exchange within **15 minutes** of the transaction. If the block transaction involves a spread or combination that includes certain legs subject to a five minute reporting requirement and other legs subject to a 15 minute reporting requirement, the reporting requirement for the transaction will be 15 minutes.

b) Reporting Obligation

Price reporting obligations are the responsibility of the seller, unless otherwise agreed to by the principal counterparties to the block trade; however, in the case of a brokered transaction, the price reporting obligation is the responsibility of the broker handling the block trade, unless otherwise agreed to by the principal counterparties to the block trade. For purposes of the foregoing, the term "seller" refers to the principal counterparty acting as the seller of the block trade.

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.)

c) Reporting Methods

Block trades must be price reported to the exchange via one of the methods described below:

i) CME ClearPort

Block trades may be electronically submitted directly to CME Clearing via CME ClearPort. Block trades may also be price reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk by calling **1.866.246.9639** or via email at FacDesk@cmegroup.com. In either case, all of the data and information elements required in d) below must be submitted.

For information on reporting block trades through CME ClearPort, please contact customer service at 1.800.438.8616 or via email at ClearPort@cmegroup.com.

ii) CME Direct

Block Trades may be electronically submitted to CME Clearing via entry on the CME Direct platform, which will satisfy the price reporting requirement. The CME Direct platform is directly connected to CME ClearPort. For information on submitting Block Trades through CME Direct, please contact CME Direct Support at CMEDirectSupport@cmegroup.com.

iii) Trading Floor

Block trades negotiated on the trading floor must be price reported to exchange staff at the Master Pulpit.

d) Information Required when Reporting Block Trades

When reporting a block trade, 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;
- Quantity of the trade or, for spreads and combinations, the quantity of each leg of the trade;
- Price of the trade or, for spreads and combinations, the price of each leg 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 on the trading floor or reported via telephone or email to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk);
- For block trades reported via phone or email to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk, counterparty name and contact information must also be provided for trade verification purposes; and
- Execution time (to the nearest minute in Eastern Time) of the trade. The execution time is the time at which the trade was consummated.

Market participants must exercise diligence in accurately reporting the execution time of the block trade. The reporting of inaccurate execution times may result in disciplinary action.

7. Block Trade Submission Requirements to CME Clearing

Block trades reported to the trading floor must be entered by the seller or his designated representative into the CME clearing system within 30 minutes of execution and must contain the material terms of the trade, including the allocation to the correct clearing firm unless the trade will clear at the seller's qualifying clearing member firm. Within 30 minutes after entry by the seller, the buyer or his designated

representative must enter into the CME clearing system a time of execution for the trade, note any disagreement with any of the terms of the trade entered by the seller, and allocate the trade to the correct clearing firm unless the trade will clear at the buyer's qualifying clearing member firm. When reporting spread or combination transactions, each leg must be entered individually. Separate submission to the CME clearing system is not required in the event that the block trade is directly entered into CME ClearPort, CME Direct or reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk.

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. Dissemination of Block Trade Information

The date, execution time, contract month, price and quantity of block trades are displayed on the CME Group website at the following link: [Block Trades](#).

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.

10. Use of Nonpublic Information Regarding Block Trades

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.

Pre-hedging or anticipatory hedging of any portion of a block trade in the same product or a closely-related product based upon a solicitation to participate in a block trade is not permitted. A closely related product is a product that is highly correlated to, serves as a substitute for, or is the functional economic equivalent of the product being traded as a block.

Counterparties to a block trade are permitted to initiate trades to hedge or offset the risk associated with the block trade following the consummation of the block trade, including during the period preceding the public report of the block trade by the Exchange.

Except as provided above, parties privy to nonpublic information attendant to a block trade are prohibited from trading in the same product or a closely-related product for the purpose of taking advantage of such information prior to the public report of the block trade by the Exchange. This prohibition is not intended to preclude such parties from continuing to transact in the marketplace in the context of their normal business; rather, it precludes parties in possession of actionable nonpublic information regarding an imminent block trade or report of a block trade from specifically using such information to their advantage. Information regarding a block trade is considered to be nonpublic until such time that the block trade details have been disseminated to the marketplace by the Exchange or the information can otherwise be demonstrated to have become stale or obsolete.

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

11. Block Trades between Affiliated Parties

Block trades between the accounts of affiliated parties are permitted provided that 1) the block trade is executed at a fair and reasonable price; 2) each party has a legal and independent bona fide business purpose for engaging in the trade; and 3) each party's decision to enter into the block trade is made by an independent decision-maker. In the absence of satisfying the requirements above, the transaction may constitute an illegal wash trade prohibited by Rule 534 ("Wash Trades Prohibited").

12. Text of NYMEX & COMEX 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. 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 the Exchange within five minutes of the time of execution in the following futures products: Brent Crude Financial, Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial, Light Sweet Crude Oil, Gulf Coast Sour Crude Oil, New York Harbor ULSD Heating Oil, Henry Hub Natural Gas, RBOB Gasoline, Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, No. 11 Sugar, Gold, Silver and Copper. In all other block-eligible futures products and all block-eligible options products, the seller must ensure that each block trade is reported to the Exchange within fifteen minutes of the time of execution. 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 adviser registered or exempt from registration under the Investment Advisers 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 adviser 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.

13. Contact Information

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

Market Regulation:	Colin Garvey, Investigations	312.435.3656
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	Erin Schwartz, Rules & Regulatory Outreach	312.341.3083
CME Clearing:	CME Clearing Support	312.207.2525

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