



Sean M. Downey
Associate Director and Assistant General Counsel
Legal Department

January 19, 2012

Mr. David Stawick

VIA EMAIL

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. New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. Submission # 12-009: Revisions to NYMEX Rule 524 ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions") and Issuance of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1201-4 and RA1202-4

Dear Mr. Stawick:

The New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX") and Commodity Exchange, Inc. ("COMEX") (collectively, "the Exchanges") are notifying the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") that they are self-certifying revisions to NYMEX & COMEX Rule 524 ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions") to permit for the execution of TAM block trades, effective on trade date Monday, February 13, 2012. NYMEX & COMEX Rule 524 currently permits for the execution of TAS block trades and the revisions, upon becoming effective, will allow block trades in all NYMEX products eligible for execution as TAM transactions.

The minimum quantity thresholds applicable for TAM block trades will be identical to the minimum quantity thresholds applicable to the underlying futures product. Accordingly, the minimum threshold for Light Sweet Crude Oil futures and Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial futures TAM transactions will be 100 contracts and the minimum threshold for Heating Oil futures and RBOB futures TAM transactions will be 50 contracts. NYMEX notes that by setting the thresholds at the same level applicable to the underlying product, they are being established at a level that is significantly higher than the volume that could be transacted at a single price if entered on CME Globex as a TAM transaction. From the launch of TAM trading on June 13, 2011, through December 31, 2011, total TAM volume based on the London marker has been 223 contracts in Light Sweet Crude Oil futures, 49 contracts in Heating Oil futures and 1,418 contracts in RBOB futures. Based on this relatively modest volume, NYMEX is reasonably certain that a TAM order at or above the minimum quantity threshold entered on CME Globex would not be able to be filled in its entirety without incurring substantial price concessions.

In connection with the introduction of TAM block trades, NYMEX & COMEX will issue Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1201-4 and RA1202-4 on Monday, February 6, 2012, RA1201-4 concerns TAS, TAM and MO transactions and RA1202-4 concerns block trades. Both Advisory Notices have been updated to include the information on the availability of TAM block trades beginning on February 13, 2012. A copy of both Advisory Notices is included with this Submission.

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"). During the review, we have identified that the revisions to NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524 may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

- Compliance with Rules: TAM block trades will be subject to Chapter 4 of the Exchange rules which includes prohibitions against fraudulent, unfair and abusive trading practices and to revised Rule 524 and NYMEX Rule 526 ("Block Trades"). As such, TAM block trades will be subject to extensive monitoring and surveillance by CME Group's Market Regulation Department. The Market Regulation Department may use its investigatory and enforcement power where potential rule violations are identified during its regular surveillance reviews;
- Contracts Not Readily Subject to Manipulation: While these contracts are not readily subject to manipulation as they are based on the established and highly liquid underlying energy contracts listed for trading by NYMEX, market participants have routinely been reminded that any attempted misuse of the transactions will subject the market participant to disciplinary action. This reminder is included in RA1201-4;
- Prevention of Market Disruption: TAM block trades will be uniquely identifiable in the trade data available to the Market Regulation Department and information on the time and prices of all block trades are reported independently of transaction prices in the regular market. Additionally, as noted above, these transactions will be subject to extensive monitoring and surveillance by the Market Regulation Department;
- Availability of General Information: In connection with the launch of block trade eligibility for TAM products, the Market Regulation Department is issuing two updated Market Regulation Advisory Notices as previously described in this Submission which provide regulatory guidance to market participants with respect to TAS, TAM and MO transactions and block trades;
- Daily Publication of Trading Information: As noted above, block trade prices, including TAM block trades, will be reported independently of transaction prices in the regular market;
- Execution of Transactions: Block trades, pursuant to Commission regulations, are exempted from the competitive execution requirements of Core Principle 9. Nevertheless, TAM block trades will specifically be subject to the requirements of Rules 524 and 526 and, unless specifically exempted, to the remainder of the trade practice rules applicable to trading on NYMEX.

The Exchanges certify that Market Regulation Advisory Notices RA1201-4 and RA1202-4 and the revision to Rule 524 comply with the Commodity Exchange Act and regulations thereunder. There were no substantive opposing views to this proposal. The revisions to Rule 524 permitting TAM block trades will become effective on Monday, February 13, 2012.

The Exchange certifies that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchange's website at <http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html>.

A copy of the revision to Rule 524 appears below, with additions underscored and deletions ~~overstruck~~.

524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT ("TAS"), TRADING AT MARKER ("TAM") AND MATCHED ORDER ("MO") TRANSACTIONS

The Exchange shall determine the commodities, contract months and time periods during which TAS, TAM and MO transactions shall be permitted.

[Section A. is unchanged.]

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

The following shall govern TAM transactions:

1. TAM orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts are available for TAM trading on Globex and during each TAM contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. TAM-eligible commodities and contract months may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
23. TAM transactions 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.
[The remainder of the Rule is unchanged.]

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. Alternatively, you may contact me at 312.930.8167 or via email at Sean.Downey@cmegroup.com. Please reference NYMEX Submission No. 12-009 in any related correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sean Downey
Associate Director & Assistant General Counsel

Attachments: Market Regulation Advisory Notice (RA 1201-4)
Market Regulation Advisory Notice (RA 1202-4)

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	NYMEX & COMEX
Subject	Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions
Rule References	Rule 524
Advisory Date	February 6, 2012
Advisory Number	NYMEX & COMEX RA1201-4
Effective Date	February 13, 2012

This Advisory Notice supersedes NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1106-4 from June 20, 2011, and is being issued based on amendments to NYMEX and COMEX Rule 524 ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions") that become effective on February 13, 2012. As of February 13, NYMEX will begin to permit TAM block trades in all TAM-eligible products and contract months. Additional information on TAM block trades, including the minimum TAM block trade quantity thresholds, is set forth in today's release of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1202-4.

The list of TAS- and TAM-eligible products and contract months appear in Sections 6 and 7 and the revised text of Rule 524 appears in Section 8 of this Advisory Notice.

1. General Information on TAS, TAM and MO Transactions

TAS transactions 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, and, depending on the particular product, may be executed in the pit, on CME Globex, or as a block trade.

TAM trading is analogous to existing Trading at Settlement ("TAS") trading wherein parties are permitted to trade at a differential to a not-yet-known price. TAM trading uses a marker price, whereas TAS trading uses the Exchange-determined settlement price for the applicable contract month. As with TAS trading, parties will be able to enter TAM orders at the TAM price or at a differential between one and ten ticks higher or lower than the TAM price. TAM trading is available on CME Globex, and, beginning on February 13, will be eligible to be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 ("Block Trades").

MO transactions in pit-traded Copper futures are transactions which are priced at that day's settlement price for the contract.

All market participants are reminded that any trading activity that is intended to unfairly affect or to attempt to unfairly affect a settlement or marker price to benefit a TAS, TAM or MO 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 substantially detrimental to the interests or welfare of the exchange

Any Market Regulation Department investigation of suspected manipulative pricing involving TAS, TAM or MO trades will include review of such positions acquired by market participants and **whether the offset of those positions during the close or during the time period used to determine a marker price was disruptive, collusive, and/or caused or attempted to cause aberrant price movement during these periods.**

2. Entry of TAS and TAM Orders on CME Globex

Rule 524 permits the initiation of TAS and TAM 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 or TAM trading on CME Globex. The initiation of any TAS or TAM order on CME Globex outside of these time periods is strictly prohibited.

Any market participant who initiates the entry of a TAS or TAM order prior to receipt of the market status message 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 ensure that they have appropriate protocols in place to ensure that TAS and TAM orders are not initiated prior to receipt of the security status message.

3. TAS and TAM Calendar Spreads

Intra-commodity calendar spreads in the nearby month/second month spread, the second month/third month spread and the nearby month/third month spread in Light Sweet Crude Oil, New York Harbor No. 2 Heating Oil, Henry Hub Natural Gas and RBOB Gasoline futures may be executed on CME Globex or on the trading floor and priced at TAS.

Intra-commodity calendar spreads in the nearby month/second month spread, the second month/third month spread and the nearby/third month spread in Light Sweet Crude Oil, New York Harbor No. 2 Heating Oil, RBOB Gasoline and Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial futures may be executed on CME Globex and priced at TAM.

The pricing of the legs of a TAS or TAM calendar spread 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 (negative 10 through positive 10), except in circumstances where the traded TAS or TAM price is the actual settlement or marker price of the contract.

Example 1:

A February 2012/March 2012 (G/H) Light Sweet Crude Oil calendar spread trades at TAS -1 (minus 1). Assume the February contract settles at 101.31 and the March contract settles at 101.52.

The February leg will be priced at the February settlement price of 101.31. The March leg will be priced at 101.53, which is the March settlement price of 101.52 minus the TAS price increment of -1 (101.52 minus -.01 = 101.53).

Example 2:

A February 2012/April 2012 (G/J) New York Harbor No. 2 Heating Oil calendar spread trades at TAM +/- 0. Assume the February marker price is 3.0730 and the April marker price is 3.0524.

The February leg will be priced at the February marker price of 3.0730. The April leg will be priced at 3.0524, which is the April marker price.

Example 3:

A March 2012/April 2012 (H/J) Henry Hub Natural Gas calendar spread trades at TAS +3. Assume the March contract settles at 3.050 and the April contract settles at 3.115.

The March leg will be priced at the March settlement price of 3.050. The April leg will be priced at 3.112, which is the April settlement price of 3.115 minus the TAS price increment of +3 (3.115 minus +.003 = 3.112).

4. TAS on Gold, Silver and Copper Futures

TAS transactions are allowed in the active contract month in Gold and Silver futures trading in the pit or on CME Globex and in the first active contract month in Copper futures trading on CME Globex. **TAS transactions are not allowed in any pit-traded Copper futures contract month.**

In Gold futures, TAS trades are permitted in the following active contract months: February, April, June, August, and December. Accordingly:

When the February contract becomes spot, the April contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the April contract becomes spot, the June contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the June contract becomes spot, the August contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the August contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; and
When the December contract becomes spot, the February contract becomes the TAS-eligible month.

In Silver and Copper futures, TAS trades are permitted in the following active contract months: March, May, July, September and December. Accordingly:

When the March contract becomes spot, the May contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the May contract becomes spot, the July contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the July contract becomes spot, the September contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;
When the September contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; and
When the December contract becomes spot, the March contract becomes the TAS-eligible month.

5. MO Transactions in Pit-Traded Copper Futures

MO transactions in Copper futures are open outcry trades competitively executed in the Copper futures pit where the trade is priced at that day's settlement price for the contract. MO transactions in Copper futures are eligible to be executed in the spot month and the next six consecutive contract months. Additionally, with the exception of the post close session, members may execute an MO order at any time the Copper futures pit is open for trading, provided that the order is placed as an MO order. Regular trading hours for open outcry trading in the Copper futures pit are from 8:10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET").

Instructions to execute the order as an MO must be denoted on the order and members must identify an order executed as an MO on their trading record.

An order entered as an MO will be executed by the floor broker as a Market on Close order if the order is not previously executed as an MO or specifically designated to be executed only as an MO. An instruction to execute an order only as an MO must be communicated at the time the order is placed.

6. TAS-Eligible Products and Contract Months

Pit-Traded Contracts

Light Sweet Crude Oil

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 7th months
nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads

Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial

spot (except on the last trading day)

New York Harbor No. 2 Heating Oil

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months
nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads

Henry Hub Natural Gas

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months
nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads

Henry Hub Natural Gas Swapspot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months**RBOB Gasoline**spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months
nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads**European Gasoil (ICE)**spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months**NYMEX Crude Oil Backwardation/Contango (B/C) Index**

spot (except on the last trading day)

NYMEX Crude Oil MACI Index

spot (except on the last trading day)

Pit-Traded Contracts – continued**COMEX Gold**

February, April, June, August and December contract months (first active month only)

COMEX Silver

March, May, July, September and December contract months (first active month only)

CME Globex Contracts

For compliance and enforcement purposes, the start of a TAS pre-open period is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state and the end of a TAS trading session is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that group is closed.

TAS orders may not be entered into CME Globex from the end of a TAS trading session until receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state.

Commodity Code on CME Globex	Product Name and Contract Months	Cleared Product
CLT	Light Sweet Crude Oil spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd , 3 rd and 7 th months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	CL
BZT	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot (except on the last trading day)	BZ
BBT	Brent Crude Oil Penultimate Financial Spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	BB
HOT	New York Harbor No. 2. Heating Oil spot (except on the last trading day, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	HO
NGT	Henry Hub Natural Gas spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd and 3 rd months and	NG

nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads

NNT **Henry Hub Natural Gas Swap** NN
spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

RBT **RBOB Gasoline** RB
spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months and
nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads

7FT **European Gasoil (ICE)** 7F
spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

Commodity Code on CME Globex	Product Name and Contract Months	Cleared Product
KTT	NYMEX Coffee spot (except on the last trading day)	KT
CJT	NYMEX Cocoa spot (except on the last trading day)	CJ
TTT	NYMEX Cotton spot (except on the last trading day)	TT
YOT	NYMEX No. 11 Sugar spot (except on the last trading day)	YO
XKT	NYMEX Crude Oil Backwardation/Contango (B/C) Index spot (except on the last trading day)	XK
XCT	NYMEX Crude Oil MACI Index spot (except on the last trading day)	XC
RET	REBCO spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd and 3 rd months	RE
GCT	COMEX Gold February, April, June, August and December contract months (first active month only)	GC
SIT	COMEX Silver March, May, July, September and December contract months (first active month only)	SI
HGT	COMEX Copper March, May, July, September and December contract months (first active month only)	HG

7. TAM-Eligible Products and Contract Months on CME Globex

For compliance and enforcement purposes, the start of a TAM pre-open period is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state and the end of a TAM trading session is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that group is closed.

TAM orders may not be entered into CME Globex from the end of a TAM trading session until receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state.

Commodity Code on CME Globex	Product Name and Contract Months	Cleared Product
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London Markers

CLL	Light Sweet Crude Oil spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	CL
BZL	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	BZ
HOL	New York Harbor No. 2. Heating Oil spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	HO
RBL	RBOB Gasoline spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	RB

Singapore Markers

CLS	Light Sweet Crude Oil spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	CL
BZS	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months and nearby/second month, second/third month and nearby/third month calendar spreads	BZ

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

Nancy Minett, Director, Investigations, 212.299.2940

Russell Cloughen, Associate Director, Investigations, 212.299.2880

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

8. Text of Rule 524

Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions

The Exchange shall determine the commodities, contract months and time periods during which TAS, TAM and MO transactions shall be permitted.

524.A. Trading at Settlement ("TAS") Transactions

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. TAS transactions executed in the pit must be made open and competitively pursuant to the requirements of Rule 521 during the hours designated for pit trading in the particular contract and must be identified as such on the member's trading records.
2. TAS orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts are available for TAS trading on Globex and during each TAS contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
3. TAS-eligible commodities and contract months may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 except that TAS block trades may not be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring contract.
4. TAS transactions 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. TAM orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts are available for TAM trading on Globex and during each TAM contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. TAM-eligible commodities and contract months may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
3. TAM transactions 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.

524.C. Matched Order ("MO") Transactions

MO transactions are open outcry trades competitively executed pursuant to Rule 521 where the price of the trade is that day's settlement price for the contract.

The following shall govern MO transactions:

1. Members may execute an MO at any time during pit trading hours except during the post close session. Members may execute an order as an MO provided the order is placed as an MO and such instructions are denoted on the order. An order entered as an MO will be executed during the closing period as a Market on Close order if not previously executed as an MO or specifically designated to be executed only as an MO. An order specifically designated for execution only as an MO must be designated as such at the time the order is placed.
2. Members must identify an order executed as an MO on their trading record.

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	NYMEX & COMEX
Subject	Block Trades
Rule References	Rule 526
Advisory Date	February 6, 2012
Advisory Number	NYMEX & COMEX RA1202-4
Effective Date	February 13, 2012

This Advisory Notice supersedes NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1004-4 from September 27, 2010. It is being issued to notify the marketplace that effective for trade date February 13, 2012, Trading at Market ("TAM") block trades will be permitted in all NYMEX energy products in which TAM trading is permitted. As with Trading at Settlement ("TAS") block trades, TAM block trades will be permitted at the same block trade minimum thresholds applicable to the underlying futures product. Unlike TAS block trades, TAM block trades will be permitted on the last day of trading in an expiring contract. **Please note that TAM block trading will not be permitted prior to Monday, February 13.**

Additional information on TAS and TAM-eligible products is set forth in today's release of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1201-4.

Block trades in NYMEX and COMEX products are governed by Rule 526 and the information provided in this Advisory Notice.

A complete list of NYMEX and COMEX products in which block trading is permitted and the relevant quantity thresholds appear in Section 11 and the text of 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. 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(12) 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 in Section 11 which begins on page 4 of this Advisory Notice. In order to be executed as a block trade, each leg of the spread or combination (including intra-commodity, inter-commodity and options/futures spreads) must be block-eligible and the quantity of each leg of the spread must meet the designated minimum quantity threshold.

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”). Additionally, effective February 13, 2012, certain block-eligible futures contract months will be permitted to 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 (negative 10 through positive 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 appear in Section 11 of this Advisory Notice.

6. Block Trade Reporting Requirements

a) Time Requirements

Block trades must be reported to the exchange by the seller within **five minutes** of the transaction.

b) Reporting Methods

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

i) CME ClearPort

Block trades may be reported to the CME ClearPort Block Trade Facilitation Desk by calling **1.866.246.9639**. Additionally, block trades may be electronically submitted directly to CME Clearing via CME ClearPort. 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) Trading Floor

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

c) 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 representative reporting the trade (for floor reporting only); and
- Execution time (in Eastern Time) of the trade (i.e. the time at which the trade was consummated) (for floor reporting only).

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 60 minutes of execution and 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 or reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk.

8. Block Trade Recordkeeping

Complete order records for block trades must be created and maintained, just as with any other transaction. However, as noted above, the time of execution of the block trade must also be recorded.

9. Dissemination of Block Trade Information

The date, execution time, contract month, price and quantity of block trades are 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 included with other privately negotiated transactions in the daily volume reports published by the exchange.

10. Pre-Execution Communications

The prohibition on prearranged trading and the requirements related to pre-execution communications with respect to certain Globex trades set forth in Rule 539 do not apply to block trades.

11. NYMEX & COMEX Block Trade-Eligible Products

Products	Futures	TAS- and TAM-Eligible Futures Contract Months	Options
Brent Financial	100 contracts	spot, 2 nd and 3 rd	Not available
Brent Crude Oil Last Day	100 contracts		Not available
Light Sweet Crude Oil	100 contracts	spot, 2 nd , 3 rd and 7 th (7 th TAS-only)	1,000 contracts
Gulf Coast Sour Crude Oil	200 contracts		Not available
New York Harbor No. 2 Heating Oil	50 contracts	spot, 2 nd and 3 rd	300 contracts
Henry Hub Natural Gas	100 contracts	spot, 2 nd and 3 rd	1,600 contracts
European-Style Natural Gas	Not available		550 contracts
Gulf Coast Gasoline	100 contracts		Not available
Gulf Coast Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel	100 contracts		Not available
New York Harbor Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel	100 contracts		Not available
RBOB Gasoline	50 contracts	spot, 2 nd and 3 rd	350 contracts
NYMEX Cocoa	100 contracts		Not available
NYMEX Coffee	100 contracts		Not available
NYMEX Cotton	100 contracts		Not available
NYMEX No. 11 Sugar	100 contracts		Not available
Gold	200 contracts		300 contracts
Silver	200 contracts		150 contracts
Copper	100 contracts		Not available

12. Contact Information

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

Market Regulation:	Russell Cloughen, Associate Director	212.299.2880
	Robert Sniegowski, Associate Director	312.341.5991
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.

13. 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(12) 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. The seller must ensure that each block trade is reported to the Exchange within five 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.