

# MarketAxess SEF RULEBOOK

Effective as of December 9, 2015

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| CHAPTER 1: DEFINITIONS.....   | 1  |
| Rule 101. Definitions.....  | 1  |
| CHAPTER 2: MARKETAXESS SEF OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE.....  | 7  |
| Rule 201. Ownership.....  | 7  |
| Rule 202. Board.....  | 8  |
| Rule 203. Officers.....   | 10 |
| Rule 204. Qualifications of Directors, Disciplinary Panel Members, Appeal Panel<br>Members, Committee Members, Owners and Officers .....                          | 10 |
| Rule 205. Standing Committees.....  | 11 |
| Rule 206. Pending Legal Proceedings. ....   | 11 |
| Rule 207. Restrictions on Certain Persons who Possess Material, Non-Public<br>Information: Improper Use or Disclosure of Material Non-Public<br>Information. .... | 12 |
| Rule 208. Regulatory Oversight Committee .....  | 12 |
| Rule 209. Chief Compliance Officer .....  | 13 |
| Rule 210. Compliance Staff and Resources .....  | 16 |
| Rule 211. Additional Board Committees and MarketAxess SEF Panels.....   | 16 |
| Rule 212. Emergency Rules.....  | 16 |
| Rule 213. Conflicts of Interest and Misuse of Material, Non-Public Information .....  | 18 |
| Rule 214. Maintenance of Books and Records .....  | 20 |
| Rule 215. Information-Sharing Agreements .....  | 20 |
| Rule 216. Services Agreement with a Regulatory Services Provider .....  | 21 |
| CHAPTER 3: PARTICIPANTS.....  | 21 |
| Rule 301. Criteria for Becoming a Participant Firm .....  | 22 |
| Rule 302. Participant Firm Application Process.....   | 22 |
| Rule 303. Trading Privileges of a Participant Firm .....  | 23 |
| Rule 304. Reserved. ....  | 24 |
| Rule 305. Dues, Assessments and Fees .....  | 24 |
| Rule 306. Authorized Traders .....  | 24 |
| Rule 307. Authorized Representatives .....  | 25 |
| Rule 308. Recording of Communications.....  | 25 |
| Rule 309. Notices to Participants.....  | 25 |
| Rule 310. Communications between the MarketAxess SEF and Participants.....  | 26 |
| Rule 311. Application of Rules and Jurisdiction.....  | 26 |
| Rule 312. Description of Participant’s Status.....  | 27 |
| Rule 313. Withdrawal of Participant.....  | 27 |
| Rule 314. Compliance with the CEA.....  | 27 |
| Rule 315. Impartial Access .....  | 28 |
| CHAPTER 4: OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS .....  | 28 |
| Rule 401. Duties and Responsibilities of Participants.....  | 28 |
| Rule 402. Required Disclosures to the MarketAxess SEF .....   | 28 |
| Rule 403. Inspections by the MarketAxess SEF .....  | 29 |

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
| Rule 404.  | Minimum Financial and Related Reporting Requirements.....                                       | 30 |
| Rule 405.  | Confidentiality of Financial and Other Information.....   | 30 |
| Rule 406.  | Information Regarding Orders.....   | 31 |
| Rule 407.  | Customers.....  | 31 |
|            |   |    |
| CHAPTER 5: | TRADING PRACTICES AND BUSINESS CONDUCT .....  | 31 |
| Rule 501.  | Scope.....  | 31 |
| Rule 502.  | Procedures.....   | 31 |
| Rule 503.  | Business Days and Trading Hours .....   | 32 |
| Rule 504.  | Enforceability .....  | 32 |
| Rule 505.  | Fraudulent Acts Prohibited .....  | 32 |
| Rule 506.  | Fictitious, Wash or Non-Competitive Transactions Prohibited .....                               | 33 |
| Rule 507.  | Price Dissemination. ....   | 33 |
| Rule 508.  | Market Manipulation Prohibited .....  | 33 |
| Rule 509.  | Disruptive Trading Practices Prohibited .....   | 33 |
| Rule 510.  | Prohibition of Misstatements .....  | 33 |
| Rule 511.  | Reserved. ....  | 33 |
| Rule 512.  | Reserved. ....  | 33 |
| Rule 513.  | Supervision.....  | 33 |
| Rule 514.  | Execution of Required Transactions .....  | 33 |
| Rule 515.  | Misuse of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System .....  | 34 |
| Rule 516.  | Errors and Omissions in Handling Orders .....   | 34 |
| Rule 517.  | Volume Discount Programs .....  | 34 |
| Rule 518.  | Withholding Orders Prohibited.....  | 34 |
| Rule 519.  | Priority of Customers' Orders .....   | 34 |
| Rule 520.  | Handling of Customer Orders .....   | 35 |
| Rule 521.  | Disclosing Orders Prohibited .....  | 35 |
| Rule 522.  | Simultaneous Buy And Sell Orders For Different Beneficial Owners.....                           | 35 |
| Rule 523.  | Wash Sales Prohibited .....   | 35 |
| Rule 524.  | Recordkeeping Requirements for Entering Orders into the MarketAxess<br>SEF Trading System ..... | 35 |
| Rule 525.  | Prearranged and Noncompetitive Trades Prohibited.....   | 37 |
| Rule 526.  | Responsibility For Customer Orders .....  | 37 |
| Rule 527.  | Pre-Execution Credit Checks.....  | 38 |
| Rule 528.  | Priority of Execution .....   | 38 |
| Rule 529.  | Intermediation .....  | 38 |
| Rule 530.  | Position Limits and Exemptions .....  | 39 |
| Rule 531.  | Position Accountability .....   | 39 |
| Rule 532.  | Publication of Market Data.....   | 39 |
| Rule 533.  | SDR Reporting .....   | 39 |
| Rule 534.  | Reserved. ....  | 40 |
| Rule 535.  | Identification of Authorized Traders.....   | 40 |
| Rule 536.  | LIMITATION OF LIABILITY, NO WARRANTIES .....  | 40 |
| Rule 537.  | The MarketAxess SEF Control Center .....  | 42 |
| Rule 538.  | The MarketAxess SEF Trading System .....  | 43 |
| Rule 539.  | Trade Cancellations and Price Adjustments .....   | 44 |
| Rule 540.  | Terms and Conditions .....  | 46 |
| Rule 541.  | Trading Pauses and Halts.....   | 46 |

|             |   |    |
|-------------|---|----|
| CHAPTER 6:  | PRIVATELY NEGOTIATED TRANSACTIONS.....  | 46 |
|             | Rule 601.    Block Trades.....  | 46 |
|             | Rule 602.    Recordkeeping Requirements for Privately Negotiated Trades .....                                 | 47 |
| CHAPTER 7:  | DISCIPLINARY RULES .....  | 48 |
|             | Rule 701.    General.....   | 48 |
|             | Rule 702.    Inquiries and Investigation .....  | 49 |
|             | Rule 703.    Reports of Investigations .....  | 50 |
|             | Rule 704.    Opportunity to Respond .....   | 51 |
|             | Rule 705.    Review of Investigative Reports .....  | 51 |
|             | Rule 706.    Notice of Charges.....   | 52 |
|             | Rule 707.    Answer to Notice of Charges .....  | 53 |
|             | Rule 708.    Service of Notice of Charges.....  | 53 |
|             | Rule 709.    Settlements.....   | 54 |
|             | Rule 710.    Disciplinary Panel.....  | 55 |
|             | Rule 711.    Convening Hearings of Disciplinary Proceedings.....  | 56 |
|             | Rule 712.    Respondent Review of Evidence.....   | 56 |
|             | Rule 713.    Conducting Hearings of Disciplinary Proceedings .....  | 57 |
|             | Rule 714.    Decision of Disciplinary Panel .....   | 58 |
|             | Rule 715.    Sanctions and Fines .....  | 59 |
|             | Rule 716.    Reserved. ....   | 60 |
|             | Rule 717.    Summary Imposition of Fines .....  | 60 |
|             | Rule 718.    Summary Suspensions and Other Summary Actions.....   | 60 |
|             | Rule 719.    Rights and Responsibilities after Suspension or Termination .....                                | 62 |
|             | Rule 720.    Notice to the Respondent, the Regulatory Services Provider and the<br>Public.....                | 62 |
| CHAPTER 8:  | ARBITRATION RULES .....   | 62 |
|             | Rule 801.    Disputes Subject to Arbitration .....  | 63 |
|             | Rule 802.    Initiating an Arbitration Claim .....  | 64 |
|             | Rule 803.    Certain Claims against the MarketAxess SEF Involving Trading Systems<br>or Services.....         | 64 |
|             | Rule 804.    Claims Relating to Trade Cancellations or Price Adjustments.....                                 | 65 |
|             | Rule 805.    Right to Counsel.....  | 65 |
|             | Rule 806.    Governing Law .....  | 65 |
|             | Rule 807.    Costs.....   | 65 |
| CHAPTER 9:  | CLEARING .....  | 65 |
|             | Rule 901.    Clearing of Swaps.....   | 66 |
|             | Rule 902.    Reserved. ....   | 66 |
|             | Rule 903.    Reserved. ....   | 66 |
|             | Rule 904.    Clearing House Rules .....   | 66 |
|             | Rule 905.    Submission of Trades to a Clearing House.....  | 66 |
|             | Rule 906.    Execution and Submission to Clearing of New Swap/Old Terms and New<br>Swap/Corrected Terms ..... | 66 |
| CHAPTER 10: | MISCELLANEOUS.....  | 70 |

|             |  |    |
|-------------|--|----|
| Rule 1001.  | MarketAxess SEF personnel – Trading and Misuse of Material, Non-Public Information ..... | 70 |
| Rule 1002.  | Gifts and Gratuities .....   | 71 |
| Rule 1003.  | Market Data .....  | 71 |
| Rule 1004.  | Extension or Waiver of Rules .....   | 71 |
| Rule 1005.  | Effect of Amendment, Repeal or New Rule .....  | 72 |
| Rule 1006.  | Uncleared Swaps .....  | 72 |
| Rule 1007.  | Issuance of SEF Confirmations .....  | 72 |
| Rule 1008.  | Forwarding of SEF Confirmations .....  | 73 |
| APPENDIX A: | CREDIT CONTRACTS TERMS AND CONDITIONS .....  | 75 |

## CHAPTER 1: DEFINITIONS

### Rule 101. Definitions

When used in this MarketAxess SEF Rulebook, the following terms shall have the respective meanings as follows:

**“Affected Person”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 302(e).

**“Affiliate”** means, with respect to any Person, any Person who, directly or indirectly, Controls, is Controlled by, or is under common Control with, such other Person.

**“Appeal Panel”** means a panel comprised of a chair and two individuals appointed by the Board to consider appeals under Chapter 7.

**“Applicable Law”** means, with respect to any Person, any statute, law, regulation, rule or ordinance of any governmental authority or Self-Regulatory Organization applicable to such Person, including the CEA and the CFTC Regulations.

**“Authorized Contacts”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 537(a)(2).

**“Authorized Representative”** means a natural person who is employed and authorized by a Participant to represent the Participant in MarketAxess SEF matters pursuant to Rule 307.

**“Authorized Trader”** means a natural person who is authorized to utilize the MarketAxess SEF and is either employed by or an agent of a Participant Firm

**“Available to trade”** has the meaning set forth in CFTC Regulation 37.10.

**“Block Trade”** means a transaction in a Swap that is approved for trading on the MarketAxess SEF that (i) meets a notional or principal amount at or above the appropriate minimum block size applicable to such swap, as determined by the CFTC, and (ii) is subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of MarketAxess SEF Corporation, which manages the MarketAxess SEF and is constituted from time to time in accordance with the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws.

**“Business Day”** means a day on which the MarketAxess SEF is open for trading.

**“By-laws”** means the by-laws of MarketAxess SEF Corporation, as amended from time to time, unless otherwise specified.

**“CEA”** means the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended from time to time.

**“Certificate of Incorporation”** means the certificate of incorporation of MarketAxess SEF Corporation filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on June 6, 2013, as amended from time to time.

**“Chief Compliance Officer”** or **“CCO”** means the individual appointed by the Board as the MarketAxess SEF’s chief compliance officer.

**“Chief Executive Officer”** means the individual appointed by the Board as the MarketAxess SEF’s chief executive officer.

**“CFTC”** or **“Commission”** means the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission or any successor regulatory body.

**“CFTC Regulations”** means the rules and regulations promulgated by the CFTC, as amended from time to time.

**“Cleared Error Swap”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 906(b)(ii).

**“Clearing Firm”** means an entity that meets the requirements of clearing membership at a Clearing House that clears Trades in any or all of the MarketAxess SEF Swaps and is authorized to submit Trades for clearing to the Clearing House.

**“Clearing House”** means each CFTC-registered Derivatives Clearing Organization or Derivatives Clearing Organization that is exempt from such registration that MarketAxess SEF designates from time to time to provide clearing services with respect to any or all of the MarketAxess SEF Swaps.

**“Clearing House Rules”** means the rules, interpretations, orders, resolutions, advisories, notices, statements of policy, decisions, manuals and directives of the relevant Clearing House, and all amendments thereto.

**“Commodity Trading Advisor”** or **“CTA”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(12) of the CEA.

**“Control”** means the possession, direct or indirect, of: (i) the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person or (ii) discretion to trade MarketAxess SEF Swaps on behalf of a Person, whether through the ownership of securities, by contract or otherwise. The terms “controlling” and “controlled” shall have meanings correlative to the foregoing.

**“Counterparty”** means a Participant or a Customer whose Legal Entity Identifier is reported by MarketAxess SEF to an SDR as a counterparty to a Trade.

**“Covered Party”** means a Participant, Customer, Clearing Firm, Authorized Trader, other Supervised Person or other Person using any of the Participant’s user IDs.

**“CTT”** means Click to Trade as set forth in Rule 538(b).

**“Customer”** means a Person who is an Eligible Contract Participant and a customer of the MarketAxess SEF which includes, but is not limited to, a customer of a Participant Firm or a Sponsoring Broker.

**“DCO Rejected Swap”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 906(b)(i).

**“Derivatives Clearing Organization”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(15) of the CEA.

**“Designated Contract Market”** or **“DCM”** means a board of trade designated by the CFTC as a contract market under Section 5 of the CEA.

**“Director”** means any member of the Board.

**“Disciplinary Action”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 701(c).

**“Disciplinary Panel”** means the panel appointed by the Board at the recommendation of the Chief Compliance Officer to act in an adjudicative role and fulfill various adjudicative responsibilities and duties described in Chapter 7.

**“Eligible Contract Participant”** or **“ECP”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(18) of the CEA.

**“Emergency”** has the meaning set forth in CFTC Regulation 40.1(h).

**“Emergency Rules”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 212(a).

**“FINRA”** means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or any successor thereto.

**“Futures Commission Merchant”** or **“FCM”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(28) of the CEA.

**“Government Agency”** means any governmental entity (including the United States, a state or a foreign government).

**“Interested Person”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 213(a).

**“Introducing Broker”** or **“IB”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(31) of the CEA.

**“Investigative Report”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 703(b).

**“Independent Software Vendor”** or **“ISV”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 537(b)(3).

**“ISDA”** means the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.

**“Major Swap Participant”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(33) of the CEA.

**“MarketAxess Control Center,”** or **“MCC,”** means the MarketAxess SEF Control Center, a technical support center established and maintained by the MarketAxess SEF to provide technical support and control over the operations of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

**“MarketAxess Holdings”** means MarketAxess Holdings Inc., or any successor thereto.

**“MarketAxess SEF”** means the SEF operated by MarketAxess SEF Corporation, a Delaware corporation, or any successor thereto.

**“MarketAxess SEF Activity”** means activity which a Participant or a Customer conducts on the MarketAxess SEF or activity which is otherwise subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules.



**“MarketAxess SEF Official”** means any Director or Officer of, or individual employed directly by, the MarketAxess SEF or the Regulatory Services Provider, or any individual rendering similar services to the MarketAxess SEF under an administrative or similar agreement.

**“MarketAxess SEF Proceeding”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 213(a).

**“MarketAxess SEF Rules,”** or **“Rules,”** means all rules adopted by MarketAxess SEF, all Notices to Participants published by the MarketAxess SEF, all Participant Documentation, all interpretations, orders, resolutions, advisories, statements of policy, decisions, manuals and directives of the MarketAxess SEF, and all amendments thereto.

**“MarketAxess SEF Swap”** means any swap listed for trading by MarketAxess SEF.

**“MarketAxess SEF Trading System”** means the MarketAxess SEF electronic trade execution system that is used for trading MarketAxess SEF Swaps, including any licensed software that is a part thereof from time to time, and any successor electronic trading system thereto, the hardware and any communications links as may be furnished by the MarketAxess SEF from time to time in accordance with this Agreement.

**“MarketAxess SEF User License Agreement”** means the MarketAxess SEF user license agreement that must be entered into by any Participant of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

**“Market Regulation Department”** means all MarketAxess SEF Officials and/or agents (including the Regulatory Services Provider) that assist the MarketAxess SEF in the implementation, surveillance and enforcement of the MarketAxess SEF Rules and other Obligations.

**“Material conflict of interest”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 213(b).

**“New Swap/Old Terms”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 906(b)(iii).

**“New Swap/Corrected Terms”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 906(b)(iv).

**“NFA”** means the National Futures Association, or any successor thereto.

**“Notice to Participants,”** or **“Notice,”** means a communication sent by or on behalf of the MarketAxess SEF to all Participants as described in Rule 309.

**“Obligation”** means each Rule of the MarketAxess SEF, each order or procedure issued by the MarketAxess SEF, including Notices to Participants, and each other requirement implemented by the MarketAxess SEF under the MarketAxess SEF Rules, including each term of a MarketAxess SEF Swap, as well as any contractual obligations between a Participant and the MarketAxess SEF, including the Participant Documentation.

**“Officer”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 203(a).

**“Option”** means an option to buy or sell a MarketAxess SEF Swap that is subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

**“Order”** means either a bid or an offer for a MarketAxess SEF Swap that is subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the term "Order" includes a firm response to a Request for Quote.

**“Order Book”** means the trading system or platform operated by the MarketAxess SEF in which all Participants in the trading system or platform have the ability to enter multiple bids and offers, observe or receive bids and offers entered by other Participants, and transact on such bids and offers.

**“Package Trade”** means a Trade involving two or more instruments: that is executed between two or more counterparties; that is priced or quoted as one economic transaction with simultaneous or near simultaneous execution of all components; and where the execution of each component is contingent upon the execution of all other components.

**“Participant”** means a Participant Firm, any natural person who is either employed by or an agent of a Participant Firm (including, but not limited to a Supervised Person and/or Authorized Trader), or any natural person who is authorized to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System pursuant to the applicable user ID of the Participant Firm. For the avoidance of doubt, a natural person may simultaneously be a Participant of more than one Participant Firm.

**“Participant Documentation”** means the agreements (together with any applicable schedules, exhibits or appendices thereto required by the MarketAxess SEF) in form and substance acceptable to the MarketAxess SEF, that are required to be executed and delivered to the MarketAxess SEF for a Person to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, including, but not limited to, the MarketAxess SEF User License Agreement, as amended from time to time by the MarketAxess SEF.

**“Participant Firm”** means an entity that has been approved by the MarketAxess SEF in accordance with Rule 302, is authorized to access the MarketAxess SEF through the applicable user ID and is an ECP as defined in Section 1a(18) of the CEA. A Participant Firm may trade for its own Proprietary Account. A Participant Firm may trade for an account on behalf of its Customer in accordance with the Rules. The term **“Participant Firm”** collectively refers to all Participants and Authorized Traders of a Participant Firm authorized to utilize the MarketAxess SEF.

**“Permitted Transaction”** means any transaction involving a MarketAxess SEF Swap that is not a Required Transaction.

**“Person”** means a natural person or an entity.

**“Pre-Execution Communication”** means a communication between two Persons for the purpose of discerning interest in the execution of a Swap prior to execution of the Swap on the MarketAxess SEF. For the avoidance of doubt, any communication between two Persons that constitutes a legally binding agreement to enter into a Swap shall not be considered a Pre-Execution Communication.

**“Proprietary Account”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1.3(y) of the CFTC Regulations.

**“Public Director”** means an individual with the qualifications set forth in Rule 202(e).

**“Public Individual”** means an individual that is determined by the Board or the Chief Compliance Officer, as applicable, to have no “material relationship,” as such term is used in Rule 202(e), with the MarketAxess SEF.

**“Regulatory Oversight Committee”** means the committee of the Board constituted in accordance with Rule 208.

**“Regulatory Services Agreement”** means the agreement(s) between the MarketAxess SEF and the Regulatory Services Provider whereby market surveillance and trade practice surveillance functions are delegated to the Regulatory Services Provider.

**“Regulatory Services Provider,”** or **“RSP,”** means an organization, if any, that provides regulatory services to the MarketAxess SEF pursuant to a Regulatory Services Agreement.

**“Reporting Counterparty”** has the meaning set forth in Part 45 of the CFTC Regulations.

**“Required Transaction”** means any transaction involving a MarketAxess SEF Swap that is subject to the trade execution requirement of Section 2(h)(8) of the CEA.

**“Request for Quote”** or **“RFQ,”** means a request for a quote to buy or sell a specific instrument.

**“Request for Quote System”** or **“RFQ System”** means a trading system or platform in which a Participant transmits a request for a quote to buy or sell a specific instrument to no less than the minimum number of Participants required by CFTC regulations, to which all such Participants may respond. For the avoidance of doubt, the Participants satisfying this threshold shall not be affiliates of or entities controlled by the Participant transmitting the request for a quote and shall not be affiliates of or entities controlled by each other.

**“SEC”** means the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or any successor regulatory body.

**“SEF Confirmation”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 1007(b).

**“Self-Regulatory Action”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 213(a).

**“Self-Regulatory Organization”** shall, unless otherwise provided, have the meaning set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.3(ee) and, in addition, shall include a Derivatives Clearing Organization.

**“Supervised Person(s)”** means any director(s), officer(s), employee(s) or agent(s) of any Participant Firm, including but not limited to Authorized Traders.

**“Swap”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(47) of the CEA.

**“Swap Data Repository”** or **“SDR”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(48) of the CEA.

**“Swap Dealer”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1a(49) of the CEA.

**“Swap Execution Facility”** or **“SEF”** has the meaning set forth in Section 1(a)(50) of the CEA.

**“Terms Incorporated by Reference”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 1007(b).

**“Trade”** means any purchase or sale of any MarketAxess SEF Swap made on, or pursuant to the Rules of, the MarketAxess SEF.

**“Trade Communication”** has the meaning set forth in Rule 1007(b).

**“Trading Hours”** means, for any Business Day, the hours as may be published by the MarketAxess SEF in a Notice to Participants from time to time.

**“Trading Privileges”** means the right granted by the MarketAxess SEF to a Participant to transmit Orders for certain or all MarketAxess SEF Swaps through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

**“USI”** means unique swap identifier.

**“Write,” “Written” or “Writing”** means printing, lithography, photography, and other modes of representing or reproducing words or data in a visible form, including electronic transmissions.

**The following rules of construction shall apply to the MarketAxess SEF Rules:**

- (i) Headings are for convenience only and do not affect the construction of the MarketAxess SEF Rules;
- (ii) all references to time are to local time in New York, New York except where expressly provided otherwise;
- (iii) words denoting a singular number include the plural number where the context permits and vice versa;
- (iv) where the context permits or requires, any pronoun shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine and neuter forms; and
- (v) references to statutory provisions include those provisions as amended, and any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder.

## **CHAPTER 2: MARKETAXESS SEF OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

### **Rule 201. Ownership**

(a) MarketAxess SEF Corporation is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware. The Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of MarketAxess SEF Corporation govern the management and operation of the MarketAxess SEF. MarketAxess Holdings owns all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of MarketAxess SEF Corporation. MarketAxess Holdings is listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market, a national securities exchange registered with the SEC.

## Rule 202. Board

(a) The Officers shall manage the day-to-day business operations of the MarketAxess SEF. The Board has the power and authority to call for review, and to affirm, modify, suspend or overrule, any and all decisions and actions of standing committees or special committees of the Board, or of any panel of Officers, related to the day-to-day business operations of the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) The Board may act only by the decision of an absolute majority in number of the Directors by vote at a meeting, by unanimous written consent without a meeting, or as otherwise set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws.

(c) At all times, at least 35%, but no less than two, of the Directors shall be Public Directors. Each Director (including Public Directors) shall be appointed in accordance with the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws, and shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed, or until his or her earlier resignation or removal, with or without cause.

(d) Each Director is entitled to indemnification pursuant to the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws with respect to matters relating to the MarketAxess SEF or otherwise relating to MarketAxess SEF Corporation.

(e) To qualify as a Public Director, an individual must be found, by action of the Board, to have no material relationship with the MarketAxess SEF. The Board must make such finding upon the nomination or appointment of the Director and as often as necessary in light of all circumstances relevant to such Director, but in no case less than annually.

A “material relationship” is one that reasonably could affect the independent judgment or decision-making of the Director. In making the finding specified in this Rule, the Board need not consider previous service as a Director of the MarketAxess SEF to constitute a “material relationship.” A Director shall be considered to have a “material relationship” with the MarketAxess SEF if any of the following circumstances exist or have existed within the past year:

(1) Such Director is an Officer or an employee of the MarketAxess SEF, or an officer or an employee of an Affiliate of the MarketAxess SEF;

(2) Such Director is a Participant or owner of the MarketAxess SEF;

(3) Such Director, or an entity with which the Director is a partner, an officer, an employee or a director, receives more than \$100,000 in combined annual payments for legal, accounting or consulting services from the MarketAxess SEF or its Affiliate, any Participant of the MarketAxess SEF or any Affiliate of such Participant. Compensation for services as a Director of the MarketAxess SEF or as a director of an Affiliate thereof does not count toward the \$100,000 payment limit, nor does deferred compensation for services rendered prior to becoming a Director, *provided* that such compensation is in no way contingent, conditioned or revocable; or

(4) Notwithstanding Rule 202(e)(3), in the case of a Public Director that is a member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee, such Public Director accepts, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the MarketAxess SEF or its Affiliate or any

Participant of the MarketAxess SEF or the Participant's Affiliate, other than deferred compensation for service rendered prior to becoming a member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee, *provided* that such compensation is in no way contingent, conditioned or revocable. This Rule 202(e)(4) does not apply to compensation received in the public director's capacity as a member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee.

(f) Any of the relationships set forth in Rule 202(e)(1) through Rule 202(e)(4) apply to the "immediate family" of such Director, *i.e.*, spouse, parents, children, and siblings, in each case, whether by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person residing in the home of the Director or that of his or her "immediate family."

(g) A Public Director of the MarketAxess SEF specified in Rule 202 may also serve as a Public Director of an Affiliate of the MarketAxess SEF if he or she otherwise meets the requirements set forth in Rule 202(e)(1) through Rule 202(e)(4).

(h) The compensation of the Public Directors and any other non-executive members of the Board shall not be linked to the business performance of the MarketAxess SEF.

(i) The Board shall review its performance and that of its individual members annually, and may use external facilitators for such reviews.

(j) In the event that the Board rejects a recommendation or supersedes an action of the Regulatory Oversight Committee, the MarketAxess SEF shall submit a written report to the CFTC detailing:

(1) the recommendation or action of the Regulatory Oversight Committee;

(2) the rationale for such recommendation or action;

(3) the rationale of the Board for rejecting such recommendation or superseding such action; and

(4) The course of action that the Board decided to take contrary to such recommendation or action.

(k) The Board shall adopt procedures to remove a Director, where the conduct of such Director is likely to be prejudicial to the sound and prudent management of the MarketAxess SEF.

(l) At all times, the Board shall include Directors who represent a diversity of membership interests at MarketAxess SEF (each a "**Membership Interest Director**").

(1) The following groups shall each be considered a different membership interest:

(i) Those Participants who trade credit Swaps on MarketAxess SEF.

(2) To qualify as a Membership Interest Director, an individual must be found, by action of the Board, to possess relevant experience qualifying them to represent a membership interest. Such determination shall be made by action of the Board. The Board must make such finding upon the

nomination or appointment of the Director and as often as necessary in light of all circumstances relevant to such Director, but in no case less than each governing board election.

### **Rule 203. Officers**

(a) The Board shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer, a Chief Compliance Officer and such other officers of MarketAxess SEF Corporation (each an “**Officer**”) as it may deem necessary or appropriate from time to time.

(b) Any Officer may also be a director, officer, partner or employee of the MarketAxess SEF or any of its Affiliates.

(c) The Officers shall have such powers and duties in the management of the MarketAxess SEF as the Board may prescribe from time to time.

(d) Each Officer is entitled to indemnification pursuant to the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws with respect to matters relating to the MarketAxess SEF or otherwise relating to MarketAxess SEF Corporation.

### **Rule 204. Qualifications of Directors, Disciplinary Panel Members, Appeal Panel Members, Committee Members, Owners and Officers**

(a) A Director or Officer must meet the qualifications set forth from time to time by the Board, including qualifications and sufficient expertise in financial services, risk management, and clearing services.

(b) An individual may not serve as a Director or an Officer, or serve on a committee established by the Board, a Disciplinary Panel or an Appeal Panel, or hold a 10% or more ownership interest in the MarketAxess SEF, if the individual:

(1) within the prior three (3) years has been found, by a final decision in any action or proceeding brought in a court of competent jurisdiction, the CFTC or any Self-Regulatory Organization, to have committed a disciplinary offense;

(2) within the prior three (3) years has entered into a settlement agreement in which any of the findings or, in the absence of such findings, any of the acts charged, included a disciplinary offense;

(3) is currently suspended from trading on a SEF or DCM, is suspended or expelled from membership in a Self-Regulatory Organization, is serving any sentence or probation or owes any portion of a fine or penalty related to either:

(i) a finding of a disciplinary offense by a final decision in any action or proceeding brought in a court of competent jurisdiction, the CFTC or any Self-Regulatory Organization; or

(ii) a settlement agreement in which any of the findings or, in the absence of such findings, any of the acts charged included a disciplinary offense;

(4) is currently subject to an agreement with the CFTC or any Self-Regulatory Organization not to apply for registration with the CFTC or for membership in the Self-Regulatory Organization;

(5) is currently, or within the past three (3) years has been, subject to a revocation or suspension of registration by the CFTC;

(6) has been convicted of a felony listed in section 8a(2)(D)(i) through (iv) of the CEA;

(7) is currently subject to a denial, suspension or disqualification from serving on a disciplinary committee, arbitration panel or governing board of any self-regulatory organization as that term is defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; or

(8) is subject to statutory disqualification under Section 8a(2) or 8a(3) of the CEA.

(c) Any Director, Officer, member of a committee established by the Board, any member of a Disciplinary Panel or Appeal Panel, any individual nominated to serve in any such role or any individual authorized by the Market Regulation Department to take summary action shall immediately notify the Chief Executive Officer if such individual meets one or more of the criteria in Rule 204(b).

(d) For purposes of Rule 204(b), the terms “disciplinary offense,” “final decision” and “settlement agreement” have the meanings set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.63(a).

## **Rule 205. Standing Committees**

(a) The Board shall initially have one standing committee: the “**Regulatory Oversight Committee.**” The Board may from time to time constitute and appoint such additional standing committees of the Board as it may from time to time deem necessary or advisable.

(b) Each member of such standing committees must be a Director, one of whom the Board shall designate as the chairperson of each standing committee.

(c) Each standing committee shall assist in the supervision, management and control of the affairs of the MarketAxess SEF within its particular area of responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board.

(d) Subject to the authority of the Board, each standing committee shall determine the manner and form in which its proceedings shall be conducted. Each standing committee may act only by the decision of an absolute majority in number of the members of such committee, by vote at a meeting or by unanimous written consent without a meeting. The Board has the authority to overrule the decisions of a standing committee. See Rule 202(a).

## **Rule 206. Pending Legal Proceedings.**

MarketAxess SEF shall report to the CFTC documents relating to legal proceedings in accordance with CFTC Regulation 1.60.



**Rule 207. Restrictions on Certain Persons who Possess Material, Non-Public Information: Improper Use or Disclosure of Material Non-Public Information.**

No member of the Board or of any committee appointed by the Board, no member of any other committee of MarketAxess SEF, no Officer or Director, no employee of MarketAxess SEF and no consultant to MarketAxess SEF shall:

(a) trade for such Person's own account, or for or on behalf of any other account, in any commodity interest on the basis of any material, non-public information obtained through the performance of such Person's official duties;

(b) use or disclose, for any purpose other than the performance of such Person's official duties, any material, non-public information obtained by such Person as a result of such Person's official duties, provided, however, that this Section shall not prohibit disclosures made by such Person in the course of his or her official duties or disclosures made to the CFTC, any Self-Regulatory Organization, a court of competent jurisdiction or any agency or department of the federal or state government; or

(c) trade, directly or indirectly, in any Swap traded on the SEF operated by MarketAxess SEF; in any related commodity interest; or in any commodity interest traded on any DCM or SEF or cleared by any Clearing House if such Person has access to material non-public information concerning such Swap or commodity interest.

**Rule 208. Regulatory Oversight Committee**

(a) The Regulatory Oversight Committee of the Board shall consist of two Public Directors appointed from time to time by the Board (*i.e.*, 100% Public Directors).

(b) Each member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee shall serve for a term of two calendar years from the date of his/her appointment or for the remainder of his/her term as a Public Director, and until the due appointment of his/her successor, or until his/her earlier resignation or removal, with or without cause, as a member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee or as a Public Director. A member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee may serve for multiple terms.

(c) The Regulatory Oversight Committee shall oversee the MarketAxess SEF's regulatory program on behalf of the Board. The Board shall delegate sufficient authority, dedicate sufficient resources, and allow sufficient time for the Regulatory Oversight Committee to fulfill its mandate. It shall make such recommendations to the Board as will, in its judgment, best promote the interests of the MarketAxess SEF. The Regulatory Oversight Committee shall also have such other powers and perform such other duties as are set forth in the Rules and as the Board may delegate to it from time to time.

(d) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Regulatory Oversight Committee shall:

(1) monitor the regulatory program of the MarketAxess SEF for sufficiency, effectiveness and independence;

(2) oversee all facets of the regulatory program, including:

(i) trade practice and market surveillance; audits, examinations and other regulatory responsibilities with respect to Participants (including compliance with, if applicable, financial integrity, financial reporting, sales practice, recordkeeping and other requirements), and the conduct of investigations;

(ii) reviewing the size and allocation of the regulatory budget and resources, and the number, hiring, termination and compensation of regulatory personnel;

(iii) reviewing the performance of the Chief Compliance Officer of the MarketAxess SEF;

(iv) recommending changes that would ensure fair, vigorous and effective regulation; and

(v) reviewing all regulatory proposals prior to implementation and advising the Board as to whether and how such changes may impact regulation; and

(3) resolve any conflicts of interest that may arise involving the Chief Compliance Officer.

(e) The Regulatory Oversight Committee reports to the Board.

(f) The Regulatory Oversight Committee shall prepare an annual report assessing, for the Board, the regulatory program of the MarketAxess SEF. Such report shall:

(1) describe the self-regulatory program;

(2) set forth the expenses of the self-regulatory program;

(3) describe the staffing and structure of the same;

(4) catalogue investigations and disciplinary actions taken during the year; and

(5) review the performance of the Disciplinary Panel and the Chief Compliance Officer.

## **Rule 209. Chief Compliance Officer**

(a) Appointment, removal, and compensation of the Chief Compliance Officer.

(1) The Board shall appoint a Chief Compliance Officer that the Board has determined has the background and skills appropriate for fulfilling the responsibilities of the position.

(2) The Board shall approve the compensation of the Chief Compliance Officer.

(3) Only the majority of the Board may remove the Chief Compliance Officer.

(4) The MarketAxess SEF shall notify the CFTC within two (2) business days of appointing or removing any Chief Compliance Officer.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Chief Compliance Officer to:

(1) establish and administer written policies and procedures required under CFTC Regulation 37.1500;

(2) establish and administer written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the CEA or CFTC Regulations;

(3) oversee, review, and take reasonable steps to ensure MarketAxess SEF's compliance with the CEA and CFTC Regulations;

(4) in consultation with the CEO, the Board and/or Regulatory Oversight Committee, resolve any conflicts of interest that may arise between:

(i) business considerations and compliance requirements;

(ii) business considerations and the requirement that the MarketAxess SEF provide fair, open, and impartial access as set forth in Rule 207(d); and

(iii) the management of the MarketAxess SEF and the Directors of the Board.

(5) establish and administer a compliance manual and procedures that:

(i) address the remediation of noncompliance issues identified by the Chief Compliance Officer through a compliance office review, look-back, internal or external audit finding, self-reported error, or validated complaint;

(ii) address the handling, management response, remediation, retesting, and closing of noncompliance issues;

(iii) are designed to promote compliance with Applicable Law, the Rules, and administering a written code of ethics designed to prevent ethical violations and to promote honesty and ethical conduct; and

(iv) protect material, non-public information from unauthorized disclosure, misuse, espionage, loss and theft.

(6) supervise the MarketAxess SEF program, including supervision of trade practice surveillance, market surveillance, real-time market monitoring, compliance with audit trail requirements, enforcement and disciplinary proceedings, audits, examinations, financial integrity, financial reporting, sales practice, and recordkeeping; and

(7) supervise the effectiveness and sufficiency of the Regulatory Services Provider.

(c) The Chief Compliance Officer shall have available to him/her at all times the resources of the Market Regulation Department and such other MarketAxess SEF resources as may be necessary to conduct investigations of alleged Rule violations and market conditions.

(d) The Chief Compliance Officer shall:

- (1) report to the Chief Executive Officer and meet with the Board at least annually;
- (2) have his or her performance reviewed by the Regulatory Oversight Committee and meet with the Regulatory Oversight Committee at least quarterly;
- (3) provide the Board or Regulatory Oversight Committee information regarding the MarketAxess SEF's self-regulatory program upon request; and
- (4) prepare and sign an annual compliance report, as prescribed in CEA Section 5h(f)(15) and CFTC Regulations, and submit such report to the Board and the CFTC.

(i) Prior to submission to the CFTC, the Chief Compliance Officer shall provide the annual compliance report to the Board for its review. Members of the Board and the senior Officer shall not require the Chief Compliance Officer to make any changes to the report. Submission of the report to the Board, and any subsequent discussion of the report, shall be recorded in board minutes or a similar written record, as evidence of compliance with this requirement.

(ii) MarketAxess SEF shall maintain copies of all materials, including written reports provided to the Board or senior Officer in connection with the review of the annual compliance report under of this section and the board minutes or a similar written record that documents the review of the annual compliance report by the Board or senior Officer.

(iii) MarketAxess SEF shall maintain any records relevant to the annual compliance report, including, but not limited to, work papers and other documents that form the basis of the report, and memoranda, correspondence, other documents, and records that are:

(A) created, sent, or received in connection with the annual compliance report; and

(B) contain conclusions, opinions, analyses, or financial data related to the annual compliance report.

(e) The Chief Compliance Officer shall have the authority to inspect the books and records of all Participants and the authority to require any Participant to appear before him/her and produce its books and records and answer questions regarding alleged violations of MarketAxess SEF Rules, at the time, place and in the manner that he/she designates. The Chief Compliance Officer may also delegate such authority to staff of the Market Regulation Department or the Regulatory Services Provider.

## Rule 210. Compliance Staff and Resources

The MarketAxess SEF shall establish and maintain sufficient compliance staff and resources to ensure that it can conduct effective audit trail reviews, trade practice surveillance, market surveillance, and real-time market monitoring. The MarketAxess SEF's compliance staff shall also be sufficient to address unusual market or trading events as they arise and to complete investigations in a timely manner in accordance with Rule 702(e).

## Rule 211. Additional Board Committees and MarketAxess SEF Panels

(a) In addition to standing committees, the Board may from time to time constitute and appoint, in accordance with the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws, special committees of the Board and designate their composition, responsibilities and powers. Each member of such special committees must be a Director and at least 35%, but not less than two, of the members of any such special committees shall be Public Directors.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF may create panels of the MarketAxess SEF for such purposes as may from time to time be necessary or advisable. Members of each such panel may be Directors, Participants (if individuals) or any of a Participant's Supervised Persons (if an entity), or such other individuals as may be qualified to serve on such panel.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Rules, the members of any additional committee or panel shall be appointed as determined by the Board. The Board shall designate the chairperson of such additional committee or panel.

(d) Each additional committee or panel shall assist in the supervision, management and control of the affairs of the MarketAxess SEF within its particular area of responsibility.

(e) Subject to the authority of the Board, each additional committee or panel shall determine the manner and form in which its proceedings shall be conducted. Each additional committee or panel may act only by the decision of an absolute majority in number of the members of such committee or panel, either by vote at a meeting or by unanimous written consent without a meeting.

## Rule 212. Emergency Rules

(a) During an Emergency, the Board is authorized to implement temporary emergency procedures and rules (collectively, "**Emergency Rules**"), subject to the applicable provisions of the CEA and CFTC Regulations and, where appropriate, in consultation with one or more Clearing Firms and/or Clearing Houses. Emergency Rules authorize the MarketAxess SEF, the Board, any committee of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or any other Officer to take actions necessary or appropriate to respond to the Emergency, including, but not limited to directly taking, or indirectly taking through agreements with a Clearing House or Regulatory Services Provider, the following actions:

- (1) suspending or curtailing trading or limiting trading to liquidation only (in whole or in part);
- (2) providing alternative settlement mechanisms;

- (3) ordering the liquidation, transfer or the reduction of positions in any MarketAxess SEF Swaps;
- (4) extending, limiting or changing the Trading Hours;
- (5) temporarily modifying or suspending any provision of the MarketAxess SEF Rules or Obligations;
- (6) requiring Participants to meet special margin requirements;
- (7) imposing or modifying price limits, intraday market restrictions, or bands;
- (8) imposing or modifying position limits;
- (9) ordering the fixing of a settlement price;
- (10) transferring a Participant's or Customer's position and margin;
- (11) altering any MarketAxess SEF Swap's settlement terms or conditions; or
- (12) take market actions as may be directed by the CFTC.

(b) Before any Emergency Rule may be adopted and enforced, a required vote of the Board must approve the enforcement of such Emergency Rule at a duly convened meeting. Directors may remotely attend such a meeting by teleconference or other similar means. If the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Compliance Officer determines that Emergency Rules must be implemented with respect to an Emergency before a meeting of the Board can reasonably be convened, then the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Compliance Officer shall have the authority, without Board action, to implement any Emergency Rules with respect to such Emergency that he or she deems necessary or appropriate to respond to such Emergency. In such circumstances, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Compliance Officer must promptly notify the Board, and the Board must convene a meeting as soon as practicable.

(c) Whenever the MarketAxess SEF, the Board, any committee of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Compliance Officer takes actions necessary or appropriate to respond to an Emergency, a duly authorized representative of the MarketAxess SEF, where possible, will post an announcement in a Notice to Participants as soon as reasonably practicable after taking such action. When the Board, any committee of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Compliance Officer determines that the Emergency has been reduced sufficiently to allow the MarketAxess SEF to resume normal functioning, any such actions responding to an Emergency will be terminated.

(d) The MarketAxess SEF will use reasonable efforts to notify the CFTC prior to implementing, modifying or terminating an Emergency Rule. If such prior notification is not possible or practicable, the MarketAxess SEF will notify the CFTC as soon as reasonably practicable.

(e) Upon taking any action in response to an Emergency, the MarketAxess SEF will document the decision-making process related to such action. Such documentation will be kept for at least five (5) years following the date on which the Emergency ceases to exist or to affect the MarketAxess SEF, and all such documentation will be provided to the CFTC upon request.

## Rule 213. Conflicts of Interest and Misuse of Material, Non-Public Information

(a) A Director, Officer, Disciplinary Panel member or other Person authorized to exercise the MarketAxess SEF's authority concerning any inquiry, investigation, disciplinary proceeding or any appeal from a disciplinary proceeding, summary suspension or other summary action (any such action, a "**MarketAxess SEF Proceeding**"), or Emergency actions taken pursuant to Rule 212 (each such MarketAxess SEF Proceeding or Emergency action, a "**Self-Regulatory Action**"), who knowingly has a "material conflict of interest" between his or her position with respect to the exercise of authority concerning a Self-Regulatory Action and his or her personal interests (each, an "**Interested Person**") may not participate in any deliberations or vote of the Board Committee or panel or exercise any authority with respect to such Self-Regulatory Action involving his or her personal interest, except as described in Rule 213(d).

(b) For purposes of Rule 213(a), a "**material conflict of interest**" means a Director, Officer, Disciplinary Panel Member or other Person:

(1) is named as a respondent or potential respondent in the Self-Regulatory Action;

(2) is an employer, employee, fellow employee or an Affiliate of a respondent or potential respondent in the Self-Regulatory Action;

(3) has any significant, ongoing business relationship with a respondent or potential respondent in the Self-Regulatory Action;

(4) has a family relationship with a respondent or potential respondent in a Self-Regulatory Action (including the individual's spouse, co-habitator, former spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, step-brother, step-sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law);

(5) has a "direct and substantial financial interest" in the result of the deliberations or vote based upon either MarketAxess SEF or non-MarketAxess SEF positions (as referenced in Section 1.69(b)(2) of the CFTC Regulations), other than a direct or indirect equity or other interest in MarketAxess Holdings, that could reasonably be expected to be affected by the action. A direct and substantial financial interest includes positions in MarketAxess SEF Swaps in accounts of, controlled by, or affiliated with the Interested Person or in any other types of direct and substantial financial positions of the Interested Person that are reasonably expected to be affected by the deliberations or vote; and/or

(6) any other circumstance that gives rise to a conflict between the Director's, Officer's, Disciplinary Panel Member's or other Person's exercise of authority concerning any Self-Regulatory Action and his or her personal interests.

(c) Before considering any Self-Regulatory Action, an Interested Person must disclose in writing to the Board the material facts concerning his or her relationship or interest in the matter.

(d) Any Interested Person who would be required otherwise to abstain from deliberations and voting pursuant to Rule 213(a) as a result of having a direct and substantial financial interest in the result of the deliberations and vote may participate in deliberations, prior to a vote on the matter, if:

(1) the material facts about the Interested Person's financial interest in the matter are disclosed or known to the Board, Committee or Disciplinary Panel;

(2) the Board, Committee or Disciplinary Panel determines that the participation by the Interested Person would be consistent with the public interest; and

(3) a majority of the Directors (excluding any Interested Persons) vote to allow the Interested Person to participate in deliberations on the matter.

(e) If a determination is made pursuant to Rule 213(d) that an Interested Person may participate in deliberations prior to a vote, then the minutes of the meeting of the Board or committee thereof will reflect the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(f) If a determination is made that all Directors are Interested Persons with respect to a matter subject to a vote by the Board, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint a panel of individuals who are not Interested Persons with respect to such matter, which will have the same authority and powers over such matter that the Board would have if the Directors were not Interested Persons with respect to such matter.

(g) The MarketAxess SEF and any Director, Officer, member of any committee or panel established by the Board, employee or agent shall not use or disclose for any purpose other than the performance of his or her official duties and responsibilities any material, non-public information obtained in connection with the MarketAxess SEF's regulatory obligations. No Director, Officer, committee or panel member, employee or agent shall, directly or indirectly, disclose or use at any time, either during his or her association with the MarketAxess SEF or thereafter, any material, non-public information of which he or she becomes aware. Each Director, Officer, committee or panel member, employee or agent in possession of material, non-public information shall take reasonable steps to safeguard the information, comply with any MarketAxess SEF policies and procedures to protect such information, and to protect it against unauthorized disclosure, misuse, espionage, loss and theft.

(h) Notwithstanding Rule 213(g), a Director, Officer or committee or panel member may disclose confidential information if required by law.

(i) For the purposes of Rule 213(g), the terms "material information" and "non-public information" shall each have the meaning set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.59(a).

(j) The MarketAxess SEF may not use for business or marketing purposes any material, non-public information, proprietary data, or personal information it collects or receives, from or on behalf of any person, for the purpose of fulfilling its regulatory obligations, including information that separately discloses business transactions, market positions, or trade secrets; *provided, however*, the MarketAxess SEF may use such information for business or marketing purposes where such person provides written consent. The MarketAxess SEF, where necessary, may share such non-public information, proprietary data, or personal information with the CFTC and one or more CFTC registered Self-Regulatory Organizations for regulatory purposes.



## **Rule 214. Maintenance of Books and Records**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF shall keep, or cause to be kept, complete and accurate books and records of all activities relating to the business of the MarketAxess SEF, including, without limitation, complete audit trails for all MarketAxess SEF Swaps executed on, or otherwise subject to the Rules of, the MarketAxess SEF, investigatory files, disciplinary files, and all books and records required to be maintained pursuant to the CEA and the CFTC Regulations.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF shall retain, or cause the Regulatory Services Provider to retain, all such books and records including the USI for that swap and the LEI of the counterparties to that swap for at least five (5) years following the termination of such Swap, and shall make such books and records readily accessible for inspection by the CFTC and the United States Department of Justice, the SEC, or by any representative of a prudential regulator as authorized by the CFTC.

(c) The MarketAxess SEF shall keep, or cause to be kept, any such records relating to security-based swap agreements readily accessible for inspection and examination by the SEC.

(d) The MarketAxess SEF shall provide upon request, or shall report in a form and manner acceptable to the CFTC, at the expense of MarketAxess SEF, such information as required to be provided or reported pursuant to the CEA or CFTC Regulations.

(e) Each Covered Party must keep complete and accurate books and records, including records of its activity in the index or instrument used as a reference price for a MarketAxess SEF Swap and related derivatives markets. To the extent required by Applicable Law or the Rules, each Participant must make its books and records available, upon request, to the MarketAxess SEF, the Regulatory Services Provider, and the CFTC.

## **Rule 215. Information-Sharing Agreements**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF may enter into information-sharing agreements or other arrangements or procedures to coordinate surveillance and investigative activities with other market regulatory authorities or organizations on which financial instruments related to the MarketAxess SEF Swaps trade. As part of any information-sharing agreements or other arrangements or procedures adopted pursuant to this Rule, the MarketAxess SEF may:

(1) provide market surveillance reports to other Self-Regulatory Organizations solely for regulatory purposes;

(2) share information and documents concerning current and former Participants with other markets; and/or

(3) share information and documents concerning ongoing and completed investigations with other markets.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF may enter into any arrangement with any Person or body (including, without limitation, the CFTC, the NFA, any SEF, DCM, any Self-Regulatory Organization, market, clearing

organization or foreign regulatory authority) if the MarketAxess SEF considers such arrangement to be necessary and appropriate to fulfill the MarketAxess SEF's regulatory responsibilities.

(c) The MarketAxess SEF may not disclose information to another Person or body pursuant to Rule 215(a) or (b) unless it is satisfied that any material, non-public information, proprietary data, or personal information obtained through its regulatory obligations:

(1) will not be used for business or marketing purposes; and

(2) will not be disclosed except in connection with an adjudicatory action, self-regulatory action, or proceeding.

### **Rule 216. Services Agreement with a Regulatory Services Provider**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF may contract with a Regulatory Services Provider to provide certain regulatory services to the MarketAxess SEF pursuant to a Services Agreement. In accordance with a Regulatory Services Agreement, the Regulatory Services Provider may perform certain surveillance, investigative and/or regulatory functions under the MarketAxess SEF Rules and the MarketAxess SEF may provide information to the Regulatory Services Provider in connection with the performance by the Regulatory Services Provider of those functions.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF shall retain ultimate decision-making authority with respect to any functions that are contracted to a Regulatory Services Provider and document where the MarketAxess SEF's actions differ from the Regulatory Service Provider's recommendation, including the reasons for the course of action recommended by the Regulatory Service Provider and the reasons why the MarketAxess SEF chose a different course of action. Such functions include but are not limited to, cancellation of Trades, the issuance of disciplinary charges against members or market participants and denials of access to the trading platform for disciplinary reasons.

(c) The MarketAxess SEF shall supervise any Regulatory Services Provider by, among other things:

(1) ensuring that the Regulatory Services Provider has the necessary capacity and resources to provide timely and effective regulatory services;

(2) retaining sufficient compliance staff to supervise the quality and effectiveness of the Regulatory Services Provider;

(3) holding regular meetings to discuss ongoing investigations, trading patterns, market participants, and other similar matters; and

(4) conducting and documenting periodic reviews of the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided.

## **CHAPTER 3: PARTICIPANTS**

## **Rule 301. Criteria for Becoming a Participant Firm**

(a) To be eligible for admission as a Participant Firm, an applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the MarketAxess SEF that it:

- (1) is an ECP, and each Customer on whose behalf it wishes to trade on the MarketAxess SEF is an ECP;
- (2) is of good reputation and business integrity;
- (3) maintains adequate financial resources and credit;
- (4) is validly organized, in good standing and authorized by its governing body and, if relevant, documents of organization, to trade Swaps;
- (5) has not filed for bankruptcy;
- (6) is not prohibited from using the services of the MarketAxess SEF for any reason whatsoever;
- (7) holds all registrations required under Applicable Law, if any;
- (8) is not an individual;
- (9) is not subject to statutory disqualification under Section 8a(2) or 8a(3) of the CEA; and
- (10) satisfies any other criteria that the MarketAxess SEF may require from a Participant.

(b) Once admitted, the Participant Firm shall continue to comply with all applicable eligibility criteria in Rule 301(a).

(c) A Participant Firm must have entered into a MarketAxess SEF User License Agreement in order to access the MarketAxess SEF.

(d) Any MarketAxess SEF User License Agreement that is executed on or before November 1, 2013 shall be deemed to have an effective date of November 1, 2013.

## **Rule 302. Participant Firm Application Process**

(a) Any Person who desires to become a Participant Firm shall:

- (1) agree to abide by the Rules and Applicable Law;
- (2) consent to the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF with respect to MarketAxess SEF Activity;
- (3) provide such information and documentation as may be reasonably requested by the MarketAxess SEF, and follow the procedures established by the MarketAxess SEF for admission; and

(4) if a Participant Firm is organized or located outside of the United States, the Participant Firm shall enter into a written agreement appointing a third party domiciled in the U.S. as its U.S. agent for service of process for purposes of CFTC Regulation 15.05, and shall provide the MarketAxess SEF with a copy of such agreement.

(b) In considering an application from a potential Participant Firm, the MarketAxess SEF may require additional information from the applicant, conduct an investigation to verify information submitted by the applicant, or both.

(c) If the MarketAxess SEF decides to admit an applicant as a Participant Firm, it shall promptly notify the applicant and state in such notice the date on which the applicant shall become a Participant Firm.

(d) The MarketAxess SEF may deny, condition or terminate the Participant Firm status of any Person:

(1) if such Person is unable to demonstrate satisfactorily its ability to satisfy the eligibility criteria to become or remain a Participant Firm;

(2) if such Person is unable to demonstrate satisfactorily its capacity to adhere to all applicable Rules;  
or

(3) for such other cause as the MarketAxess SEF may reasonably determine.

(e) If the MarketAxess SEF decides to decline or condition an application for admission as a Participant Firm, or terminate a Person's status as a Participant Firm, the MarketAxess SEF shall, within 30 days after a final decision has been made, notify (i) such Person (the "**Affected Person**") thereof in a writing sent to the address provided by the applicant in the MarketAxess SEF application form or maintained in the MarketAxess SEF registry of Participant Firms and (ii) the NFA. Such Affected Person may, within seven (7) calendar days following receipt of such writing, request in writing that the MarketAxess SEF provide the reasons for the denial, conditioning or termination of Participant Firm status. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving such written request, the MarketAxess SEF shall send a written response to the Affected Person setting forth the reasons for the denial, conditioning or termination.

### **Rule 303. Trading Privileges of a Participant Firm**

(a) A Participant must execute such Participant Documentation as required from time to time by the MarketAxess SEF, and such Participant Documentation must remain in effect for the Participant to maintain its Trading Privileges.

(b) Admission as a Participant only entitles the Participant to the Trading Privileges and does not confer any right of ownership in, or right to attend or vote at meetings of, the MarketAxess SEF, or any right to share in the profits of the MarketAxess SEF. A Participant may not transfer or assign its status as a Participant without the prior written consent of the MarketAxess SEF, and any purported transfer or assignment without the MarketAxess SEF's prior written consent shall be null and void and shall not be binding on the MarketAxess SEF.

(c) All rights and privileges of a Participant shall terminate upon, and all obligations of a Participant shall survive, the dissolution of the Participant.

#### **Rule 304. Reserved.**

#### **Rule 305. Dues, Assessments and Fees**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF shall have the authority to set the amounts and times of payment for any dues, assessments or fees (including MarketAxess SEF Trading System fees, brokerage and/or any transaction surcharges) to be paid by Participants.

(b) Each Participant agrees to pay such dues, assessments and fees as are published by the MarketAxess SEF in a Fee Circular, on the MarketAxess SEF's website or as otherwise agreed between the MarketAxess SEF and a Participant. Each Participant agrees to pay such dues, assessments and fees when due. The MarketAxess SEF may change the fees charged to Participant upon 30 days prior notice.

(c) If a Participant fails to pay when due any such dues, assessments or fees levied on such Participant, and such payment obligation remains unsatisfied for thirty (30) days after its due date, the MarketAxess SEF may, as it deems necessary or appropriate, suspend, revoke, limit, condition, restrict or qualify the Participant's Trading Privileges and/or ability otherwise to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

(d) The MarketAxess SEF shall provide comparable fee structures to Eligible Contract Participants and Independent Software Vendors receiving comparable access to, or services from, the MarketAxess SEF.

#### **Rule 306. Authorized Traders**

(a) Each Participant shall designate in writing one or more Authorized Trader(s) who may conduct MarketAxess SEF Activity on behalf of the Participant.

(b) By agreeing to become an Authorized Trader, an individual agrees to be bound by the duties and responsibilities of an Authorized Trader and to be subject to, and comply with, the MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations. Among other duties and responsibilities that the MarketAxess SEF may impose, an Authorized Trader must:

(1) have the authority to adjust or withdraw any Order submitted under any user ID assigned to him or her; and

(2) ensure that MarketAxess SEF Activity conducted by the Participant under any user ID assigned to him or her complies with all MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations.

(c) To designate an Authorized Trader, the Participant must follow the procedures established by the MarketAxess SEF. The MarketAxess SEF may establish criteria that individuals must fulfill to become an Authorized Trader.

(d) The MarketAxess SEF will promptly notify the Participant in writing of the approval of designated Authorized Trader(s) or if the MarketAxess SEF declines to approve the nomination of an Authorized Trader.

(e) The MarketAxess SEF will maintain a list of all designated Authorized Traders for each Participant.

(f) The MarketAxess SEF may, in its sole reasonable discretion, revoke or suspend the designation of an individual as an Authorized Trader and shall promptly notify the Participant of such action.

(g) To request the withdrawal of the designation of an individual as an Authorized Trader, the Participant must follow the procedures established by the MarketAxess SEF. Upon the MarketAxess SEF's receipt of a Participant's written request to withdraw the designation of an individual as an Authorized Trader, the MarketAxess SEF will promptly withdraw such designation and such individual's access to the MarketAxess SEF on behalf of the Participant. As soon as reasonably practicable after withdrawing access, the MarketAxess SEF will confirm that such access has been withdrawn.

### **Rule 307. Authorized Representatives**

(a) Each Participant shall designate one or more Authorized Representatives who will represent the Participant before the MarketAxess SEF and its committees and receive notices on behalf of the Participant.

(b) Each Authorized Representative shall be empowered by the Participant to act on its behalf and the MarketAxess SEF shall be entitled to rely on the actions of any Authorized Representative as binding on the Participant Firm and any Authorized Trader.

(c) Each Participant must provide the MarketAxess SEF with current contact and other requested information for each of its Authorized Representatives so that the MarketAxess SEF is able to immediately contact the Authorized Representatives.

### **Rule 308. Recording of Communications**

The MarketAxess SEF or the Regulatory Services Provider may record conversations and retain copies of electronic communications between MarketAxess SEF Officials, on one hand, and Participants, their Authorized Traders, Supervised Persons, other agents or Customers (if applicable), on the other hand. Any such recordings may be retained by the MarketAxess SEF or the Regulatory Services Provider in such manner and for such periods of time as the MarketAxess SEF may deem necessary or appropriate. The MarketAxess SEF or Regulatory Services Provider will retain such recordings in compliance with CFTC Regulations.

### **Rule 309. Notices to Participants**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF shall publish a notice with respect to each addition to, modification of, or clarification of, the MarketAxess SEF Rules or of any action to implement any of the MarketAxess SEF Rules on the MarketAxess SEF's website or via an electronic mail distribution, to enable each Participant and Customer to become aware of and familiar with, and to implement any necessary preparatory measures to be taken by it with respect to, such addition or modification, prior to the effective date

thereof (each, a “**Notice to Participants**”). For purposes of publication in accordance with this Rule, it shall be sufficient (without limiting the discretion of the MarketAxess SEF as to any other reasonable means of communication) if a Notice to Participants is published on the MarketAxess SEF’s website.

(b) Any Notice to Participants shall also be deemed to have been made to all Customers, Authorized Traders and Supervised Persons.

### **Rule 310. Communications between the MarketAxess SEF and Participants**

(a) Each Participant must provide the MarketAxess SEF with its current electronic mail address and telephone number and the electronic mail address and telephone number of all of its Authorized Traders and immediately (and in any event within 24 hours) update this information whenever it changes.

(b) All communications between the MarketAxess SEF and the Participant will be transmitted by electronic mail and/or posted on the MarketAxess SEF’s website, except as otherwise specified by the MarketAxess SEF.

(c) The Participant shall be responsible for conveying such communications to all Authorized Traders, Supervised Persons and Customers, as applicable and as necessary and appropriate.

(d) Each Participant will be responsible for promptly reviewing and, if necessary, responding to all electronic communications from the MarketAxess SEF to the Participant or any of its Authorized Traders or its other Supervised Persons (as applicable).

(e) All communications made to Participants shall also be deemed to have been made to all Authorized Traders and Supervised Persons of such Participant.

### **Rule 311. Application of Rules and Jurisdiction**

(a) Any Person initiating or executing a transaction on or subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules directly or through an intermediary, any Person for whose benefit such a transaction is initiated or executed and any Covered Party shall be deemed to:

(1) agree to be bound by, and comply with, the MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations, and Applicable Law, in each case to the extent applicable to it;

(2) consent to the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF with respect to any and all matters arising from, related to, or in connection with, its status, actions or omissions on the MarketAxess SEF;

(3) agree to assist the MarketAxess SEF in complying with its legal and regulatory obligations, and to cooperate with the MarketAxess SEF and the CFTC in any inquiry, investigation, audit, examination or proceeding related to its MarketAxess SEF Activity; and

(4) authorize the MarketAxess SEF to provide information regarding it to a Swap Data Repository, any Regulatory Services Provider, the CFTC or any Self-Regulatory Organization in order for the MarketAxess SEF to comply with its legal or regulatory obligations.

(b) Any Person whose Trading Privileges and/or ability otherwise to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System are revoked or terminated, which for the avoidance of doubt shall include a Participant or Authorized Trader who has withdrawn, shall remain subject to: (i) the MarketAxess SEF Rules, (ii) the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF, and (iii) Applicable Law, each with respect to any and all matters arising from, related to, or in connection with the status, actions or omissions of such Participant prior to such revocation or termination.

(c) A Person who is suspended for any period shall remain subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules, the Obligations and the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction throughout the period of suspension. After revocation or termination of the designation of an Authorized Trader, the Authorized Trader shall remain subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules, the Obligations and the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF for acts done and omissions made while registered as an Authorized Trader. Any MarketAxess SEF Proceeding relating to an Authorized Trader shall occur as if the Authorized Trader were still registered as such.

### **Rule 312. Description of Participant's Status**

A Participant shall ensure that the form, content and context of any description provided to Customers of the Participant's status on the MarketAxess SEF is not inconsistent with, and does not misrepresent, the Participant's capacity on the MarketAxess SEF under the MarketAxess SEF Rules or the Participant's registration, if any, under the CEA or any other Applicable Law.

### **Rule 313. Withdrawal of Participant**

(a) To withdraw from the MarketAxess SEF, a Participant must notify the MarketAxess SEF following the procedures established by the MarketAxess SEF. Upon the MarketAxess SEF's receipt of a Participant's written request to withdraw the Participant's access to the MarketAxess SEF, the MarketAxess SEF will promptly withdraw such Participant's access to the MarketAxess SEF. As soon as reasonably practicable after withdrawing access, the MarketAxess SEF will confirm that such access has been withdrawn.

(b) Upon the withdrawal of a Participant, all rights and privileges of such Participant shall terminate (including, without limitation, the Trading Privileges and ability to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System). The accepted withdrawal of a Participant shall not affect the rights of the MarketAxess SEF under the MarketAxess SEF Rules or relieve the former Participant of its: (i) Obligations under the MarketAxess SEF Rules, or (ii) its obligations to pay all MarketAxess SEF fees, costs and charges incurred prior to the withdrawal. Notwithstanding the accepted withdrawal of a Participant, the withdrawn Participant shall remain subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules, the Obligations and the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF for acts done and omissions made while a Participant, and must cooperate in any MarketAxess SEF Proceeding under Chapter 7 as if the withdrawn Participant were still a Participant.

### **Rule 314. Compliance with the CEA**

All Participants shall comply with all applicable provisions of the CEA and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto by the CFTC, including the filing of reports, maintenance of books and records, and permitting inspection and visits by duly authorized representatives of the CFTC or other governmental agency.



### **Rule 315. Impartial Access**

The MarketAxess SEF shall not restrict access or impose burdens on access in a discriminatory manner among similarly situated Participants or ISVs.

## **CHAPTER 4: OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Rule 401. Duties and Responsibilities of Participants**

Each Participant shall (and each Participant shall cause all of its own Authorized Traders and Supervised Persons to):

- (a) use the MarketAxess SEF Trading System in a responsible manner and not for any improper purpose;
- (b) use the MarketAxess SEF Trading System only to conduct MarketAxess SEF Activity;
- (c) conduct all MarketAxess SEF Activity in a manner consistent with the MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations;
- (d) comply with all MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations and act in a manner consistent with each MarketAxess SEF Rule and Obligation;
- (e) upon request by the MarketAxess SEF, use its best efforts to collect non-routine data from its Customers;
- (f) not knowingly mislead or conceal any material fact or matter in any dealing or filing with the MarketAxess SEF or in response to any MarketAxess SEF Proceeding;
- (g) keep the user IDs, account numbers and passwords related to the MarketAxess SEF Trading System confidential;
- (h) employ practices to monitor and enforce compliance with risk limits (if applicable);
- (i) be responsible for promptly informing the MarketAxess SEF in writing of any material change to the information provided to the MarketAxess SEF by the Participant pursuant to Rule 301;
- (j) have in place and enforce adequate anti-money laundering policies and procedures; and,
- (k) keep, or cause to be kept, complete and accurate books and records, including, without limitation, all books and records required to be maintained pursuant to Applicable Law or the MarketAxess SEF Rules, for at least five (5) years.

### **Rule 402. Required Disclosures to the MarketAxess SEF**

(a) Each Participant shall promptly notify the Market Regulation Department upon becoming aware of any of the following events:

- (1) any material change to the contact information provided to the MarketAxess SEF;
- (2) any damage to, or failure or inadequacy of, the systems, facilities or equipment of the Participant used by the Participant to effect transactions pursuant to the MarketAxess SEF Rules or to timely perform the Participant's financial obligations under or in connection with MarketAxess SEF Swaps;
- (3) any refusal of admission to, or withdrawal by the Participant of any application for membership in, any other Self-Regulatory Organization;
- (4) any expulsion, suspension or fine in excess of \$25,000 (whether through an adverse determination, voluntary settlement or otherwise) imposed on the Participant by any other Self-Regulatory Organization;
- (5) any denial or withdrawal of any application for any registration or license by or from any Governmental Agency, and any revocation, suspension or conditioning of any registration or license granted by any Governmental Agency;
- (6) the commencement of any material judicial or administrative proceeding against the Participant or the imposition of any fine, cease and desist order, denial of trading privileges, censure or other sanction or remedy (whether through an adverse determination, voluntary settlement or otherwise) imposed by any Governmental Agency;
- (7) any indictment or conviction of, or any confession of guilt or plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* by, the Participant or (or, if the Participant is an entity, by any of its principals or senior officers) for any felony or misdemeanor involving, arising from or related to, the purchase or sale of any commodity, futures contract, option, security, securities futures product, swap, security-based swap, mixed swap or other financial instrument, or involving or arising from fraud or moral turpitude;
- (8) the Participant becoming the subject of a petition for bankruptcy;
- (9) the appointment of a receiver, trustee or administrator for the Participant;
- (10) the presentment of a petition, or the passing of a resolution, for the winding-up of the Participant;
- (11) the commencement of proceedings for the dissolution of the Participant; or
- (12) the occurrence of an event of insolvency with respect to the Participant.

#### **Rule 403. Inspections by the MarketAxess SEF**

(a) In connection with determining whether a Participant or Clearing Firm has complied or is complying with all MarketAxess SEF Rules and Obligations, the MarketAxess SEF (or the Regulatory Services Provider or other authorized representative), shall have the right to:

(1) inspect books and records, systems, equipment and software kept or operated by the Participant in connection with MarketAxess SEF Activity, wherever located, during regular business hours, upon reasonable notice to the Participant or Clearing Firm;

(2) access the systems, equipment, software and the premises on which the systems, equipment and software are located, and any data stored in any of the systems or equipment in connection with MarketAxess SEF Activity, during the regular business hours and the Trading Hours of the MarketAxess SEF, upon reasonable notice to the Participant; and/or

(3) copy or reproduce any data to which the MarketAxess SEF has access under this Rule.

(b) Each Participant shall provide the Regulatory Services Provider with the same access to the Participant's books and records and offices as the Participant is required to provide the MarketAxess SEF under the MarketAxess SEF Rules and Applicable Law.

(c) The Market Regulation Department may require a Participant to furnish (periodically or on a particular occasion) information concerning the Participant's MarketAxess SEF Activity. For a Participant, such information includes, but is not limited to, the MarketAxess SEF Swaps to which the Participant is a party.

#### **Rule 404. Minimum Financial and Related Reporting Requirements**

(a) Each Participant that is registered with any Government Agency, including the CFTC, the SEC or a Self-Regulatory Organization, shall comply with the provisions of Applicable Law, including but not limited to the rules and regulation such Government Agency imposes on a Participant relating to minimum financial and related reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(b) Each Participant shall:

(1) qualify as an Eligible Contract Participant; and

(2) undertake to timely update any material change to the Participant's status as an Eligible Contract Participant.

#### **Rule 405. Confidentiality of Financial and Other Information**

All information and data obtained or received by the Market Regulation Department from inspections of accounting and other records, quarterly balance sheets and declarations or reports on financial condition will be treated as confidential by the MarketAxess SEF; however, this Rule does not supplant Rule 213 and the Rules in Chapter 7, or any other requirement of legal process or Applicable Law.

## **Rule 406. Information Regarding Orders**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF will make information regarding Orders (including prices bid or offered), Trades and any other matters it may deem appropriate available to Participants and other Persons at such times and in such manner (whether through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, a ticker, financial information service or otherwise) as it may consider necessary or advisable from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, such information shall be provided in a manner that does not reveal the identity of the Participants or other Persons involved, unless the trading protocol used discloses the identities of the Participants or other Persons involved.

(b) Each Participant or other Person receiving any such information through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System may redistribute such information only to such extent and in such manner as may be permitted by the MarketAxess SEF from time to time.

## **Rule 407. Customers**

(a) Any Person initiating or executing a transaction on, or subject to the Rules of, the MarketAxess SEF directly, through an intermediary pursuant to Rule 529, and any Person for whose benefit such a transaction has been initiated or executed, consents to the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) A Participant or other Person shall only engage in soliciting, submitting, or accepting an Order for a MarketAxess SEF Swap for a Customer that (i) has provided the Participant with a written representation or electronic confirmation that the Customer is an Eligible Contract Participant and will notify the Participant when it ceases to be an Eligible Contract Participant or (ii) the Participant otherwise ensures is an Eligible Contract Participant.

## **CHAPTER 5: TRADING PRACTICES AND BUSINESS CONDUCT**

### **Rule 501. Scope**

This Chapter 5 applies to all transactions in MarketAxess SEF Swaps, except as otherwise specifically provided in Chapter 6.

### **Rule 502. Procedures**

(a) With respect to trading on or through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, the MarketAxess SEF may adopt, without limitation, procedures relating to transactions in MarketAxess SEF Swaps and trading on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, including procedures to:

- (1) disseminate the prices of bids and offers on, and Trades in, MarketAxess SEF Swaps;
- (2) record, and account for, MarketAxess SEF Swaps and MarketAxess SEF Activity;
- (3) perform market surveillance and regulation on matters affecting MarketAxess SEF Swaps and MarketAxess SEF Activity;

(4) establish limits on the number and/or size of Orders that may be submitted through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System;

(5) establish limits on the number of MarketAxess SEF Swaps that may be held by a Customer or Participant;

(6) establish a limit on the maximum daily price fluctuations for any MarketAxess SEF Swap and provide for any related restriction or suspension of trading in the MarketAxess SEF Swap; and

(7) require a suspended or expelled Participant, or a Participant with restricted trading rights, to have MarketAxess SEF Swaps executed for the Participant to reduce or eliminate any open position or exposure to future price changes for the Participant in any MarketAxess SEF Swap.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF may, in its discretion and at any time, amend any procedures adopted pursuant to Rule 502(a), and will publish the amendments in a Notice to Participants or in any other manner determined appropriate by the MarketAxess SEF.

### **Rule 503. Business Days and Trading Hours**

Except as provided in Rule 212 with respect to Emergencies, the MarketAxess SEF shall determine and publish a Notice to Participants listing the Business Days and Holidays of the MarketAxess SEF and the Trading Hours for each MarketAxess SEF Swap.

### **Rule 504. Enforceability**

A Trade entered into on or pursuant to the MarketAxess SEF Rules shall not be void, voidable, subject to rescission, otherwise invalidated, or rendered unenforceable as a result of:

(a) a violation by the MarketAxess SEF of the provisions of section 5h of the CEA or Part 37 of the CFTC Regulations;

(b) any CFTC proceeding to alter or supplement a rule, term, or condition under section 8a(7) of the CEA or to declare an emergency under section 8a(9) of the CEA; or

(c) Any other proceeding the effect of which is to:

(1) alter or supplement a specific term or condition or trading rule or procedure; or

(2) require the MarketAxess SEF to adopt a specific term or condition, trading rule or procedure, or to take or refrain from taking a specific action.

### **Rule 505. Fraudulent Acts Prohibited**

No Participant shall engage in any fraudulent act or engage in any scheme to defraud, deceive, trick or mislead in connection with or related to any MarketAxess SEF Activity.

**Rule 506. Fictitious, Wash or Non-Competitive Transactions Prohibited**

No Participant shall create fictitious transactions, wash transactions or non-competitive transactions except, in the case of noncompetitive transactions, as otherwise authorized by the MarketAxess SEF Rules, or execute any Order with knowledge of its nature as a fictitious transaction, wash transaction or non-competitive transaction.

**Rule 507. Price Dissemination.**

MarketAxess SEF shall publish information as required by CFTC Regulation 37.901(b).

**Rule 508. Market Manipulation Prohibited**

No Participant shall manipulate, or attempt to manipulate, the price of any MarketAxess SEF Swap.

**Rule 509. Disruptive Trading Practices Prohibited**

No Participant shall engage in any trading, practice or conduct that is a “disruptive trading practice” as described in CEA Section 4c(a)(5) or CFTC Regulations.

**Rule 510. Prohibition of Misstatements**

No Participant shall make any knowing false or misleading statement of a material fact, or omit to state any material fact that is necessary to make such statement not misleading, to the MarketAxess SEF, any MarketAxess SEF Official or any Board committee or MarketAxess SEF panel.

**Rule 511. Reserved.**

**Rule 512. Reserved.**

**Rule 513. Supervision**

A Participant shall establish, maintain and administer reasonable supervisory procedures to monitor the compliance of Authorized Traders and Supervised Persons with the MarketAxess SEF Rules and any applicable provisions of the CEA or CFTC Regulations; and such Participant may be held accountable for the actions of such Authorized Traders or Supervised Persons.

**Rule 514. Execution of Required Transactions**

No Participant shall execute a Required Transaction on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System other than via the Order Book or RFQ protocols. When a Swap Dealer or Major Swap Participant enters into or

facilitates a Swap on or pursuant to the Rules of the MarketAxess SEF which is subject to the mandatory clearing requirement under CEA section 2(h), the Swap Dealer or Major Swap Participant shall be responsible for complying with the mandatory trading requirement under CEA section 2(h)(8).

#### **Rule 515. Misuse of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System**

Misuse of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System is strictly prohibited. It shall be a violation of the MarketAxess SEF Rules to permit unauthorized use of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, to assist any Person in obtaining unauthorized access to the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, to alter the equipment associated with the MarketAxess SEF Trading System (except with the MarketAxess SEF's consent), to interfere with the operation of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, to intercept or interfere with information provided thereby or in any way to use the MarketAxess SEF Trading System in a manner contrary to the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

#### **Rule 516. Errors and Omissions in Handling Orders**

A Participant who inadvertently, through error or omission, fails to execute an Order at the time it should have been executed shall be responsible for all remedial actions and potential losses incurred with respect to such Order.

#### **Rule 517. Volume Discount Programs**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF may from time to time establish programs that provide Participants with financial incentives for meeting trading volume or liquidity thresholds as may be established by the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) All Participants are eligible for volume discounts, provided the Participant can meet the volume discount obligations.

#### **Rule 518. Withholding Orders Prohibited**

Any Participant entering Orders on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System shall not withhold or withdraw from the market any Order, or any part of an Order, for the benefit of any Person other than the Customer for whom the Participant is placing the Order.

#### **Rule 519. Priority of Customers' Orders**

No Participant shall knowingly enter an Order into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System for the Participant's own account, an account in which the Participant has a direct or indirect financial interest or an account over which the Participant has discretionary trading authority, including, without limitation, an Order allowing discretion as to time and price, when an Authorized Trader is aware of any unsubmitted Customer Order in the possession of such Participant that the MarketAxess SEF Trading System is capable of accepting.

## **Rule 520. Handling of Customer Orders**

(a) General Prohibition. No Authorized Trader of a Participant in possession of a Customer Order shall knowingly take, directly or indirectly, the opposite side of such Order for its own account, an account in which it has a direct or indirect financial interest, or an account over which it has discretionary trading authority.

(b) Exceptions. The foregoing restriction shall not apply to the following:

- (1) Transactions executed pursuant to Rule 601 (Block Trades).

## **Rule 521. Disclosing Orders Prohibited**

No Participant shall disclose another Customer's Order to buy or sell except to a designated MarketAxess SEF Official or the CFTC, and no Participant shall solicit or induce another Participant to disclose Order information. No Person shall take action or direct another to take action based on non-public Order information, however acquired. The mere statement of opinions or indications of the price at which a market may open or resume trading does not constitute a violation of this rule.

## **Rule 522. Simultaneous Buy And Sell Orders For Different Beneficial Owners**

On the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, opposite Orders for different beneficial owners that are simultaneously placed by a Participant with discretion over both accounts may be entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System. If such Orders are (i) related to Required Transactions and (ii) placed on the Order Book, then one Order must be exposed for a minimum of 15 seconds. An Order meeting the aforementioned conditions and allowing for price and/or time discretion, if not entered immediately upon receipt, may be knowingly entered opposite another Order entered by the same firm only if the other Order has been entered immediately upon receipt and has been exposed on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System for a minimum of 15 seconds.

## **Rule 523. Wash Sales Prohibited**

No Person shall place or accept buy and sell Orders in the same MarketAxess SEF Swap where the person knows or reasonably should know that the purpose of the Orders is to avoid taking a bona fide market position exposed to market risk (transactions commonly known or referred to as wash sales). Buy and sell Orders for different accounts with common beneficial ownership that are entered with the intent to negate market risk or price competition shall also be deemed to violate the prohibition on wash trades. Additionally, no Person shall knowingly execute or accommodate the execution of such Orders by direct or indirect means.

## **Rule 524. Recordkeeping Requirements for Entering Orders into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System**

(a) General Requirements.



(1) Each Authorized Trader entering Orders into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System shall input for each Order (to the extent such information is not otherwise pre-populated):

- i. the trader ID assigned to him/her by the MarketAxess SEF;
- ii. the user ID;
- iii. the Legal Entity Identifier of the Participant or Customer (if available);
- iv. information regarding allocations for the Order (if applicable);
- v. the price or yield, quantity, product, maturity or expiration month or date, CTI code and account number, and, for Options, put or call and strike price;
- vi. a yes/no indication of whether the Participant or Customer is a Swap Dealer with respect to the Swap with respect to which the Order is placed;
- vii. a yes/no indication of whether the Participant or Customer is a Major Swap Participant with respect to the Swap with respect to which the Order is placed;
- viii. a yes/no indication of whether the Participant or Customer is a financial entity, as defined in section 2(h)(7)(C) of the CEA;
- ix. a yes/no indication of whether the Participant or Customer is a U.S. person;
- x. if applicable, an indication that the Participant or Customer will elect the clearing requirement exception in CEA section (2)(h)(7) for any Swap resulting from the Order.
- xi. if the Swap (or Swap component(s) of a Package Transaction) will be allocated:
  - (A) an indication that the Swap(s) will be allocated pre-execution; and
  - (B) if the Swap is allocated pre-execution, the account and legal entity identifiers for each account that will receive allocations;
  - (C) an indication of whether the Swap is a post-allocation swap; and
  - (D) if the Swap is a post-allocation swap, the USI of the original transaction between the reporting counterparty and the agent; and
- xii. any other information the MarketAxess SEF may, from time to time, request the Authorized Trader to provide.

(2) With respect to Orders received by an Authorized Trader that are capable of being immediately entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, no record other than that set forth above need be made. However, if an Authorized Trader receives an Order that cannot be immediately entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, the Authorized Trader must prepare a written Order and include the account designation, date, an electronic timestamp

reflecting the time of receipt and other information required pursuant to section (a) above. The Order must be entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System when it becomes executable.

(b) Bunched Orders and Orders Eligible for Post Execution Allocation. Bunched Orders must be allocated and recorded in accordance with CFTC Regulation 1.35(b)(5) and the NFA's Interpretative Notice related to Compliance Rule 2-10. Bunched Orders may be entered using a series designation or suspense account number, *provided that*:

- i. the Order is being placed by an account manager for multiple accounts eligible for post execution allocation; or
- ii. a written, pre-determined allocation scheme that defines the series has been provided to the Clearing Firm accepting or clearing the Order prior to the time that such Order is entered. In the latter case, if such information has not been provided to the Clearing Firm prior to the time of Order entry, each specific account number must be entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System. Additionally, for all such bunched Orders executed on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, the final account-specific allocations must be submitted to the MarketAxess SEF Trading System no later than the end of each trading day.

#### **Rule 525. Prearranged and Noncompetitive Trades Prohibited**

(a) No Person shall prearrange any purchase or sale or noncompetitively execute any transaction, provided that the foregoing restriction shall not apply to Block Trades effected pursuant to Rule 601 or to Package Trades effected pursuant to Rule 538.

(b) Parties may engage in Pre-Execution Communications with regard to transactions executed through any means other than the Order Book.

(c) Parties shall not engage in Pre-Execution Communications with regard to transactions executed on the Order Book.

(d) No Person shall engage in a money pass, which includes a non-competitive trade between authorized traders where a profit is passed from one trader to the other.

#### **Rule 526. Responsibility For Customer Orders**

(a) Standard of Responsibility.

(1) A Participant shall exercise due diligence in the handling and execution of Customer Orders. Failure to act with due diligence shall constitute a failure to exercise due diligence. In the case of a dispute as to whether a Participant has exercised due diligence, the appropriate arbitration or disciplinary committee is authorized to determine whether the Participant failed to exercise due diligence and, if so, whether an adjustment is due from the Participant to the Customer.

(2) A Participant is prohibited from directly or indirectly guaranteeing the execution of an Order or any of its terms such as the quantity or price. A Participant may only report an execution that

has been effected through the MarketAxess SEF Trading System or has been executed under Chapter 6. This Rule 526(a) shall not be construed to prevent a Participant from assuming or sharing in the losses resulting from an error or the mishandling of an Order.

(b) Liability for a Failure to Exercise Due Diligence. A Participant may not adjust the price at which an Order was executed or be held responsible for executing or failing to execute an Order unless such Participant failed to exercise due diligence or is settling a *bona fide* dispute regarding a failure to exercise due diligence. A Participant may not compel an adjustment from another Participant in the absence of a *bona fide* dispute regarding a failure to exercise due diligence. Participants shall document all adjustments. Participants shall make and retain a record that contains the date the adjustment was received, the name of the Participant making the adjustment, the account to which the adjustment was credited, the amount of the adjustment, the Order number and the reason for the adjustment. Such records must be provided to the Market Regulation Department upon request.

### **Rule 527. Pre-Execution Credit Checks**

(a) At the time of submitting an RFQ or Order for any MarketAxess SEF Swap that is intended to be cleared, a Person must designate a Clearing Firm to clear the Trade. If the designated Clearing Firm is an FCM, (i) the MarketAxess SEF will, promptly upon receipt of such RFQ or Order, facilitate pre-execution screening by the Clearing Firm, and (ii) upon receiving confirmation that the RFQ or Order satisfies the Clearing Firm's pre-execution limits, the MarketAxess SEF will place the RFQ or Order on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

(b) The Clearing Firm may, at any time prior to the execution of a Trade resulting from an RFQ or Order, notify the MarketAxess SEF that the Person on behalf of which an RFQ or Order is placed no longer has a sufficient risk or trading limit with the Clearing Firm to which the resulting Trade will be submitted for clearing. If such notification is received prior to the execution of said Trade, the MarketAxess SEF will use best efforts to withdraw the RFQ or Order.

### **Rule 528. Priority of Execution**

Customer Orders received by a Participant or an Authorized Trader shall be entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System in the sequence received. Non-discretionary Orders that cannot be immediately entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System must be entered when the Orders become executable, in the sequence in which the Orders were received.

### **Rule 529. Intermediation**

On the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, intermediation by a Participant on behalf of a Customer shall be permitted, provided that the Participant is in compliance with Rule 407. Each Participant engaging in intermediation related trades shall:

(a) not trade ahead of a submitted or unsubmitted Customer Order;

- (b) comply with Rule 520;
- (c) not engage in accommodation trading;
- (d) not engage in improper cross trading; and
- (e) enter such trades on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System in the name of the Participant.

### **Rule 530. Position Limits and Exemptions**

(a) To reduce the potential threat of market manipulation or congestion, MarketAxess SEF shall adopt for each of the contracts of the facility, as is necessary and appropriate, position limitations or position accountability levels for speculators. Any such speculative position limits and accountability levels will be found at <http://www.marketaxess.com/> and a notice of the adoption of any such limits and levels will be emailed to Participants as soon as reasonably practicable after adoption.

(b) For any MarketAxess SEF Swap that is subject to a position limit established by the CFTC pursuant to CEA Section 4a(a), the MarketAxess SEF shall:

- (1) set its position limit at a level no higher than the CFTC limit; and
- (2) monitor positions established on or through the MarketAxess SEF for compliance with the limit set by the CFTC and the limit, if any, set by the MarketAxess SEF.

(c) A Person seeking an exemption from position limits established by the MarketAxess SEF pursuant to the Rules must apply to the Market Regulation Department on forms provided by the MarketAxess SEF.

### **Rule 531. Position Accountability**

(a) To reduce the potential threat of market manipulation or congestion, MarketAxess SEF shall adopt for each of the contracts of the facility, as is necessary and appropriate, position limitations or position accountability levels for speculators.

(b) For purposes of this Rule, all positions in accounts for which a Participant, by power of attorney or otherwise, directly or indirectly controls trading shall be included with the positions held by such Participant. The provisions of this Rule shall apply to positions held by two or more Participants acting pursuant to an expressed or implied agreement or understanding, the same as if the positions were held, or the trading of the positions was controlled, by a single Participant.

### **Rule 532. Publication of Market Data**

The MarketAxess SEF will record and report to the Commission all data required by Part 16 of the CFTC's regulations in the form and manner required by the Commission.

### **Rule 533. SDR Reporting**

(a) The MarketAxess SEF will create and report all data required by Parts 43 and 45 of the CFTC's regulations on each Swap executed on, or otherwise pursuant to the Rules of, the MarketAxess SEF to an SDR that is selected by the MarketAxess SEF as soon as technologically practicable after execution of the Swap in a format acceptable to that SDR.

(b) The Reporting Counterparty designated in accordance with Rule 1007 shall comply with all reporting obligations set forth in Part 45 of the CFTC Regulations applicable to a Reporting Counterparty including reporting Trade allocations.

(c) MarketAxess SEF will report the actual notional or principal amount of a Block Trade to the appropriate SDR as set forth in Part 43 and Part 45 of the CFTC Regulation.

(d) Any Block Trade will be reported as a "block trade," as defined in CFTC Regulation 43.2, for purposes of Part 43 of CFTC Regulations.

(e) Neither a reporting party, as defined in CFTC Regulation 43.2, nor the MarketAxess SEF, shall submit or agree to submit a cancellation or correction for the purpose of re-reporting Swap transaction and pricing data in order to gain or extend a delay in public dissemination of accurate Swap transaction or pricing data or to otherwise evade the reporting requirements in Part 43 of the CFTC Regulations.

(f) MarketAxess SEF shall report all trades to DTCC Data Repository (U.S.) LLC.

(g) As soon as technologically practicable after execution of the Swap, MarketAxess SEF shall transmit to both counterparties to the Swap, and to the Derivatives Clearing Organization, if any, that will clear the Swap, both:

(1) The identity of the SDR to which required swap creation data is reported by MarketAxess SEF; and

(2) The USI for the Swap.

#### **Rule 534. Reserved.**

#### **Rule 535. Identification of Authorized Traders**

Each Authorized Trader shall be identified to the MarketAxess SEF, in the manner prescribed by the MarketAxess SEF, and shall be subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules. Each individual must use a unique user ID to access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System. In no event may a Person enter an Order or permit the entry of an Order by an individual using a user ID other than the individual's own unique user ID.

#### **Rule 536. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY, NO WARRANTIES**

**(a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BELOW, AND EXCEPT IN INSTANCES WHERE A PARTY HAS BEEN FINALLY ADJUDICATED TO HAVE BEEN GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OR ENGAGED IN WILLFUL OR WANTON MISCONDUCT, IN WHICH CASE THE PARTY FOUND TO HAVE ENGAGED IN SUCH CONDUCT CANNOT AVAIL ITSELF OF THE PROTECTIONS IN THIS RULE 536, NEITHER THE MARKETAXESS SEF (INCLUDING**

ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, AND ANY CONTRACTORS PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE MARKETAXESS SEF), NOR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, CONSULTANTS, AND LICENSORS (THE "DISCLAIMING PARTY" OR "DISCLAIMING PARTIES") SHALL BE LIABLE TO ANY PERSON FOR ANY LOSSES, DAMAGES, COSTS OR EXPENSES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF PROFITS, LOSS OF USE, AND DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES), ARISING FROM: (1) ANY FAILURE, MALFUNCTION, FAULT IN DELIVERY, DELAY, OMISSION, SUSPENSION, INACCURACY, INTERRUPTION, TERMINATION, OR ANY OTHER EVENT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE FURNISHING, PERFORMANCE, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE ALL OR ANY PART OF ANY OF THE SYSTEMS AND SERVICES OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF, OR SERVICES, EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES USED TO SUPPORT SUCH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ELECTRONIC ORDER ENTRY/DELIVERY, TRADING THROUGH ANY ELECTRONIC MEANS, ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION OF MARKET DATA OR INFORMATION, WORKSTATIONS USED BY PARTICIPANTS AND AUTHORIZED TRADERS, PRICE REPORTING SYSTEMS AND ANY AND ALL TERMINALS, COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CENTRAL COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, AND FIRMWARE RELATING THERETO; OR (2) ANY FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION, FAULT IN DELIVERY, DELAY, OMISSION, SUSPENSION, INACCURACY, INTERRUPTION OR TERMINATION, OR ANY OTHER EVENT, OF ANY SYSTEM OR SERVICE OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF, OR SERVICES, EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES USED TO SUPPORT SUCH SYSTEMS OR SERVICES, CAUSED BY ANY THIRD PARTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INDEPENDENT SOFTWARE VENDORS AND NETWORK PROVIDERS; OR (3) ANY ERRORS OR INACCURACIES IN INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE MARKETAXESS SEF OR ANY OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF'S SYSTEMS, SERVICES OR FACILITIES; EXCEPT FOR INCORRECT ORDER STATUSING INFORMATION AS PROVIDED IN RULE 537 (THE MARKETAXESS SEF CONTROL CENTER); OR (4) ANY UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ANY OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF'S SYSTEMS, SERVICES, EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES BY ANY PERSON. THE FOREGOING LIMITATION OF LIABILITY SHALL APPLY WHETHER A CLAIM ARISES IN CONTRACT, TORT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY, CONTRIBUTION OR OTHERWISE AND WHETHER THE CLAIM IS BROUGHT DIRECTLY OR AS A THIRD PARTY CLAIM. THE FOREGOING LIMITATION OF LIABILITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE CEA AND REGULATIONS THEREUNDER.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (a), (e), or (f) OF THIS RULE 536, IN NO EVENT SHALL ANY PERSON BRING ANY LEGAL ACTION (WHETHER IN TORT, NEGLIGENCE, OR BREACH OF CONTRACT) FOR ANY LOSSES, DAMAGES, COSTS OR EXPENSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF PROFITS, LOSS OF USE, DIRECT, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, ARISING FROM THE USE OF THE PLATFORM.

(c) THERE ARE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE) PROVIDED BY THE DISCLAIMING PARTY OR DISCLAIMING PARTIES RELATING TO ANY SYSTEMS OR SERVICES OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF OR SERVICES, EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES USED TO SUPPORT SUCH SYSTEMS OR SERVICES, INCLUDING THE MARKETAXESS SEF TRADING SYSTEM.

(d) ANY DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF SYSTEMS OR SERVICES OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF OR SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES USED TO SUPPORT SUCH SYSTEMS OR SERVICES IN WHICH THE DISCLAIMING PARTY OR DISCLAIMING PARTIES IS A PARTY SHALL BE ARBITRATED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8. ANY ARBITRATION SHALL BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE PERIOD PRESCRIBED BY CHAPTER 8. ANY OTHER ACTIONS, SUITS OR PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE DISCLAIMING PARTY OR DISCLAIMING PARTIES MUST BE BROUGHT WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE TIME THAT A CAUSE OF ACTION HAS ACCRUED. THIS PARAGRAPH (d) SHALL IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT A PARTY'S OBLIGATION

TO ARBITRATE ITS CLAIM OR TO CREATE A CAUSE OF ACTION AND SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE AN ACTION THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PROHIBITED BY THE MARKETAXESS SEF RULES. IF, FOR ANY REASON, A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION FINDS THAT A DISPUTE IS NOT ARBITRABLE, SUCH DISPUTE MAY ONLY BE LITIGATED IN THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY PROVISIONS OF NEW YORK LAW THAT WOULD APPLY THE SUBSTANTIVE LAW OF A DIFFERENT JURISDICTION.

(e) THE DISCLAIMING PARTY OR DISCLAIMING PARTIES, MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECT, OUT-OF-POCKET LOSSES DIRECTLY CAUSED BY THE GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF CONTROL CENTER OR OTHER MARKETAXESS SEF STAFF AND/OR ORDER STATUS ERRORS PROVIDED BY THE MARKETAXESS SEF CONTROL CENTER OR ANY MARKETAXESS SEF SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT, SERVICE OR FACILITY. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, i) THE MARKETAXESS SEF'S TOTAL COMBINED AGGREGATE OBLIGATIONS SHALL NOT EXCEED \$25,000 FOR ALL LOSSES FROM ALL CAUSES SUFFERED ON A SINGLE DAY; \$100,000 FOR ALL LOSSES SUFFERED FROM ALL CAUSES IN A SINGLE CALENDAR MONTH; AND \$500,000 FOR ALL LOSSES FROM ALL CAUSES SUFFERED IN A SINGLE CALENDAR YEAR. ANY DISPUTED CLAIM PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (e) MUST BE ARBITRATED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8.

(f) IN NO EVENT SHALL THE DISCLAIMING PARTY'S OR DISCLAIMING PARTIES' TOTAL COMBINED AGGREGATE LIABILITY FOR ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF ANY FAILURES, MALFUNCTIONS, FAULTS IN DELIVERY, DELAYS, OMISSIONS, SUSPENSIONS, INACCURACIES, INTERRUPTIONS, TERMINATIONS, OR ANY OTHER CAUSES, IN CONNECTION WITH THE FURNISHING, PERFORMANCE, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE ALL OR ANY PART OF ANY OF THE MARKETAXESS SEF'S SYSTEMS OR SERVICES, OR SERVICES, EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES USED TO SUPPORT SUCH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES, OR THE NEGLIGENCE OF MARKETAXESS SEF STAFF EXCEED \$500,000 IN ANY GIVEN CALENDAR YEAR. IF THE NUMBER OF ALLOWED CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF ANY FAILURES OR MALFUNCTIONS ON A SINGLE DAY OR SINGLE MONTH CANNOT BE FULLY SATISFIED BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE DOLLAR LIMITATIONS, ALL SUCH CLAIMS SHALL BE LIMITED TO A *PRO RATA* SHARE OF THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR THE RESPECTIVE PERIOD.

### **Rule 537. The MarketAxess SEF Control Center**

#### **(a) Customer Support.**

(1) The MarketAxess SEF Control Center ("**MCC**") provides customer support and problem management only to Participants.

(2) In order to be eligible for MCC support, such Persons must be identified by a Participant as an authorized contact with the MCC ("**Authorized Contacts**"). The MCC provides customer support via a specified telephone number and during specified hours.

(3) MCC employees may not always be available to assist Authorized Contacts.

(4) Persons other than Authorized Contacts must contact their Participant Firms to make support requests.

#### **(b) MCC Communications.**

(1) As provided in Rule 536, the MarketAxess SEF shall not be liable for any loss resulting from any inability to communicate with the MCC.

(2) The liability of the MarketAxess SEF for the negligent acts of MCC staff shall be subject to the limitations and conditions of Rule 536.

(3) In no event, however, shall the MarketAxess SEF be liable for the negligence of the MCC if the Person claiming to have suffered a loss could have secured the support it sought from the MCC through its own administrative terminal, its Clearing Firm's terminal or an Independent Software Vendor's ("ISV") terminal.

(4) For purposes of this rule, a Person is deemed able to take action through its own administrative terminal, a Clearing Firm's terminal or an ISV's terminal unless such terminal was inoperative or such terminal service was interrupted at the time the MCC took action.

(c) Order Status.

(1) A Person who believes he has received an incorrect Order status or does not receive an appropriate status shall immediately notify the MCC. Additionally, such Person shall take any necessary and appropriate market action to mitigate any potential losses arising from the incorrect Order status or lack of appropriate Order status immediately after the Person knew or should have known that the Order status information was incorrect or should have been received. Any liability of the MarketAxess SEF for incorrect Order status shall be subject to the limitations and conditions of Rule 536.

(2) Notwithstanding the above, the MarketAxess SEF shall not be liable for losses related to incorrect Order status information if the MarketAxess SEF provides prior notification that a MarketAxess SEF system, service or facility may produce such incorrect information and also provides notification of a means to obtain correct Order status information from such system, service or facility. In the event that the MCC and a MarketAxess SEF system, service or facility provide conflicting information relating to an Order status, a Participant may only reasonably rely on the information received from the MCC. Any liability of the MarketAxess SEF shall be subject to the liability caps and conditions of Rule 536.

## **Rule 538. The MarketAxess SEF Trading System**

(a) The Order Book is available for Required Transactions and Permitted Transactions.

(b) RFQ protocols are available for Required Transactions and Permitted Transactions. Each RFQ to buy or sell a specific instrument must be sent to no less than three Participants other than the Participant that initiated the RFQ (the "Requesting Participant") that (x) is not an Affiliate of or Controlled by the Requesting Participant and (y) is not an Affiliate of or Controlled by any other Participant receiving the same RFQ of the Requesting Participant. No RFQ protocol limits the maximum number of Participants to which a request for quote may be sent or the number of Participants that may respond.



(1) The MarketAxess SEF RFQ System is available for all Required Transactions (other than Block Trades), including Package Trades for which each component is subject to the trade execution requirement in Section 2(h)(8) of the CEA.

(2) The MarketAxess SEF offers a RFQ protocol designed only for Permitted Transactions, Block Trades (for which MarketAxess SEF relies on CFTC NAL 15-60, expiring November 15, 2016), Package Trades subject to relief pursuant to CFTC NAL 14-137 (expiring February 12, 2016)<sup>1</sup>, and Package Trades for which no component is subject to the trade execution requirement in Section 2(h)(8) of the CEA. This system will not be subject to the requirements of CFTC Regulation 37.9(a)(3).

(3) The MarketAxess SEF offers the MarketAxess SEF Click to Trade (“CTT”) system for Required Transactions and Permitted Transactions (including Block Trades). CTT allows for Participants to review three or more requested streams of indicative levels provided by other Participants and either:

i. Submit a request to hit or lift the indicative level (utilizing a Price/Time algorithm), subject to acceptance by the Participant providing the indicative level; or

ii. Submit a limit request with either of the following characteristics:

a. If the Participant selects request style “Notification,” the Participant will be notified if one of the Participants from whom it requested a streaming level enters a level better than or equal to the requesting Participant’s limit. From this notification, the Participant will have the option to submit a request to hit or lift the indicative level.

b. If the Participant selects request style “Auto-Execute,” a request to hit or lift the indicative level will automatically be placed on behalf of the Participant if one of the Participants from whom it requested a streaming level enters a level better than or equal to the requesting Participant’s limit.

## **Rule 539. Trade Cancellations and Price Adjustments**

### **(a) MarketAxess SEF Control Center Authority Regarding Trade Cancellations and Price Adjustments.**

(1) The MCC has authority to adjust trade prices or cancel (bust) Trades when such action is necessary to mitigate market disrupting events caused by the improper or erroneous use of the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, by system defects or errors or as otherwise contemplated in Rule 539(c)(2)(i).

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this rule, the MCC may adjust trade prices or bust any Trade if the MCC determines that allowing the Trade to stand as executed may have a material adverse effect on the integrity of the market.

---

<sup>1</sup> When referencing Package Trades subject to relief pursuant to CFTC NAL 14-137, MKTX SEF is only referring to Package Trades defined by the CFTC as “MAT/Non-MAT Uncleared Package Transactions” in CFTC NAL 14-137.

(3) All decisions of the MCC shall be final.

(b) Review of Trades.

(1) The MCC may determine to review a Trade based on its independent analysis of market activity or upon request for review by a party to a Trade. A request for review must be made within 15 minutes of the execution of the Trade.

(2) The MCC shall determine whether or not a Trade will be subject to review. In the absence of a timely request for review, during volatile market conditions, upon the release of significant news or in any other circumstance in which the MCC deems it to be appropriate, the MCC may determine, in its sole discretion, that a Trade shall not be subject to review.

(3) Upon deciding to review a Trade, the MCC will promptly issue an alert to all Participants that are parties to the Trade in question via the MarketAxess SEF Trading System or electronic mail indicating that the Trade is under review.

(c) Price Adjustments and Cancellations.

(1) In reviewing a Trade, the MCC shall use best efforts to determine the fair value market price for that MarketAxess SEF Swap at the time the trade under review occurred. The MCC may consider any relevant information, including, but not limited to, the last trade price for the MarketAxess SEF Swap or a better bid or offer price on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, a more recent price for a different maturity date, the price of the same or related MarketAxess SEF Swap established in another venue or another market, the market conditions at the time of the trade, the theoretical value of an Option based on the most recent implied volatility and responses to an RFQ.

(2) i. The MarketAxess SEF shall have the right (in its sole discretion) to cancel or adjust the price of such Trade when such action is necessary to mitigate market disrupting events caused solely by improper conduct such as market manipulation or clearly erroneous trading behavior (such as, but not limited to, fat finger). If the MarketAxess SEF takes action pursuant to this Rule 539(c)(2), it will give prompt notice to the parties to the Trade and, in any event, while not required, will use good faith, commercially reasonable efforts to provide the parties to the Trade with reasonable prior notice and to obtain the consent of the parties to the Trade to such adjustment.

ii. Busted trade prices and any prices that have been adjusted shall be cancelled in the MarketAxess SEF's official record of time and sales. Trades that are price-adjusted shall be inserted in the time and sales record at the adjusted trade price.

(d) Alternative Resolution by Agreement of Parties.

(1) With the approval of the MCC, parties to a Trade that is under review or price-adjusted may instead mutually agree to cancel or otherwise adjust the price of the Trade.

(2) With the approval of the MCC, parties to a Trade that is busted may instead mutually agree to price-adjust the Trade to a price consistent with the adjustment provisions of Rule 543(c).

(3) Subject to sections (d)(1) and (d)(2), parties to a Trade that is cancelled or price-adjusted may mutually agree to a cash adjustment, *provided* that such adjustments are reported to the MCC and the parties maintain a record of the adjustment.

#### **Rule 540. Terms and Conditions**

All Participants shall agree to and abide by the terms and conditions of any swap traded on or processed through the MarketAxess SEF. The terms and conditions of MarketAxess SEF Swaps are available at <http://www.marketaxess.com/trading/sef.php>.

#### **Rule 541. Trading Pauses and Halts**

The MarketAxess SEF shall have the authority to pause trading in any MarketAxess SEF Swap or restrict the trading of any Participant in any or all MarketAxess SEF Swap(s) if doing so: (i) serves the purpose of preventing market disruptions or price distortions or (ii) if requested to do so by the CFTC or any Clearing House.

### **CHAPTER 6: PRIVATELY NEGOTIATED TRANSACTIONS**

#### **Rule 601. Block Trades**

(a) Each Block Trade shall be executed by one of the methods of execution that is available for Block Trades under the MarketAxess SEF Rules. Participants to a Block Trade shall comply with any applicable CFTC regulations governing Block Trades.

(b) The following shall govern Block Trades:

(1) Prior to executing a Trade with a notional or principal amount at or above the appropriate minimum block size applicable to such swap, as determined by the CFTC, the parties to such Trade shall be deemed to have elected to treat the Trade as a Block Trade.

(2) 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 MarketAxess SEF Swap at the relevant time, (iii) the prices and sizes of transactions in other relevant markets at the relevant time, and (iv) the circumstances of the markets or the Participants to the Block Trade.

(3) Persons entering into a Block Trade under the MarketAxess SEF rules must agree upon which party to the Block Trade shall be responsible for reporting all of the terms of the Block Trade to the MarketAxess SEF as soon as practicable after execution of the Block Trade. The Participant must provide the MarketAxess SEF with the allocation for such Block Trade as soon as practicable (if applicable).

(4) Block Trades must be reported to the MarketAxess SEF in accordance with an approved reporting method.

(5) Participants involved in the execution of Block Trades must maintain a record of the transaction in accordance with Rule 401.

(6) The MarketAxess SEF will report information submitted by the Participant(s) for the Block Trade to a Swap Data Repository as required by Part 43 and Part 45 of the CFTC Regulations.

(7) Orders may be aggregated in order to achieve the minimum block size, but only if done by a person who:

(i)(A) Is a commodity trading advisor registered pursuant to Section 4n of the CEA, or exempt from registration under the CEA, or a principal thereof, who has discretionary trading authority or directs client accounts,

(B) Is an investment adviser who has discretionary trading authority or directs client accounts and satisfies the criteria of CFTC Regulation 4.7(a)(2)(v), or

(C) Is a foreign person who performs a similar role or function as the persons described in paragraphs (b)(7)(i)(A) or (b)(7)(i)(B) above and is subject as such to foreign regulation; and,

(ii) Has more than \$25,000,000 in total assets under management.

(8) A Package Trade shall be treated as a Block Trade only if each leg of the Package Trade would satisfy all requirements to be independently treated as a Block Trade, provided, however, that any leg of the Package Trade for which minimum block size requirements (as determined by the CFTC) do not exist shall be excluded from this review.

(9) A Participant transacting a Block Trade on behalf of a Customer must receive prior written instruction or consent from the Customer to do so. Such instruction or consent may be provided in the power of attorney or similar document by which the Customer provides the Participant with discretionary trading authority or the authority to direct the trading in its account.

## **Rule 602. Recordkeeping Requirements for Privately Negotiated Trades**

All Orders executed in accordance with Rule 601, unless otherwise exempted by Rule, are subject to the following recordkeeping requirements:

(a) At the time of execution, every Order received from a Customer must be in the form of a written or electronic record and include an electronic timestamp reflecting the date and time that such Order was received and must identify the specific account(s) for which the Order was placed.

(b) Such record shall also include an electronic timestamp reflecting the date and time that such Order was executed or cancelled.

## CHAPTER 7: DISCIPLINARY RULES

### Rule 701. General

(a) This Chapter 7 shall govern a Participant, or any other Person using a user ID assigned to that Person, who is alleged to have violated, to have aided and abetted a violation, to be violating, or to be about to violate, any Rule of the MarketAxess SEF or any provision of Applicable Law for which the MarketAxess SEF possesses disciplinary jurisdiction.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF, through the Market Regulation Department and the Disciplinary Panel, will conduct inquiries, investigations, disciplinary proceedings and appeals from disciplinary proceedings, summary impositions of fines, summary suspensions or other summary actions in accordance with this Chapter 7.

(c) No MarketAxess SEF Official, Director or Officer will interfere with or attempt to influence the process or resolution of any inquiry, investigation, disciplinary proceeding, appeal from a disciplinary proceeding, summary imposition of fines, summary suspension or other summary action (collectively, “**Disciplinary Action**”), except to the extent provided under the MarketAxess SEF Rules with respect to a proceeding in which the Director is a member of the relevant Appeal Panel.

(d) Any Person may be represented by counsel or any representative of its choosing during any Disciplinary Action pursuant to this Chapter 7.

#### (e) Participant Liability – Individual and Joint Liability/Controlling Person Liability.

(1) The MarketAxess SEF may hold a Participant liable, and impose sanctions against such Participant, for such Participant’s own acts and omissions that constitute a violation as well as for the acts and omissions of each (A) Authorized Trader authorized by such Participant, (B) other Supervised Person of such Participant, (C) other Person using a user ID of such Participant or (D) other agent or representative of such Participant, in each case, that constitute a violation, as if such violation were that of the Participant.

(2) The MarketAxess SEF may hold an Authorized Trader liable for, and impose sanctions against such Authorized Trader, for such Authorized Trader’s own acts and omissions that constitute a violation as well as or for the acts and omissions of any other agent or representative of such Authorized Trader that constitute a violation, as if such violation were that of the Authorized Trader.

#### (f) Ex Parte Communications.

(1) A Person subject to a disciplinary proceeding or an appeal from a disciplinary proceeding (and any counsel or representative of such Person) and the Market Regulation Department (and any counsel or representative of the Market Regulation Department) shall not knowingly make or cause to be made an *ex parte* communication relevant to the merits of a disciplinary proceeding or an appeal from a disciplinary proceeding to any member of the Disciplinary Panel or the Appeal Panel hearing such proceeding.

(2) Members of a Disciplinary Panel shall not knowingly make or cause to be made an *ex parte* communication relevant to the merits of a disciplinary proceeding or an appeal from a disciplinary proceeding to any Person subject to such proceeding (and any counsel or representative of such Person) or the Market Regulation Department (and any counsel or representative of the Market Regulation Department).

(3) Any Person who receives, makes or learns of any communication that is prohibited by this Rule shall promptly give notice of such communication and any response thereto to the Market Regulation Department and all parties to the proceeding to which the communication relates.

(4) A Person shall not be deemed to have violated this Rule if the Person refuses an attempted communication concerning the merits of a proceeding as soon as it becomes apparent the communication concerns the merits.

## **Rule 702. Inquiries and Investigation**

(a) The Market Regulation Department will investigate any matter within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction of which it becomes aware. The Market Regulation Department will commence an investigation upon the receipt of a request from Commission staff or upon the discovery or receipt of information by the MarketAxess SEF that, in the judgment of the Market Regulation Department, indicates a possible basis for finding that a violation has occurred or may occur. The Market Regulation Department will determine the nature and scope of its inquiries and investigations in its sole discretion and will function independently of any commercial interests of the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) The Market Regulation Department has the authority to:

(1) initiate and conduct inquiries and investigations;

(2) prepare investigative reports and make recommendations concerning initiating disciplinary proceedings;

(3) prosecute alleged violations within the MarketAxess SEF's disciplinary jurisdiction; and,

(4) represent the MarketAxess SEF on appeal from any disciplinary proceeding, summary imposition of fines, summary suspension or other summary action.

(c) Each Participant:

(1) is obligated to appear and testify and respond in writing to interrogatories within the time period required by the Market Regulation Department in connection with:

i. any MarketAxess SEF Rule;

ii. any inquiry or investigation relating to MarketAxess SEF Activity; and

iii. any preparation by and presentation during a Disciplinary Action;

(2) may not impede or delay any Disciplinary Action.

(d) The Chief Compliance Officer has the authority to delegate the authority to conduct any investigation authorized under this Rule 702 to the RSP as per the terms of the Regulatory Services Agreement.

(e) Any investigation will be completed in a timely manner in accordance with CFTC regulation 37.203(f)(2).

(f) Each Covered Party is obligated to produce books, records, papers, documents or other tangible evidence in its, his or her possession, custody or control within the time period required by the Market Regulation Department in connection with:

(1) any Rule or MarketAxess SEF Activity;

(2) any inquiry or investigation relating to MarketAxess SEF Activity; and

(3) any preparation or presentation during a Disciplinary Action.

### **Rule 703. Reports of Investigations**

(a) The Market Regulation Department will maintain a log of all investigations and their disposition. The Market Regulation Department will prepare a written report of each investigation, regardless of whether the evidence gathered during any inquiry or investigation forms a reasonable basis to believe that a violation within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction has occurred or is about to occur or whether the evidence gathered results in closing the matter without further action or through summary action.

(b) Any written report of investigation ("**Investigative Report**") will include the reasons for initiating the investigation (including a summary of the complaint, if any), all relevant facts and evidence gathered, the Market Regulation Department staff's analysis and conclusions, and the recommendation of the Market Regulation Department. For each potential respondent, the Market Regulation Department will recommend either:

(1) closing the investigation without further action;

(2) settlement;

(3) summary action;

(4) the preparation and service of a notice of charges for instituting a disciplinary proceeding; or

(5) resolving the investigation through an informal disposition, including the issuance of a warning letter. An informal disposition (including the issuance of a warning letter) will not constitute a finding of a violation or a sanction.

(c) The Investigative Report will be provided to the Chief Compliance Officer for a determination as to whether the Investigative Report is complete. The Chief Compliance Officer will then provide the completed Investigative Report to the Disciplinary Panel.

#### **Rule 704. Opportunity to Respond**

(a) After completing its Investigative Report, the Market Regulation Department may, upon approval of the Chief Compliance Officer, notify each potential respondent that the Market Regulation Department has recommended formal disciplinary charges against the potential respondent.

(b) The Market Regulation Department may allow a potential respondent to propose a settlement of the matter or to submit a written statement explaining why a disciplinary proceeding should not be instituted or one or more of the potential charges should not be brought. The potential respondent shall submit such written statement within the time limit established by the Market Regulation Department.

#### **Rule 705. Review of Investigative Reports**

(a) Review of Investigative Reports by the Chief Compliance Officer.

(1) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of a completed Investigative Report, the Chief Compliance Officer will review the completed Investigative Report to determine whether a reasonable basis exists to believe that a violation within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction has occurred or is about to occur.

(2) If the Chief Compliance Officer determines that additional investigation or evidence is needed to decide whether a reasonable basis exists to believe that a violation within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction has occurred or is about to occur, the Chief Compliance Officer will direct the Market Regulation Department to conduct further investigation.

(3) Upon receiving the completed Investigative Report or after receiving additional information upon the completion of an investigation, the Chief Compliance Officer will determine for each potential respondent whether to authorize:

i. the informal disposition of the investigation (by issuing a warning letter or otherwise) because disciplinary proceedings are unwarranted, in which case the Chief Compliance Officer shall provide a written explanation to the Regulatory Oversight Committee; or

ii. the closing of the investigation without any action because no reasonable basis exist to believe that a violation within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction has occurred or is about to occur, in which case the Chief Compliance Officer shall provide a written explanation to the Regulatory Oversight Committee; or

iii. the commencement of disciplinary proceedings because a reasonable basis exists to believe that a violation within the MarketAxess SEF's jurisdiction has occurred or is about to occur.



(b) Review of Investigative Reports by the Disciplinary Panel.

(1) After receiving a completed Investigative Report pursuant to Rule 703, a Disciplinary Panel must promptly review the report and, within thirty (30) days of such receipt, must take one of the following actions:

i. If the Disciplinary Panel determines that additional investigation or evidence is needed, it must promptly direct the Market Regulation Department to conduct further investigation.

ii. If the Disciplinary Panel determines that no reasonable basis exists for finding a violation or that prosecution is otherwise unwarranted, it may direct that no further action be taken. Such determination must be in writing, and must include a written statement setting forth the facts and analysis supporting the decision and the Chief Compliance Officer shall provide the written statement to the Regulatory Oversight Committee.

iii. If the Disciplinary Panel determines that a reasonable basis exists for finding a violation and adjudication are warranted, it must direct that the Person alleged to have committed the violation be served with a notice of charges and proceed in accordance with the rules of Chapter 7.

(2) A failure of the Disciplinary Panel to act within the time prescribed in Rule 705(b) shall not prevent the Chief Compliance Officer from acting pursuant to Rule 705(a). The Chief Compliance Officer shall inform the Regulatory Oversight Committee of any such failure of the Disciplinary Panel to act.

(3) Any conflict between the actions of the Chief Compliance Officer pursuant to Rule 705(a) and the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to Rule 705(b) shall be resolved by the Regulatory Oversight Committee.

**Rule 706. Notice of Charges**

(a) If the Chief Compliance Officer or Disciplinary Panel authorizes disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Rule 705(a)(3)(iii) or 703(b)(1)(iii), the Market Regulation Department will prepare, and serve in accordance with Rule 708, a notice of charges.

(b) A notice of charges will:

(1) state the acts, practices or conduct that the respondent is alleged to have engaged in;

(2) state the MarketAxess SEF Rule or provision of Applicable Law alleged to have been violated or about to be violated;

(3) state the proposed sanctions;

(4) advise the respondent of its right to a hearing;

(5) advise the respondent that it has the right to be represented by legal counsel or any other representative of its choosing in all succeeding stages of the disciplinary process;

(6) state the period of time within which the respondent can request a hearing on the notice of charges, which will not be less than twenty (20) days after service of the notice of charges;

(7) advise the respondent that any failure to request a hearing within the period stated, except for good cause, will be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing; and

(8) advise the respondent that any allegation in the notice of charges that is not expressly denied will be deemed to be admitted.

### **Rule 707. Answer to Notice of Charges**

(a) If the respondent determines to answer a notice of charges, the respondent must file answers within twenty (20) days after being served with such notice, or within such other time period determined by the Chief Compliance Officer.

(b) To answer a notice of charges, the respondent must in writing:

(1) specify the allegations that the respondent denies or admits;

(2) specify the allegations that the respondent does not have sufficient information to either deny or admit;

(3) specify any specific facts that contradict the notice of charges;

(4) specify any affirmative defenses to the notice of charges; and

(5) sign and serve the answer on the Chief Compliance Officer.

(c) Any failure by the respondent to timely serve an answer to a notice of charges will be deemed to be an admission to the allegations in such notice. Any failure by the respondent to answer one or more allegations in a notice of charges will be deemed to be an admission of that allegation or those allegations. Any allegation in a notice of charges that the respondent fails to expressly deny will be deemed to be admitted. A general denial by the respondent, without more, will not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (b) above.

### **Rule 708. Service of Notice of Charges**

(a) Any notice of charges or other documents to be served pursuant to this Chapter 7 may be served upon the respondent and service shall be deemed complete either personally or by leaving the same at his or her place of business; or by deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, via registered or certified mail addressed to the respondent at the address as it appears on the books and records of the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) Any notice of charges or other documents contemplated to be served pursuant to this Chapter 7 may be served upon the respondent and service shall be deemed complete via electronic mail to the electronic mail address as it appears on the books and records of the MarketAxess SEF.

## **Rule 709. Settlements**

(a) A respondent or potential respondent may at any time propose in writing an offer of settlement related to anticipated or instituted disciplinary proceedings.

(b) Any offer of settlement should contain proposed findings and sanctions and be signed by the respondent or potential respondent and submitted to the Market Regulation Department.

(c) A respondent or potential respondent may offer to settle disciplinary proceedings without admitting or denying the findings contained in the order of the disciplinary proceedings but must accept the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF over it and over the subject matter of the proceedings and consent to the entry of the findings and sanctions imposed.

(d) If a respondent or potential respondent submits an offer of settlement in accordance with paragraph (a) above, the Market Regulation Department will forward the offer to the Chief Compliance Officer with a recommendation whether to accept or reject the offer. Any preliminary determination by the Chief Compliance Officer to accept the offer shall be submitted for review by the Disciplinary Panel. If the Disciplinary Panel agrees, then the Chief Compliance Officer shall conditionally accept an offer of settlement, and the settlement will become final upon the expiration of twenty (20) days after an order of the disciplinary proceedings consistent with the terms of the offer of settlement is served on the respondent.

(e) If an offer of settlement is accepted by the Disciplinary Panel, the panel accepting the offer must issue a written decision specifying the Rule violations it has reason to believe were committed, including the basis or reasons for the panel's conclusions, and any sanction to be imposed, which must include full customer restitution where customer harm is demonstrated. If an offer of settlement is accepted without the agreement of the Market Regulation Department or Chief Compliance Officer, the decision must adequately support the Disciplinary Panel's acceptance of the settlement. If applicable, the decision must also include a statement that the respondent has accepted the sanctions imposed without either admitting or denying the Rule violations.

(f) If an offer of settlement is accepted and the related order of disciplinary proceedings becomes final, the respondent's submission of the offer will be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to notice, opportunity for a hearing and review and appeal under the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

(g) If the offer of settlement of a respondent or potential respondent is not accepted by agreement between the Chief Compliance Officer and the Disciplinary Panel, fails to become final or is withdrawn by the respondent or potential respondent, the matter will proceed as if the offer had not been made and the offer and all documents relating to it will not become part of the record. Neither a respondent, potential respondent nor the Market Regulation Department may use an unaccepted offer of settlement as an admission or in any other manner at a hearing of, or appeal from, disciplinary proceedings.

## Rule 710. Disciplinary Panel

(a) The Disciplinary Panel shall:

(1) review completed Investigative Reports in order to determine whether a reasonable basis exists for finding a violation of the MarketAxess SEF's rules and for authorizing the issuance of notices of charges against persons.

(2) conduct hearings in connection with any disciplinary proceedings (except for summary impositions of fines pursuant to Rule 717), make findings, render decisions and impose sanctions pursuant to this Chapter 7.

(b) The Board shall appoint individuals at the recommendation of the Chief Compliance Officer to serve for a term of one year, subject to reappointment by the Board, as potential participants on the Disciplinary Panel. The Chief Compliance Officer shall recommend at least one (1) individual who will satisfy the conditions of a Public Individual and at least two (2) Participants or employees of Participants and two (2) non-Participants, provided, however, that a Disciplinary Panel shall include sufficient different membership interests so as to ensure fairness and to prevent special treatment or preference for any Person in the conduct of Disciplinary Panel's responsibilities. The term of an individual who has been selected as a member of a Disciplinary Panel will not expire until the related proceedings are completed. The Board shall not appoint the Chief Compliance Officer, any employee of the Market Regulation Department, or any person involved in adjudicating any other stage of the same proceeding to be a member of a Disciplinary Panel.

(c) The chair of any Disciplinary Panel shall be a Public Individual.

(d) The Chief Compliance Officer shall select a separate Disciplinary Panel prior to the commencement of each investigative or disciplinary matter by randomly selecting at least one Public Individual and the remaining individuals from the industry participant pools so that any group or class of industry participants is precluded from dominating or exercising disproportionate influence on the Disciplinary Panel being formed.

(e) If an individual selected is an Interested Person or if a member of the Disciplinary Panel later becomes an Interested Person, a replacement for such individual shall be randomly selected by the Chief Compliance Officer.

(f) Within ten (10) days of being notified of the appointment of the Disciplinary Panel, a respondent may seek to disqualify any individual named to the Disciplinary Panel for the reasons identified in Rule 213 or for any other reasonable grounds, including that such individual has a financial interest in the matter, by serving written notice on the Chief Compliance Officer. By not timely filing a request for disqualification, the respondent will be deemed to have waived any objection to the composition of a Disciplinary Panel. The General Counsel of the MarketAxess SEF will decide the merits of any request for disqualification in his or her sole discretion. Any such decision will be final and not subject to appeal.

(g) No person shall serve on a Disciplinary Panel unless that person has agreed in writing that he or she will not publish, divulge or make known in any manner, any facts or information regarding the business of any Person or any other information which may come to his or her attention in his or her official

capacity as a member of the Disciplinary Panel, except when reporting to the Board or to a committee concerned with such information or to the Market Regulation Department, when requested by the CFTC or other Government Agency or when compelled to testify in any judicial or administrative proceeding.

(h) All information, records, materials and documents provided to the Disciplinary Panel and all deliberations, testimony, information, records, materials and documents related thereto shall be treated as non-public and confidential and shall not be disclosed, except as necessary to further a MarketAxess SEF investigation, as permitted by Rule 213 or as required by law.

(i) The Chief Compliance Officer has the authority to delegate the formation and staffing of Disciplinary Panels under this Rule 710 to the RSP as per the terms of the Regulatory Services Agreement.

### **Rule 711. Convening Hearings of Disciplinary Proceedings**

(a) A hearing will be conducted privately and confidentially. Notwithstanding the confidentiality of hearings, the Disciplinary Panel may appoint an expert to attend any hearing and assist in deliberations if such expert agrees to be subject to an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

(b) After reasonable notice to each respondent, the Disciplinary Panel will promptly convene a hearing to conduct the disciplinary proceedings with respect to such respondent. Parties to a disciplinary proceeding include each respondent and the Market Regulation Department.

(c) The chair of the Disciplinary Panel may continue, adjourn or otherwise conduct the hearing, as he or she may deem appropriate. The chair of the Disciplinary Panel will determine all procedural and evidentiary matters, including the admissibility and relevance of any evidence proffered. In determining procedural and evidentiary matters, the chair of the Disciplinary Panel will not be bound by any evidentiary or procedural rules or law. Once admitted during the hearing, the Disciplinary Panel may consider, and attach the weight it believes appropriate to, evidence or other materials. The General Counsel of the MarketAxess SEF, or its designee, will provide guidance to the chair of the Disciplinary Panel on the conduct of the hearing.

(d) Except for procedural and evidentiary matters decided by the chair of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph (c) above and Rule 712, unless each respondent otherwise consents, the entire Disciplinary Panel must be present during the entire hearing and any related deliberations.

### **Rule 712. Respondent Review of Evidence**

(a) Prior to the commencement of a hearing, each respondent will be given the opportunity to review all books, records, documents, papers, transcripts of testimony and other tangible evidence in the possession or under the control of the MarketAxess SEF that the Market Regulation Department will use to support the allegations and proposed sanctions in the notice of charges or which the chair of the Disciplinary Panel deems relevant to the disciplinary proceedings. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no respondent will have the right to review, and the MarketAxess SEF will have no obligation to disclose, any information protected by attorney-client privilege.

(b) If any books, records, documents, papers, transcripts of testimony or other tangible evidence contain information that could adversely affect the competitive position of the Person providing the

information, or if such information might compromise other investigations being conducted by the Market Regulation Department, the Market Regulation Department may redact, edit or code such information before furnishing it to the respondent.

(c) Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (b) above to the contrary, the Market Regulation Department:

(1) will not redact, edit or code competitive or investigative information contained in documents in a manner that would impair the respondent's ability to defend against the allegations or proposed sanctions in the notices of charges; and

(2) will provide the respondent with access to the information and portions of the documents that the Market Regulation Department intends to rely on to support the allegations or proposed sanctions in the notice of charges.

(d) For purposes of this Rule 712, information that could adversely affect competitive positions include positions in MarketAxess SEF Swaps currently held, trading strategies employed in establishing or liquidating positions, the identity of any Participant or Authorized Trader and the personal finances of the Person providing the information.

### **Rule 713. Conducting Hearings of Disciplinary Proceedings**

(a) At a hearing conducted in connection with any disciplinary proceedings, the Market Regulation Department will present its case supporting the allegations and proposed sanctions in the notice of charges to the Disciplinary Panel. If a respondent has timely filed an answer to the notice of charges in accordance with Rule 707, the respondent shall be entitled to attend and participate in the hearing.

(b) At a hearing conducted in connection with any disciplinary proceedings, the Disciplinary Panel or the Market Regulation Department and each respondent may:

(1) present evidence and facts determined relevant and admissible by the chair of the Disciplinary Panel;

(2) call and examine witnesses; and

(3) cross-examine witnesses called by other parties.

(c) If the respondent fails to file an answer, files a general denial or if any or all of the allegations in the notice of charges are not expressly denied in the respondent's answer, the chair of the Disciplinary Panel may limit evidence concerning any allegations not expressly denied in determining the sanctions to impose. If a respondent fails to file an answer but appears at the hearing, the respondent may not participate in the hearing (by calling or cross-examining witnesses, testifying in defense, presenting evidence concerning the notice of charges or otherwise) unless the Disciplinary Panel determines that the respondent had a compelling reason for failing to timely file an answer. If the Disciplinary Panel determines that the respondent had a compelling reason for failing to timely file an answer, the Disciplinary Panel will adjourn the hearing and direct the respondent to promptly file a written answer in accordance with Rule 707.

(d) Any Person entitled, or required or called upon, to attend a hearing before a Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) above will be given reasonable notice, confirmed in writing, specifying the date, time and place of the hearing, and the caption of the disciplinary proceedings. All Participants (that are individuals), Authorized Traders and other Supervised Persons that are called as witnesses are required to appear at the hearing and, where applicable, produce evidence. The MarketAxess SEF will make reasonable efforts to secure the presence of all other Persons called as witnesses whose testimony would be relevant.

(e) If during any disciplinary proceedings the Disciplinary Panel determines that a reasonable basis exists to believe that the respondent violated or is about to violate a Rule of the MarketAxess SEF or a provision of Applicable Law other than the violations alleged in the notice of charges, the Disciplinary Panel may consider those apparent violations after providing the respondent with an opportunity to answer the additional allegations in accordance with Rule 707. In connection with considering apparent violations pursuant to this paragraph (e), the Disciplinary Panel may request that the Market Regulation Department provide the Disciplinary Panel with any additional information related to the violations at issue.

(f) The Disciplinary Panel may summarily impose sanctions on any Participant, Authorized Trader or other Supervised Person that impedes or delays the progress of a hearing.

(g) The MarketAxess SEF will arrange for any hearing conducted in connection with disciplinary proceedings to be recorded verbatim, or substantially verbatim, in a manner capable of accurate transcription. If the respondent requests a copy of all or portions of the recording of a hearing, the chair of the Disciplinary Panel may within his or her sole discretion require the respondent to pay the costs for transcribing the recording of the hearing.

(h) No interlocutory appeals of rulings of any Disciplinary Panel or chair of the Disciplinary Panel are permitted.

#### **Rule 714. Decision of Disciplinary Panel**

(a) As promptly as reasonable following a hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will issue a written order rendering its decision based on the weight of the evidence contained in the record of the disciplinary proceedings. A decision by a majority of the Disciplinary Panel will constitute the decision of the Disciplinary Panel.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF will serve a copy of the order of the disciplinary proceedings on the respondent, the Market Regulation Department, and the NFA within 30 days after a final decision has been made. The order will include:

(1) the notice of charges or summary of the allegations;

(2) the answer, if any, or a summary of the answer;

(3) a brief summary of the evidence introduced at the hearing or, where appropriate, incorporation by reference of the Investigation Report;

(4) findings of fact and conclusions concerning each allegation, including a complete explanation of the evidentiary and other basis for such findings and conclusions with respect to each allegation;

(5) each specific Rule of the MarketAxess SEF and provision of Applicable Law that the respondent is found to have violated; and

(6) the imposition of sanctions, if any, including the basis for such sanctions and the effective date of each sanction.

(c) Any order of disciplinary proceedings shall not become effective until 15 days after such order is served on the respondent.

### **Rule 715. Sanctions and Fines**

(a) After notice and opportunity for hearing in accordance with the MarketAxess SEF Rules, the MarketAxess SEF will impose sanctions if any Covered Party is found to have violated or to have attempted to violate a Rule of the MarketAxess SEF or provision of Applicable Law for which the MarketAxess SEF possesses disciplinary jurisdiction. All sanctions, including sanctions imposed pursuant to an accepted settlement offer, must take into account the respondent's disciplinary history. In the event of demonstrated customer harm, any sanction must also include full customer restitution, except where the amount of restitution or to whom the restitution should be provided cannot be reasonably determined. The MarketAxess SEF may impose one or more of the following sanctions or remedies:

(1) censure;

(2) limitation on Trading Privileges, ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, and/or other activities, functions or operations;

(3) suspension of Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System;

(4) restitution or disgorgement;

(5) termination of Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System;

(6) a warning letter, provided that no more than one warning letter is issued to the same Participant for the same violation in a rolling twelve (12)-month period; or

(7) any other sanction or remedy deemed to be appropriate.

(b) The MarketAxess SEF may impose a fine on any Covered Party of up to \$100,000 but no less than \$1,000 for each violation of a Rule of the MarketAxess SEF or a provision of Applicable Law. If a fine or other amount is not paid within 30 days of the date that it becomes payable, then interest will accrue on the sum from the date that it became payable at the quoted prime rate plus three percent. The



MarketAxess SEF has sole discretion to select the bank on whose quotations to base the prime rate. Participant will be responsible for paying any fine or other amount imposed on, but not paid by, any of its Authorized Traders or Supervised Persons.

#### **Rule 716. Reserved.**

#### **Rule 717. Summary Imposition of Fines**

(a) The Chief Compliance Officer may summarily impose a fine against a Participant (on behalf of itself or any of its Authorized Traders, other Supervised Persons or other Persons using any of its user IDs) or Authorized Trader for failing:

- (1) to make timely payments of fees, cost, charges or fines to the MarketAxess SEF;
- (2) to make timely and accurate submissions to the MarketAxess SEF of notices, reports or other information required by the MarketAxess SEF Rules; and
- (3) to keep any books and records required by the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

(b) The Market Regulation Department, acting on behalf of the Chief Compliance Officer, will give notice of any fine imposed pursuant to this Rule 717 to each Participant or Authorized Trader subject thereto. The notice will specify:

- (1) the violations of the MarketAxess SEF Rules for which the fine is being imposed;
- (2) the date of the violation for which the fine is being imposed; and
- (3) the amount of the fine.

Within 20 days of serving the notice of fine, the Participant or Authorized Trader, as the case may be, must either pay or cause the payment of the fine. The fine will become final upon the expiration of 20 days after the notice of fine is served on the Participant or Authorized Trader, as the case may be.

(c) The MarketAxess SEF will set the amount of any fines imposed pursuant to this Rule 717, with the maximum fine for each violation not to exceed \$5,000. Summary imposition of fines pursuant to this Rule 717 will not preclude the MarketAxess SEF from bringing any other action against the Participant (or any of its Authorized Traders or other Supervised Persons) or Authorized Trader, as the case may be.

#### **Rule 718. Summary Suspensions and Other Summary Actions**

(a) Notwithstanding anything in the MarketAxess SEF Rules to the contrary, the Chief Compliance Officer may, after consultation with the Regulatory Oversight Committee, if practicable, summarily suspend, revoke, limit, condition, restrict or qualify a Participant's Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, and may take other summary action against any Participant or any of its Authorized Traders or Supervised Persons in accordance with the MarketAxess SEF Rules; provided, however, that the Chief Compliance Officer must reasonably believe that the business, conduct or activities of the Participant or any of its Authorized Traders or Supervised Person in question

is not in the best interests of the MarketAxess SEF or the marketplace, including based on any of the following:

- (1) statutory disqualification from registration as provided in CEA Sections 8a(2) or (3);
- (2) nonpayment of fees, costs, charges, fines or arbitration awards; or
- (3) the reasonable belief that immediate action is necessary to protect the public or the best interests of the MarketAxess SEF.

(b) Whenever practicable, the MarketAxess SEF shall provide prior written notice to the party against whom any action in accordance with paragraph (a) shall be taken. If prior notice is not practicable, the MarketAxess SEF will give notice at the earliest possible opportunity to the respondent against whom the action is brought.

(c) The summary action will become final upon the expiration of 20 days after the notice of action is served on the respondent.

(d) At the request of the MarketAxess SEF, a respondent against whom a summary action is brought pursuant to this Rule 718 must provide books and records over which the respondent has access or control and must furnish information to, or appear or testify before, the MarketAxess SEF in connection with the enforcement of any Rule of the MarketAxess SEF.

(e) A respondent whose Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System are suspended, revoked, limited, conditioned, restricted or qualified pursuant to this Rule 718 may apply for reinstatement by filing with the Market Regulation Department a written request stating the applicant's reasons for seeking reinstatement. The MarketAxess SEF will not consider a respondent's request for reinstatement if the respondent (i) owes any fines, fees, charges or costs to the MarketAxess SEF, (ii) continues to fail to appear at disciplinary proceedings without good cause or (iii) continues to impede the progress of disciplinary proceedings.

(f) Within a reasonable period after the filing of a request for reinstatement, the Appeals Panel will conduct a hearing to consider the request. At the hearing for reinstatement, the respondent will present its, his or her case supporting the reinstatement and the Market Regulation Department, acting on behalf of the Chief Compliance Officer may, in its discretion, present its case opposing or supporting the reinstatement and each may present evidence and facts and call, examine and cross-examine witnesses. At the hearing for reinstatement, the MarketAxess SEF may require any Participant, Authorized Trader or other Supervised Person to appear as witnesses and produce evidence if the Appeals Panel determines that the evidence is relevant.

(g) As promptly as reasonably possible after a reinstatement hearing, the Appeals Panel will issue an order reinstating, denying the reinstatement, or placing conditions on the reinstatement of the Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System of the respondent. The order will include a brief summary of the evidence introduced at the reinstatement hearing; and, if applicable, findings of fact and conclusions not contained in the notice of summary action issued pursuant to Rule 718(b) above. The Appeals Panel's order may not be appealed.

## **Rule 719. Rights and Responsibilities after Suspension or Termination**

(a) When a Participant's or Authorized Trader's Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System are suspended for a period of 12 months or less, none of its rights (including the right to hold oneself out to the public as a Participant or Authorized Trader, enter Order into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System and receive Participant rates for fees, costs, and charges and deposit margin at Participant levels) will apply during the period of the suspension, except for the right of the Participant or Authorized Trader in question to assert claims against others as provided in the MarketAxess SEF Rules. Any such suspension will not affect the rights of creditors under the MarketAxess SEF Rules or relieve the Participant or Authorized Trader in question of its, his or her obligations under the MarketAxess SEF Rules to perform any MarketAxess SEF Swaps entered into before the suspension, or for any MarketAxess SEF fees, costs, or charges incurred during the suspension. The MarketAxess SEF may discipline a suspended Participant or Authorized Trader under this Chapter 7 for any violation of a Rule of the MarketAxess SEF or provision of Applicable Law committed by the Participant or Authorized Trader before, during or after the suspension.

(b) When a Participant's or Authorized Trader's Trading Privileges and/or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System are terminated, all of its related rights will terminate, except for the right of the Participant or Authorized Trader in question to assert claims against others, as provided in the MarketAxess SEF Rules. Any such termination will not affect the rights of creditors under the MarketAxess SEF Rules. A terminated Participant or Authorized Trader may only seek to be reinstated by applying for Trading Privileges pursuant to Rule 302.

(c) The MarketAxess SEF will not consider the application of a terminated Participant or Authorized Trader if such Participant or Authorized Trader, as the case may be, continues to fail to appear at disciplinary proceedings without good cause or continues to impede the progress of disciplinary proceedings.

(d) A suspended or terminated Participant or Authorized Trader remains subject to the MarketAxess SEF Rules and the jurisdiction of the MarketAxess SEF for acts and omissions prior to the suspension or termination, and must cooperate in any inquiry, investigation, disciplinary proceeding, appeal of disciplinary proceedings, summary suspension or other summary action as if the suspended or terminated Participant or Authorized Trader still had Trading Privileges or ability to otherwise access the MarketAxess SEF Trading System.

## **Rule 720. Notice to the Respondent, the Regulatory Services Provider and the Public**

The MarketAxess SEF will provide written notice of disciplinary proceedings to the parties and the Regulatory Services Provider consistent with applicable CFTC Regulations. Whenever the MarketAxess SEF suspends, expels, fines or otherwise disciplines, or denies any Person access to the MarketAxess SEF, the MarketAxess SEF will make the required notices and disclosures required by Part 9 and all other applicable CFTC Regulations.

## **CHAPTER 8: ARBITRATION RULES**

## Rule 801. Disputes Subject to Arbitration

### (a) Mandatory Arbitration of Disputes Among Participants.

(1) It is contrary to the objectives and policy of the MarketAxess SEF for Participants to litigate MarketAxess SEF-related disputes. Participants must arbitrate all disputes between or among themselves that relate to or arise out of any transaction executed on, or otherwise subject to the Rules of, MarketAxess SEF that are based upon facts and circumstances that occurred at a time when the parties were Participants through the NFA Arbitration Program. Such arbitration shall be conducted pursuant to the Rules and the rules of the NFA Arbitration Program or another arbitration program permitted by the CFTC Regulations within two (2) years from the occurrence of the event giving rise to the dispute. This Rule shall in no way create a cause of action nor authorize an action that would otherwise be prohibited by the MarketAxess SEF Rules.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Rule 801 does not require an employee of a Participant to submit to arbitration any claim that includes allegations of a violation of federal, state or local employment discrimination, sexual harassment, wage payment or benefits laws.

### (b) Claims against the MarketAxess SEF or Clearing House.

(1) Claims Against the MarketAxess SEF. Claims against the MarketAxess SEF pursuant to the provisions of Rules 536 and/or Rule 539 can be submitted to arbitration through the NFA Arbitration Program or another arbitration program permitted by the CFTC Regulations. Such arbitration shall be conducted pursuant to the Rules and the rules of the arbitration Program.

(2) Claims Against the Clearing House. Claims against the Clearing House must be pursued pursuant to the rules of the Clearing House.

(c) Permissive Arbitrations. The following may be submitted for arbitration through the NFA Arbitration program and, in the event such a claim is submitted against a Participant, that Participant is required to arbitrate the dispute under these Rules, unless otherwise provided:

(1) claims of a Customer that is not a Participant against a Participant that relate to or arise out of any transaction executed on, or otherwise subject to the Rules of, MarketAxess SEF;

(2) claims against a Participant pursuant to Rule 539;

(3) claims of a Customer that is not a Participant against a Clearing Firm responsible for the performance of a MarketAxess SEF Swap executed on, or subject to the Rules of, MarketAxess SEF and/or against a Participant in connection with such a transaction; and

(4) at the discretion of the Chief Compliance Officer, any claim involving the interests of the MarketAxess SEF, its Participants, their business relations or swaps trading in general not otherwise arbitrable under these rules, provided the parties have consented to such arbitration.

(d) Waiver of Any Objection to Jurisdiction. Any Person who is not a Participant who submits a claim or grievance to arbitration or any Person who appeals any arbitration decision, or who takes any steps therein, shall be conclusively presumed to have voluntarily recognized and agreed to the jurisdiction of the NFA to hear and determine the claim or appeal.

(e) Referral to the NFA Arbitration Program. In the event that a complaint is received by the MarketAxess SEF from a Customer, it shall be referred to the Market Regulation Department, which shall inform the Customer of the NFA Arbitration Program.

## **Rule 802. Initiating an Arbitration Claim**

(a) A claimant may initiate a claim by submitting the required documents and fees to the NFA Arbitration Program.

(b) A claimant shall provide notice of such arbitration claim to the MarketAxess SEF.

## **Rule 803. Certain Claims against the MarketAxess SEF Involving Trading Systems or Services**

(a) General. All claims arising out of or relating to the following matters shall be arbitrated in accordance with the rules of this Chapter:

(1) receipt of an incorrect Order status or the failure to have received an appropriate Order status; or

(2) the negligence of MCC Personnel or any other MarketAxess SEF staff.

(b) Initial Liability Claim and Demand for Arbitration. The initial claim of loss, including a detailed description of any loss suffered, must be made to the NFA Arbitration Program within thirty (30) business days of the date of the incident that caused the loss.

(c) Related Claims. All claims arising out of the same system failure, event or alleged negligent act shall, to the extent practicable in the determination of the chairman, be consolidated for a single hearing.

(d) Award.

(1) Any award by the NFA Arbitration Program shall be limited to the lesser of the actual loss or the loss that would have been incurred if the claimant had used its best efforts to mitigate the loss. Punitive damages, loss of profits, loss of use, and indirect, incidental or consequential damages shall not be awarded.

(2) The decision of a majority of the NFA Arbitration Program shall be final and binding, and there shall be no appeal to a hearing committee of the MarketAxess SEF. A party may move, within three (3) business days of the award, that the award be corrected to remedy any miscalculation or misdescription or where the award is otherwise imperfect in a matter of form not affecting the merits of the award.

(e) Satisfaction of Award by MarketAxess SEF.

(1) The MarketAxess SEF shall satisfy any award against it subject to its limitation of liability rules and the rules respecting proration among claimants where damages allowed for a defined period of time exceed any limit imposed by MarketAxess SEF Rules.

(2) The MarketAxess SEF may delay paying any award until such time as any applicable proration or limitation can be finally calculated.

(f) Rules of Construction. Nothing in this Rule 803 or Rule 804 shall be construed to create a claim against the MarketAxess SEF, to limit a defense available to the MarketAxess SEF, or to obviate or modify any limitation of MarketAxess SEF liability imposed by any other rule.

#### **Rule 804. Claims Relating to Trade Cancellations or Price Adjustments**

All claims relating to price adjustments or trade busts pursuant to Rule 539 shall be arbitrated in accordance with this Chapter.

#### **Rule 805. Right to Counsel**

Every Person is entitled to represent his own interests, be represented by an attorney at law of his choosing and at his own expense who is admitted to practice before the highest court in any State, or be represented by any other non-compensated representative at any stage of an arbitration proceeding. An entity must be represented by an officer or owner of the entity or by an attorney at law.

#### **Rule 806. Governing Law**

The laws of the State of New York govern the MarketAxess SEF Rules. In the event that this Chapter 8 is held to be unenforceable in connection with any dispute, (i) exclusive jurisdiction for any such dispute will reside in any state or federal court sitting in the New York, NY metropolitan area, (ii) the MarketAxess SEF and the Participant involved in the dispute will be presumed to have submitted to the personal jurisdiction of any such court, and (iii) an action to enforce any judgment or decision of such court may be brought in the same court or in any other court with jurisdiction or venue. Finally, all Participants unconditionally and irrevocably waive any and all right to trial by jury in connection with any such dispute.

#### **Rule 807. Costs**

Each party to the dispute will bear its own costs and expenses in connection with any arbitration hereunder, as well as an equal share of the administrative fees and the fees of the arbitrator; provided, however, that the arbitrator will be entitled to include in any award a full reimbursement for the prevailing party's costs and expenses, such party's share of the administrative fees and the fees of the arbitrator, or any combination of any or all of the above.

### **CHAPTER 9: CLEARING**

## **Rule 901. Clearing of Swaps**

All Swaps that the CFTC has determined are required to be cleared under Section 2(h) of the CEA and those Swaps which will be voluntarily cleared shall be cleared through a Clearing House in accordance with the relevant Clearing House Rules and in conformity with the MarketAxess SEF rules specifically provided in this Chapter 9.

## **Rule 902. Reserved.**

## **Rule 903. Reserved.**

## **Rule 904. Clearing House Rules**

A MarketAxess SEF Swap submitted to a Clearing House for clearing shall be subject to the applicable Clearing House Rules. The clearing services provided by the Clearing House with respect to any MarketAxess SEF Swap, and the rights and obligations of purchasers and sellers under cleared Swaps resulting from Trades executed on MarketAxess SEF (including without limitation rights and obligations in respect of clearing and settlement, variation payments and performance at maturity), shall be governed by the Clearing House Rules, as applicable.

## **Rule 905. Submission of Trades to a Clearing House**

Promptly upon the execution of each Order which is designated on MarketAxess SEF to be cleared by a Clearing House, the MarketAxess SEF shall submit directly the Trade in accordance with relevant CFTC regulations to the Clearing House for acceptance for clearing by the relevant Clearing Firm(s) and the Clearing House. Any Trade that is designated to be cleared and is executed on the MarketAxess SEF but is not accepted for clearing shall be deemed void *ab initio*, other than as provided for in Rule 906.

## **Rule 906. Execution and Submission to Clearing of New Swap/Old Terms and New Swap/Corrected Terms**

(a) A New Swap/Old Terms or New Swap/Corrected Terms may be executed, exempt from the prohibitions in Rule 525, and submitted for clearing, only in accordance with the provisions of this Rule 906.

(b) Definitions.

(i) *DCO Rejected Swap*. A “DCO Rejected Swap” means a Swap (other than a New Swap/Old Terms) intended to be cleared that is executed on or pursuant to the Rules of MarketAxess SEF and is either:

(A) rejected from clearing by the relevant Clearing House as a result of a clerical or operational error or omission made by MarketAxess SEF, a counterparty to the

Cleared Swap or a Participant, Trading Customer or other agent acting on behalf of such counterparty, or

- (B) a component of a Package Trade rejected from clearing by the relevant Clearing House because of the sequencing of the submission to the Clearing House of the components of the Package Trade for clearing and not because the cleared components of the Package Trade as a whole breached or would have breached a credit limit.

(ii) *Cleared Error Swap*. A “Cleared Error Swap” means a Cleared Swap executed on MarketAxess SEF with respect to which the counterparties identify an error after the Swap is accepted for clearing by the relevant Clearing House.

(iii) *New Swap/Old Terms*. A “New Swap/Old Terms” means:

- (A) with respect to a DCO Rejected Swap, a swap executed on or pursuant to the Rules of MarketAxess SEF and submitted for clearing in accordance with the provisions of Rule 906(c), whose terms are identical, other than as to time of execution, to the terms of the related DCO Rejected Swap;
- (B) with respect to a Cleared Error Swap, a swap executed on or pursuant to the Rules of MarketAxess SEF and submitted for clearing in accordance with the provisions of Rule 906(d), for the purpose of offsetting and extinguishing the Cleared Error Swap, whose terms, other than time of execution, are identical to the terms of the related Cleared Error Swap, but on the opposite side of the market.

(iv) *New Swap/Corrected Terms*. A “New Swap/Corrected Terms” means, with respect to a Cleared Error Swap, including a Cleared Error Swap that is a component Swap of a Package Trade, a swap executed on or pursuant to the Rules of MarketAxess SEF and submitted for clearing in accordance with the provisions of Rule 906(d), whose terms, other than time of execution, reflect the terms to which the original counterparties or intended counterparties mutually assented when they executed the related Cleared Error Swap.

(c) *New Swap/Old Terms following a DCO Rejected Swap*.

(i) A counterparty (or, if applicable, the Participant acting on behalf of a counterparty) to a DCO Rejected Swap may, as quickly as technologically practicable after receipt from MarketAxess SEF of notice of the Cleared Swap’s rejection from clearing (but in any case no later than 60 minutes from the issuance of a notice of rejection by the relevant Clearing House to such Clearing Firm), provide to MarketAxess SEF:

- (A) a description of the clerical or operational error or omission that caused the DCO Rejected Swap to be rejected from clearing or, in the case of a component Swap of a Package Trade, a description of the clearing sequencing that caused the rejection of such component Swap from clearing; and



- (B) the unique swap identifier (as that term is defined in CFTC Regulations) for the DCO Rejected Swap and any additional information reasonably requested by MarketAxess SEF.

(ii) Upon receipt of the information listed in Rule 906(c)(i) above, MarketAxess SEF shall promptly make an affirmative finding as to whether the original Swap qualifies as a DCO Rejected Swap consistent with the standards set forth in Rule 407(b).

(iii) Upon making an affirmative finding that the original Swap qualifies as a DCO Rejected Swap, and that the execution of a New Swap/Old Terms would be consistent with the standards set forth in Rule 407(b), MarketAxess SEF will determine whether it is able to determine how to correct the error.

- (A) If MarketAxess SEF is able to determine how to correct the error, MarketAxess SEF may execute a New Swap/Old Terms, without obtaining the consent of the counterparties, and submit it to the relevant DCO for clearing, as soon as technologically practicable.
- (B) If MarketAxess SEF is not able to determine how to correct the error, it may seek guidance from the counterparties to the original Cleared Swap on how to address the error, and in such case, shall only submit a New Swap/Old Terms after obtaining consent from the counterparties.
- (C) In no event shall a New Swap/Old Terms be executed pursuant to this Rule 906(c) later than 60 minutes from the issuance of a notice of rejection by the relevant DCO to the relevant Clearing Members.
- (D) Execution of a New Swap/Old Terms must comply with the obligations set out in Rule 906, including that any New Swap/Old Terms be screened against applicable Risk-Based Limits in accordance with Rule 906.

(iv) Upon making an affirmative finding that the original Swap does not qualify as a DCO Rejected Swap, MarketAxess SEF shall provide notice of such determination to the counterparties to the DCO Rejected Swap.

(v) If a New Swap/Old Terms is rejected from clearing by the relevant DCO, it shall be deemed void ab initio, and MarketAxess SEF will not provide the parties to such New Swap/Old Terms a second opportunity to enter into a New Swap/Old Terms.

(d) New Swap/Old Terms and New Swap/Corrected Terms following a Cleared Error Swap.

(i) A counterparty (or, if applicable, the Introducing Agent or Account Manager acting on behalf of a Trading Customer or Client Account) to a Cleared Error Swap may, as quickly as technologically practicable after its determination of the existence of such Cleared Error (but in any case no later than 3 days after the Cleared Error Swap was executed), provide to MarketAxess SEF:

- (A) a description of the clerical or operational error or omission in the terms of the Cleared Error Swap; and
- (B) the unique swap identifier (as that term is defined in CFTC Regulations) for the DCO Rejected Swap and any additional information reasonably requested by MarketAxess SEF.

(ii) Upon receipt of the information listed in Rule 906(d)(i) above, MarketAxess SEF shall promptly make an affirmative finding as to whether the original Swap qualifies as a Cleared Error Swap and whether the execution of a New Swap/Old Terms and, if applicable, a New Swap/Corrected Terms would be consistent with the standards set forth in Rule 407(b).

(iii) Upon making an affirmative finding that the original Swap is a Cleared Error Swap, and that the execution of a New Swap/Old Terms and, if applicable, a New Swap/Corrected Terms would be consistent with the standards set forth in Rule 539, MarketAxess SEF will determine whether it is able to determine how to correct the error.

- (A) If MarketAxess SEF is able to determine how to correct the error, MarketAxess SEF may execute a New Swap/Old Terms and New Swap/Corrected Terms, as necessary, without obtaining the consent of the counterparties, and submit such Swaps to the relevant Clearing House for clearing, as soon as technologically practicable.
- (B) If MarketAxess SEF is not able to determine how to correct the error, it may seek guidance from the counterparties to the original Cleared Error Swap on how to address the error, and in such case, shall only submit a New Swap/Old Terms and, if applicable, a New Swap/Corrected Terms after obtaining consent from the counterparties.
- (C) In no event, shall a New Swap/Old Terms or a New Swaps/Corrected Terms be executed pursuant to this Rule 906(d) later than 3 days after the Cleared Error Swap was executed.
- (D) Execution of a New Swap/Old Terms or a New Swap/Corrected Terms must comply with the obligations set out in Rule 527.

(iv) Upon making an affirmative finding that the original Swap does not qualify as a Cleared Error Swap, MarketAxess SEF shall provide notice of such determination to the counterparties to the Cleared Error Swap.

(e) Upon execution of a New Swap/Old Terms or New Swap/Corrected Terms pursuant to Rule 906(c) or 906(d) MarketAxess SEF shall report to the SDR to which it reported data for the original DCO Rejected Swap(s) or Cleared Error Swap(s), as applicable, the swap transaction data for the New Swap/Old Terms and New Swap/Corrected Terms pursuant to Parts 43 and 45 of the CFTC's Regulations, as well as the unique swap identifier (as that term is defined in CFTC Regulations) for the original DCO Rejected

Swap(s) or Cleared Error Swap(s) and any termination, cancellation or other reporting event applicable to such swaps, as applicable.

(f) A counterparty (or, if applicable, the Participant acting on behalf of a Customer) to a DCO Rejected Swap or Cleared Error Swap shall promptly provide any and all information that MarketAxess SEF determines is necessary to allow MarketAxess SEF to execute a New Swap/Old Terms or New Swap/Corrected Terms in respect of such DCO Rejected Swap or Cleared Error Swap, as applicable.

## **CHAPTER 10: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Rule 1001. MarketAxess SEF personnel – Trading and Misuse of Material, Non-Public Information**

(a) Except as provided by Rules 1001(b) and 1001(c), Officers and MarketAxess SEF employees are prohibited from buying or selling, directly or indirectly the following products:

(1) any MarketAxess SEF Swap traded on a SEF or DCM; and

(2) any product substantially similar to the MarketAxess SEF Swaps that are listed on a non-U.S. derivatives exchange or board of trade.

(b) The Chief Executive Officer may exempt, in whole or in part, an Officer or MarketAxess SEF employee from the prohibitions of Rule 1001(a), if such Officer or MarketAxess SEF employee applies in writing for an exemption and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer that the Officer or MarketAxess SEF employee meets all of the following criteria:

(1) the Officer or MarketAxess SEF employee does not have access to material, non-public information in the course of his or her employment;

(2) the Officer and MarketAxess SEF employee agrees to provide the MarketAxess SEF with account statements and other documents relevant to the MarketAxess SEF Official's buying and selling of MarketAxess SEF Swaps directly or indirectly; and,

(3) the Officer and MarketAxess SEF employee agrees to inform the Chief Executive Officer in writing of any material change that may affect the MarketAxess SEF Official's qualification for an exemption within one (1) Business Day of the change.

(c) With the Chief Executive Officer's written approval, Rule 1001(a) does not prohibit an Officer or MarketAxess SEF employee from participating in a pooled investment vehicle or other investment vehicle whose investments are directed by a third-party advisor if the MarketAxess SEF Official has no direct or indirect control over transactions executed by the investment vehicles.

(d) MarketAxess SEF Officials, agents and independent contractors of the MarketAxess SEF are prohibited from disclosing material, non-public information obtained as a result of his or her employment, agency relationship or engagement with the MarketAxess SEF where the MarketAxess SEF

Official, agent or independent contractor expected or should have reasonably expected that the information disclosed may assist a Person in trading any MarketAxess SEF Swap, any MarketAxess SEF Swap traded on another SEF, or any related underlying commodity or security.

(e) Rule 1001(d) shall not prohibit a MarketAxess SEF Official, agent or independent contractor of the MarketAxess SEF from disclosing material, non-public information while discharging his or her official duties and responsibilities, including disclosures to another Self-Regulatory Organization, linked MarketAxess SEF, court of competent jurisdiction, or a representative of any agency or department of the federal or state government.

(f) For the purposes of this Rule 1001, the terms “material information,” “non-public information,” “linked MarketAxess SEF,” and “pooled investment vehicle” each shall have the meaning set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.59(a).

## **Rule 1002. Gifts and Gratuities**

Except as permitted in writing by the Chief Executive Officer, no Participant shall, directly or indirectly, give or permit to be given anything of value, including gifts and gratuities, in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) per individual per year to any Director or Officer of, or individual employed directly or seconded to, the MarketAxess SEF.

## **Rule 1003. Market Data**

(a) All Participants, Customers, and all employees, agents, vendors, and other Persons affiliated with the foregoing understand and acknowledge that, subject to the Participant Documentation in place between the MarketAxess SEF and Participants, the MarketAxess SEF has a proprietary interest in:

(1) the price and quantity data from each and every transaction executed on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, including the time at which the transaction was executed by, or submitted to the MarketAxess SEF Trading System;

(2) the price and quantity data for each and every bid and offer submitted for entry into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System, including the time at which the bid and offer was entered into the MarketAxess SEF Trading System;

(3) any data and information derived from (1) and (2) and the format and presentation thereof; and

(4) the transmissions and dissemination of the data and information to Participants and publisher of the data or information with whom the MarketAxess SEF has a written agreement, and any other Persons.

(b) Participants and Customers may not distribute, sell or retransmit information displayed on the MarketAxess SEF Trading System to any third party.

## **Rule 1004. Extension or Waiver of Rules**

If necessary and expedient, the MarketAxess SEF may, in its sole discretion, waive, or extend the time period for performing, any act or acts designated by the MarketAxess SEF Rules, but only to the extent such waiver or extension is not inconsistent with the CEA or the CFTC Regulations.

### **Rule 1005. Effect of Amendment, Repeal or New Rule**

The effective date of any amendment or repeal of a MarketAxess SEF Rule or adoption of a new MarketAxess SEF Rule relating to MarketAxess SEF Swaps will be binding on all MarketAxess SEF Swaps entered into on or after the effective date of such amendment, repeal or adoption.

### **Rule 1006. Uncleared Swaps**

If a MarketAxess SEF Swap: (i) is not required to be cleared pursuant to the clearing mandate in Section 2(h)(1) of the CEA and (ii) is not designated to be submitted voluntarily for clearing to a Clearing House, the MarketAxess SEF Swap may only be entered into by parties with trading relationship documentation in place that meets the requirements of Applicable Law. In the event that the parties to such Trade have not previously entered into such documentation, such Trade shall be void as of execution, with no cost or other amount payable to either party. Upon becoming aware that such Trade is void, a party to such Trade shall promptly notify the other party and the MarketAxess SEF. If MarketAxess SEF submitted a report concerning such Trade to a SDR prior to receiving such notice, promptly upon receiving notice that the Trade is void, the MarketAxess SEF shall notify the SDR to which the execution of the Trade was reported that the Trade has been cancelled.

### **Rule 1007. Issuance of SEF Confirmations**

(a) MarketAxess SEF will confirm each Trade at the same time as execution of the Trade. MarketAxess SEF will provide each Counterparty to a Trade with a written record of all of the terms of the Trade which shall legally supersede any previous agreement and serve as a confirmation of the transaction (a “**Trade Confirmation**”) as soon as technologically practicable after the execution of a Trade. Such terms shall legally supersede any previous agreement and serve as a confirmation of the Trade. On the Trade Confirmation, MarketAxess SEF will:

- (i) provide the USI for the Trade and the name of the SDR where the Trade is reported;
- (ii) identify the Counterparty that is a Reporting Counterparty pursuant to CFTC Regulation 45.8, and notify each Counterparty or its agent if the Counterparty is a Reporting Counterparty, using the information provided by a Participant pursuant to Rule 302; and
- (iii) if each Counterparty has equal reporting status under CFTC Regulation 45.8, MarketAxess SEF will designate the liquidity provider as the Reporting Counterparty.

(b) The economic terms specific to the transaction agreed by the Participants on the MarketAxess SEF with respect to an uncleared transaction shall be reflected by the MarketAxess SEF in a written communication (the “**Uncleared Trade Communication**”) sent to the applicable Participants. The Trade

Communication, together with the documents and agreements (including, without limitation, ISDA master agreements, other master agreements, terms supplements, master confirmation agreements, and incorporated industry definitions) governing such transaction existing at the time of such commitment to which the counterparties are party (the “**Terms Incorporated by Reference**”) shall be incorporated by reference (the Uncleared Trade Communication and Terms Incorporated by Reference, together, the “**Uncleared SEF Confirmation**” which, with respect to an uncleared transaction, shall constitute the Trade Confirmation).

(c) The Uncleared Trade Communication, for purposes of these Rules and CFTC Regulation 37.6(b) and Parts 43 and 45 of CFTC Regulations, shall serve as a confirmation of such transaction and, in the event of any inconsistency between the terms specified in the Uncleared Trade Communication and the Terms Incorporated by Reference, the terms of the Uncleared Trade Communication shall legally supersede any contradictory terms.

(d) Each Uncleared Trade Communication shall state (A) that it incorporates the Terms Incorporated by Reference and (B) that in the event of any inconsistency between an Uncleared Trade Communication and the Terms Incorporated by Reference, the terms of the Uncleared Trade Communication shall legally supersede any contradictory terms.

(e) Each counterparty (or, if applicable, the Participant acting on behalf of a Customer) that enters into an uncleared transaction pursuant to these Rules shall provide any underlying previously-negotiated freestanding agreements, the terms of which are incorporated in the Terms Incorporated by Reference, to MarketAxess SEF upon request.

(f) Upon request from the CFTC, MarketAxess SEF shall request from any counterparty (or, if applicable, the Participant acting on behalf of a Customer) that enters into an uncleared transaction pursuant to these Rules any previously-negotiated freestanding agreements, the terms of which are incorporated in the Terms Incorporated by Reference, to MarketAxess SEF upon request and shall furnish such agreements to the CFTC as soon as they are available to MarketAxess SEF.

(g) In satisfaction of the obligations imposed on the MarketAxess SEF under CFTC Regulation 37.6(b), (i) each Uncleared Trade Communication is deemed to incorporate the Terms Incorporated by Reference set forth in this Rule 1007, and (ii) the Participants hereby agree that the provisions of Rule 1007(c) shall govern any conflicting terms.

(h) In the event of any conflict between (i) the Uncleared Trade Communication and (ii) the Terms Incorporated by Reference, the Uncleared Trade Communication shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

## **Rule 1008. Forwarding of SEF Confirmations**

In the event that a Customer is (i) a Counterparty to a Trade and (ii) not a Participant, the Participant receiving the Trade Confirmation on behalf of their Customer who is a counterparty to a Trade shall have the obligation to forward the Trade Confirmation to that Customer.

## **APPENDIX A: CREDIT CONTRACTS TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Terms and Conditions**

#### **Terms and Conditions of Specific Products**

A copy of the terms and conditions for each product that will be listed on the MarketAxess SEF is attached as Appendix A. The terms and conditions applicable to all products listed for trading on the MarketAxess SEF are described below.

#### **Terms and Conditions Applicable to All Products Listed in Appendix A**

Each of the following terms and conditions applies to all products listed in Appendix A hereto:

The trading hours are 3:00 am – 5:30 pm EST Monday through Friday.

Each contract has a minimum size of 10,000 and can be traded in increments of 1,000.

There are no daily price limits.

Price fluctuations are decimalized to six decimal points.

There are no maximum price fluctuation limits.

MarketAxess SEF Corporation will comply with the requirements of 17 C.F.R. 15.03 with respect to reportable levels.

Pursuant to the MarketAxess SEF Corporation Rulebook, MarketAxess SEF Corporation has the authority to adopt position limits or position accountability levels. Currently, no speculative position limits are required by Parts 150 or 151 of the Commission's regulations. Therefore, MarketAxess SEF Corporation has not adopted any position limits or position accountability levels.

The cash settlement method is commonly used for credit default swaps and accepted by market participants. The cash settlement process will include the following payments:

Fixed Quarterly Cash Payments: These payments are reflected in basis points and paid by the protection buyer to the protection seller.



Upfront Fee Payment: This fee is a portion of the payments, which is expressed in percentage points of the notional. The fee is present valued and paid immediately to the seller.

Contingent Payment: If there is a credit event (bankruptcy or failure to pay), payments related to the credit event settlement will be determined pursuant to the 2009 ISDA Credit Derivatives Determination Committees and Auction Settlement Supplement (i.e., the Big Bang Protocol).

### **Explanation of Compliance with the CEA and Commission Regulations Thereunder**

MarketAxess SEF Corporation will continue to comply with the CEA and Commission regulations thereunder when listing the products included in Appendix A. MarketAxess SEF Corporation uses the indices described below to determine the exchange of cash flows for the products it intends to list. The indices listed below are highly liquid indices that are not readily susceptible to manipulation. The composition and weighting of each index is governed by Markit's rules, making it extremely difficult to manipulate.

Each index used by the MarketAxess SEF Corporation for its contracts is a reliable indicator of market values and conditions. Each index is highly regarded by the industry. Markit calculates each referenced price index used by MarketAxess SEF Corporation. Markit uses business practices that minimize the opportunity or incentive to manipulate the cash-settlement price series. Furthermore, Markit's cash-settlement calculation involves computational procedures that eliminate or reduce the impact of potentially unrepresentative data.

Markit Credit Indices are made up of the most liquid entities in the relevant single-name CDS market. The indices roll on a semi-annual basis, and the composition of each new series (a new index) is established based on a transparent set of rules designed to ensure that the current series tracks the most liquid instruments in the relevant market.

### **Description of Each Index**

#### **CDX EM Index**

The CDX.EM Index is composed of sovereign issuers ("Issuers") from three regions: (i) Latin America; (ii) Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa; and (iii) Asia.<sup>2</sup> The composition of the EM Index shall be determined based on submissions by each member of Markit that elects to participate in the determination of the EM Index on a continuing basis.<sup>3</sup> Markit asks members to identify: (i) those Issuers not in the then current EM Index which the member wishes to be

---

<sup>2</sup> See "Index Methodology for the CDX Emerging Markets Index, Published as of March 1, 2013," available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-index-annexes/Markit%20CDX%20EM%20Rules%20Mar%202013.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See *id.* at 1.

added to the next EM Index; (ii) those Issuers in the then current EM Index that the member believes should be eliminated from the EM Index; and (iii) whether the member wishes to change the weightings of the next EM Index even if the Issuers in the EM Index do not change.<sup>4</sup> A member should only propose the elimination of an Issuer from the EM Index when the member believes the Issuer's outstanding debt or credit default swap contracts in respect of that Issuer have become materially less liquid.<sup>5</sup> If three or more members propose to eliminate an Issuer, add an Issuer, or change the weightings of the EM Index, Markit will solicit a vote by members.<sup>6</sup> After the composition of the new EM Index for the next six-month period has been finalized, Markit will identify a single reference obligation of each Issuer in the EM Index senior in priority of payment based on the Reference Entity Database.<sup>7</sup> If the members vote to change the weightings of the next EM Index, the members will vote on the weightings to be associated with each Issuer in the EM Index.<sup>8</sup> The weightings of all Issuers must total 100%.<sup>9</sup> Four business days prior to the Roll Date, Markit will publish to the public and members the composition of the new EM Index.<sup>10</sup> Three business days prior to the Roll Date, Markit will determine the fixed rate for the maturity of the new EM Index.<sup>11</sup> Markit will solicit each member to submit an average spread for such maturity and select the median of those submissions.<sup>12</sup> Markit will then publish a draft of the EM Index to members before publishing the final EM Index to the public.<sup>13</sup>

#### **CDX EM ex-EU Index**

On October 19, 2012, Markit announced that it would create a new CDX EM sub-index, called the CDX EM ex-EU Index, beginning on November 1, 2012.<sup>14</sup> The new sub-index does not include Hungary, and the weight of the remaining constituents was adjusted accordingly.<sup>15</sup>

#### **CDX LATAM CORP Index**

The CDX LatAm Corp Index is composed of twenty corporate issuers from Latin America.<sup>16</sup> The composition of the CDX LatAm Corp Index shall be determined based on submissions by each member of Markit that elects to participate in the determination of the CDX LatAm Corp Index

---

<sup>4</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>5</sup> See *id.*

<sup>6</sup> See *id.*

<sup>7</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>8</sup> See *id.* at 5.

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

<sup>10</sup> See *id.*

<sup>11</sup> See *id.*

<sup>12</sup> See *id.*

<sup>13</sup> See *id.*

<sup>14</sup> See "Markit to Launch new CDX EM Sub-Index, October 19, 2012," available at <http://www.markit.com/en/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/cdx/news.page?>

<sup>15</sup> See *id.*

<sup>16</sup> See "Markit CDX LatAm Corp Index Methodology," available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-index-annexes/Markit%20CDX%20LatAm%20Corp%20Rules%20Sept%202012.pdf>.

on a continuing basis.<sup>17</sup> Ten business days before a new Roll Date, Markit will solicit each Eligible Latam Corp Member to identify (i) those Issuers not in the then current Latam Corp Index which such Eligible Latam Corp Member wishes to be added to the next Latam Corp index; (ii) those Issuers in the then current Latam Corp Index that in such Eligible Latam Corp Member's judgment should be eliminated from the next Latam Corp Index; and (iii) whether such Eligible Latam Corp Member wishes to change the weightings of the Issuers in the next Latam Corp Index, even if the Issuers in the Latam Corp Index do not change.<sup>18</sup> An Eligible Latam Corp Member may propose the elimination of an Issuer from the Latam Corp Index for the reasons set forth in the "Markit CDX LatAm Corp Index Methodology."<sup>19</sup> Markit will solicit votes from each Eligible Latam Corp Member and alter the composition of the Latam Corp Index and the weighting of the index according to the procedures set forth in the "Markit CDX LatAm Corp Index Methodology."<sup>20</sup> Markit will then publish to Eligible Latam Corp Members and the public the composition of the new Latam Corp Index. After the composition of the new Latam Corp Index for the next six-month period has been finalized, Markit will identify a single reference obligation of each Issuer in the Latam Corp Index senior in priority of payment based on the Reference Entity Database.<sup>21</sup> Three business days prior to the Roll Date, Markit will determine the fixed rate for the maturity of the new Latam Corp Index.<sup>22</sup> Markit will solicit each Latam Corp Member to submit an average spread for such maturity and select the median of those submissions.<sup>23</sup> Markit will then publish a draft of the Latam Corp Index to members before publishing the final Latam Corp Index to the public.<sup>24</sup>

### **North American High Yield CDX Index**

The composition of Markit's North American High Yield CDX Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in Markit CDX High Yield & Markit CDX Investment Grade Index Rules.<sup>25</sup>

Markit's North American High Yield CDX Index is composed of one hundred liquid North American entities with high yield credit ratings that trade in the CDS market.<sup>26</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates a Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>27</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and: (a)

---

<sup>17</sup> See *id.* at 2.

<sup>18</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>19</sup> See *id.* at 3-4.

<sup>20</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>21</sup> See *id.* at 5.

<sup>22</sup> See *id.*

<sup>23</sup> See *id.* at 5-6.

<sup>24</sup> See *id.*

<sup>25</sup> See Markit CDX High Yield & Markit CDX Investment Grade Index Rules, March 2013, available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-index-annexes/Markit%20CDX%20HY%20and%20IG%20Rules%20Mar%202013.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>27</sup> See *id.* at 5.

determining all entities for which single-name CDS are traded under the Standard North American Corporate Transaction Type (as defined in the 2003 ISDA Credit Derivatives Definitions); (b) including on the list the entities that have been assigned a Relevant Rating of below “BBB-” or “Baa3”; (c) ranking the entities resulting from (a) and (b) from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC report.<sup>28</sup> Markit then uses certain general criteria, exclusions, and inclusions detailed in the Rules to create a new HY Index.<sup>29</sup> Markit publishes the Provisional HY Index on its website for comment.<sup>30</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are necessary.<sup>31</sup> After the composition of the HY Index has been finalized, Markit will identify a single reference obligation for each entity in the HY Index, senior in priority of payment, based on the Reference Entity Database.<sup>32</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

### **North American Investment Grade CDX Index**

The composition of Markit’s North American Investment Grade CDX Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in Markit CDX High Yield & Markit CDX Investment Grade Index Rules.<sup>33</sup>

Markit’s North American Investment Grade CDX Index is composed of one hundred and twenty five of the most liquid North American entities with investment grade credit ratings that trade in the CDS market.<sup>34</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates a Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>35</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and: (a) determining all entities for which single-name CDS are traded under the Standard North American Corporate Transaction Type (as defined in the 2003 ISDA Credit Derivatives Definitions); (b) including on the list the entities that have been assigned a Relevant Rating of “BBB-” or “Baa3” or above; (c) ranking the entities resulting from (a) and (b) from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC report.<sup>36</sup> Markit then uses certain general criteria, exclusions, and inclusions detailed in the Rules to create a new IG Index.<sup>37</sup> Markit publishes the Provisional IG Index on its website for comment.<sup>38</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are

---

<sup>28</sup> See *id.* at 6.

<sup>29</sup> See *id.* at 6-9.

<sup>30</sup><sup>30</sup> See *id.* at 9.

<sup>31</sup> See *id.*

<sup>32</sup> See *id.* at 14.

<sup>33</sup> See “Markit CDX High Yield & Markit CDX Investment Grade Index Rules, March 2013,” available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-index-annexes/Markit%20CDX%20HY%20and%20IG%20Rules%20Mar%202013.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>35</sup> See *id.* at 10.

<sup>36</sup> See *id.*

<sup>37</sup> See *id.* at 10-13.

<sup>38</sup> See *id.* at 13.

necessary.<sup>39</sup> After the composition of the IG Index has been finalized, Markit will identify a single reference obligation for each entity in the IG Index, senior in priority of payment, based on the Reference Entity Database.<sup>40</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

### **Markit CDX HVOL Sub-index**

The Markit CDX HVOL is a sub-index of the IG Index.<sup>41</sup> The CDX HVOL comprises the thirty entities in the IG Index with the widest five-year average CDS spreads over the last ninety days prior to the date the HVOL index is determined.<sup>42</sup>

### **CDX.NA.XO**

Although no further roll dates will occur for the CDX.NA.XO Index, the existing series is governed by the Index Methodology for the CDX Indices published on August 31, 2007.<sup>43</sup> The XO Index is composed of thirty-five entities that have an “Eligible Rating” and are either domiciled in North America or have a majority of their outstanding bonds and loans denominated in USD.<sup>44</sup> The composition of the XO Index is determined based on submissions by each member of Markit that elects to participate in the determination of the XO Index on a continuing basis.<sup>45</sup> An “Eligible Rating” for the XO Index means: (i) a crossover (7B) rating (i.e., a rating in the BBB/Baa rating category by one of S&P, Moody’s or Fitch and in the BB/Ba rating category by the other two); (ii) a 6B rating (i.e., a rating in the BB/Ba rating category by S&P, Moody’s and Fitch); (iii) a rating in the BBB/Baa rating category by one of S&P, Moody’s or Fitch, a rating in the BB/Ba category by one of the other two, and no rating by the other agency; or (iv) a rating in the BB/Ba rating category by one or two of S&P, Moody’s and Fitch and no rating by the other(s).<sup>46</sup>

### **iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index**

MarketAxess SEF Corporation currently offers a product based on the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan third series. This series is governed by the Dow Jones iTraxx Portfolio Rules of Construction.<sup>47</sup> To determine the composition of the Dow Jones iTraxx Asia ex-Japan third series, each market maker submitted a list of the most liquid Asian CDS names based on trading volumes of the

---

<sup>39</sup> *See id.*

<sup>40</sup> *See id.* at 14.

<sup>41</sup> *See id.* at 16.

<sup>42</sup> *See id.*

<sup>43</sup> *See* “Index Methodology for the CDX Indices,” *available at* <https://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/rules/Markit-CDX-LCDX-Rules.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> *See id.* at 9.

<sup>45</sup> *See id.*

<sup>46</sup> *See id.*

<sup>47</sup> *See* “Dow Jones iTraxx – Product Descriptions Asia ex-Japan, Australia & Japan CDS Indices,” included as Appendix B hereto.

twelve months prior to its publication.<sup>48</sup> Names were selected to form each of the regional sub-indices.<sup>49</sup> DJ iTraxx Korea comprised eight names; DJ iTraxx Greater China was required to have nine constituents with a minimum of two each from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan; DJ iTraxx Rest of Asia comprised thirteen names from the remaining Asian countries.<sup>50</sup> The regional sub-indices were aggregated to form DJ iTraxx Asia ex-Japan.<sup>51</sup> DJ iTraxx Asia ex-Japan includes both investment grade and non-investment grade names.<sup>52</sup>

### **iTraxx Asia ex-Japan IG Index**

The composition of the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan IG Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index Rules.<sup>53</sup> The iTraxx Asia ex-Japan index is composed of forty liquid Asian (excluding Japanese) entities with investment grade credit ratings that trade in the CDS market.<sup>54</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>55</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and: (a) determining all entities that: (i) are incorporated in Asia (excluding Japan); (ii) demonstrate trading activity greater than zero during the last eight weeks; (iii) have an investment grade Relevant Rating as defined in the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index Rules; (b) ranking those entities meeting the criteria in (a), from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC Report.<sup>56</sup> If fewer than forty eligible entities are identified, Markit will follow procedures set forth in the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index Rules.<sup>57</sup> Markit publishes the Provisional iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index on its website for comment.<sup>58</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are necessary.<sup>59</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

---

<sup>48</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>49</sup> See *id.*

<sup>50</sup> See *id.*

<sup>51</sup> See *id.*

<sup>52</sup> See *id.*

<sup>53</sup> See "Markit iTraxx Asia ex-Japan Index Rules, August 2013" available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20Asia%20ex-Japan%20S20%20Rulebook%20Final%20v2.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> See *id.* at 1.

<sup>55</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>56</sup> See *id.* at 5.

<sup>57</sup> See *id.*

<sup>58</sup> See *id.* at 6.

<sup>59</sup> See *id.*

## iTraxx Australia

The iTraxx Australia Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in iTraxx Australia Index Rules.<sup>60</sup> The iTraxx Australia Index is composed of twenty-five liquid Australian entities with investment grade credit ratings that trade in the CDS market or have significant domestic bond issuance.<sup>61</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates the iTraxx Australia Index Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>62</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and determining all entities for which the following criteria are satisfied: (a) only entities from the Australia DC region as specified in the DTCC Report will be considered for inclusion; (b) entities must be incorporated in Australia; (c) no more than five bank entities may be included in the index; (d) entities must demonstrate trading activity greater than zero during the last eight weeks; (e) entities must be rated investment grade by Fitch, Moody's, or S&P (this translates to a minimum rating of Baa3 from Moody's and BBB- from Fitch or S&P).<sup>63</sup> Markit then ranks those entities from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC Report.<sup>64</sup> Markit publishes the Provisional iTraxx Australia Index on its website for comment.<sup>65</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are necessary.<sup>66</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

## iTraxx CEEMEA Index

The composition of the iTraxx CEEMEA Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules.<sup>67</sup> The iTraxx CEEMEA Index is composed of twenty-five corporate and quasi-sovereign entities from Central and Eastern European, Middle Eastern, and African countries.<sup>68</sup> No more than forty percent of the index can be included from any one sector or jurisdiction.<sup>69</sup> To be eligible for inclusion, entities must have a minimum of 500 million USD equivalent of debt outstanding.<sup>70</sup> In establishing a new series of the index, Markit asks market participants which entities they would like to remove from the existing index.<sup>71</sup> All entities with more than fifty percent of the votes from the

---

<sup>60</sup> See "Markit iTraxx Australia Rules, August 2013" available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20Australia%20S20%20Rulebook%20Final%20v2.pdf>.

<sup>61</sup> See *id.*

<sup>62</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>63</sup> See *id.* at 4-5.

<sup>64</sup> See *id.* at 5.

<sup>65</sup> See *id.* at 6.

<sup>66</sup> See *id.*

<sup>67</sup> See "Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules, August 2013," available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20CEEMEA%20S20%20Rulebook%20Final.pdf>.

<sup>68</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>69</sup> See *id.*

<sup>70</sup> See *id.*

<sup>71</sup> See *id.*

market participants are excluded from the index.<sup>72</sup> Next, Markit requests that dealers submit lists of entities market participants would like to include in the new series of the iTraxx CEEMEA Index.<sup>73</sup> Markit will tally votes and select entities for membership in the new series until the number of names in the index is twenty-five.<sup>74</sup>

### **iTraxx CEEMEA Corp**

The iTraxx CEEMEA Corp Index is governed by the rules set forth in the Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules.<sup>75</sup> The iTraxx CEEMEA Corp Index comprised of corporate entities included in the iTraxx CEEMEA Index. The rules and methodologies applicable to the iTraxx CEEMEA Index are described above.

### **iTraxx CEEMEA Ex-EU**

The iTraxx SovX CEEMEA ex-EU Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules.<sup>76</sup> The iTraxx SovX CEEMEA ex-EU Index is a tradable index consisting of constituents of the iTraxx SovX CEEMEA Index which are not European Union member states or expected to become European Union member states during the six month period following the index roll.<sup>77</sup>

---

<sup>72</sup> See *id.*

<sup>73</sup> See *id.*

<sup>74</sup> See *id.*

<sup>75</sup> See "Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules, August 2013," available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20CEEMEA%20S20%20Rulebook%20Final.pdf>.

<sup>76</sup> See "Markit iTraxx CEEMEA Index Rules, August 2013," available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20CEEMEA%20S20%20Rulebook%20Final.pdf>.

<sup>77</sup> See *id.* at 5.



## **iTraxx Europe Index**

The composition of the iTraxx Europe Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules.<sup>78</sup>

The Markit iTraxx Europe Index is composed of one hundred twenty five liquid European entities with investment grade credit ratings that trade in the CDS market.<sup>79</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates the Markit iTraxx Europe Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>80</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and: (a) determining all entities that: (i) are incorporated in Europe; (ii) are classified with the “DC Region” as “Europe” in the DTCC Report; (iii) demonstrate trading activity greater than zero during the last eight weeks; (iv) have an investment grade Relevant Rating as defined in the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules; (b) ranking those entities meeting the criteria in (a), from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC Report.<sup>81</sup> Markit then uses certain general criteria detailed in the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules to create a new iTraxx Europe Index.<sup>82</sup> Markit publishes the Provisional Markit iTraxx Europe Index on its website for comment.<sup>83</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are necessary.<sup>84</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

## **iTraxx Senior Financials**

The Markit iTraxx Senior Financials comprises the twenty five financial entities from the Markit iTraxx Europe index referencing senior debt.<sup>85</sup> It is a sub-index of the Markit iTraxx Europe Index and is governed by the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules.<sup>86</sup>

---

<sup>78</sup> See “Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules, August 2013,” available at <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20Europe%20Index%20Rules%20S19.pdf>.

<sup>79</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>80</sup> See *id.* at 6.

<sup>81</sup> See *id.*

<sup>82</sup> See *id.* at 6-8.

<sup>83</sup> See *id.* at 8.

<sup>84</sup> See *id.*

<sup>85</sup> See *id.* at 8.

<sup>86</sup> See *id.*

### **iTraxx Subordinated Financials**

The Markit iTraxx Subordinated Financials comprises the twenty five financial entities from the Markit iTraxx Europe index referencing subordinate debt.<sup>87</sup> It is a sub-index of the Markit iTraxx Europe Index and is governed by the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules.<sup>88</sup>

### **iTraxx HiVol**

iTraxx HiVol comprises the thirty entities with the widest five-year CDS spreads from the Markit iTraxx Europe Non-Financials Index. The average of five-year mid-spreads, published by Markit, calculated over the last ten business days of the month prior to the month in which the Roll Date occurs, determine eligibility. iTraxx HiVol is a sub-index of the Markit iTraxx Europe Index and is governed by the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules.<sup>89</sup>

### **iTraxx Japan**

The composition of the iTraxx Japan Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in the Markit iTraxx Japan Index Rules.<sup>90</sup> The Markit iTraxx Japan main index comprises fifty investment grade rated Japanese entities.<sup>91</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates the Markit iTraxx Japan Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>92</sup> Entities on the iTraxx Japan Liquidity List must: (a) be incorporated in Japan; and (b) demonstrate trading activity greater than zero during the last eight weeks.<sup>93</sup> At the time of an iTraxx Japan index roll, the composition of the index is initially set to be the same as the previous series.<sup>94</sup> Any entity not rated Investment Grade will be excluded and replaced by the next most eligible entity.<sup>95</sup> Existing constituents will be excluded from the new index if they are either: (a) not part of the iTraxx Japan Liquidity List; or (b) if more than seventy five entities are available on the iTraxx Japan Liquidity List and they are ranked seventy sixth or below.<sup>96</sup> The reference obligations for the reference entities are obtained from Markit Group's Reference Entity Database in conjunction with input from Markit iTraxx market makers.<sup>97</sup> For names in the overall index, senior reference obligations are used where possible.<sup>98</sup>

---

<sup>87</sup> *See id.*

<sup>88</sup> *See id.*

<sup>89</sup> *See id.*

<sup>90</sup> *See* "Markit iTraxx Japan Index Rules, July 2013" *available at* <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20Japan%20S20%20Rulebook.pdf>.

<sup>91</sup> *See id.* at 3.

<sup>92</sup> *See id.*

<sup>93</sup> *See id.*

<sup>94</sup> *See id.*

<sup>95</sup> *See id.*

<sup>96</sup> *See id.*

<sup>97</sup> *See id.*

<sup>98</sup> *See id.*

### **iTraxx SovX Western Europe Index**

The iTraxx SovX Western Europe Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the Markit iTraxx SovX Index Rules.<sup>99</sup> The Markit iTraxx SovX Western Europe Index is a tradable index comprised of up to fifteen equally weighted sovereign constituents from an eighteen name universe of European countries that are traded on Western European documentation.<sup>100</sup> The eighteen name universe comprises Eurozone countries that are traded on Western European documentation (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) plus Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.<sup>101</sup> From that list, the iTraxx SovX Western Europe Index is composed of the fifteen countries (or fewer if fifteen are not available) with the largest sum of weekly trading activity (as measured in the DTCC Trade Information Warehouse) over the last six months.<sup>102</sup> The list will be published on Markit's website after selection.<sup>103</sup>

### **iTraxx SovX Asia Pacific Index**

The iTraxx SovX Asia Pacific Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the Markit iTraxx SovX Index Rules.<sup>104</sup> The Markit iTraxx SovX Asia Pacific Index is a tradable index comprised of the ten most liquid sovereign entities from the Asia Pacific region.<sup>105</sup> The eleven name universe of Asia Pacific countries includes Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. From that list, the iTraxx SovX Asia Pacific Index is composed of the ten countries with the largest sum of weekly trading activity (as measured in the DTCC Trade Information Warehouse) over the last six months.<sup>106</sup> The number of index constituents is set at ten but may be changed from time to time at an index roll upon reasonable notice.<sup>107</sup> The list will be published on Markit's website after selection.<sup>108</sup>

### **iTraxx Crossover Index**

---

<sup>99</sup> See "MarkitiTraxx SovX A Global Sovereign CDS index family, July 2013," available at [https://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/sovX/Markit%20iTraxx%20SovX%20Series%2010%20Rulebook\\_Final.pdf](https://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/sovX/Markit%20iTraxx%20SovX%20Series%2010%20Rulebook_Final.pdf).

<sup>100</sup> See *id.* at 4.

<sup>101</sup> See *id.*

<sup>102</sup> See *id.*

<sup>103</sup> See *id.*

<sup>104</sup> See "MarkitiTraxx SovX A Global Sovereign CDS index family, July 2013," available at [https://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/sovX/Markit%20iTraxx%20SovX%20Series%2010%20Rulebook\\_Final.pdf](https://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/sovX/Markit%20iTraxx%20SovX%20Series%2010%20Rulebook_Final.pdf).

<sup>105</sup> See *id.* at 7.

<sup>106</sup> See *id.*

<sup>107</sup> See *id.*

<sup>108</sup> See *id.*

The composition of the iTraxx Crossover Index is determined by Markit in accordance with the rules and methodologies set forth in the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules.<sup>109</sup>

The Markit iTraxx Crossover Index is composed of up to fifty European entities with non-investment grade credit ratings that trade in the CDS market.<sup>110</sup> When establishing a new index, Markit creates the Markit iTraxx Crossover Liquidity List after each publication of the *6 month Analysis Top 1,000 Single Names* report published by DTCC.<sup>111</sup> Markit creates the Liquidity List by using the average weekly trading activity measured in the then-current DTCC report and: (a) determining all entities that: (i) are incorporated in Europe; (ii) are classified with the “DC Region” as “Europe” in the DTCC Report; (iii) demonstrate trading activity greater than zero during the last eight weeks; (iv) have a below investment grade Relevant Rating as defined in the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules; (v) are not guaranteed or controlled by (directly or indirectly) and do not guarantee or control (directly or indirectly) an affiliate that has a higher ranking on the Markit iTraxx Crossover Liquidity List and otherwise satisfies the relevant criteria; (b) ranking those entities meeting the criteria in (a), from the most liquid to the least liquid, based on the notional market risk activity as listed in the relevant DTCC Report.<sup>112</sup> Markit then uses certain general criteria detailed in the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules to create a new iTraxx Crossover Index.<sup>113</sup> If fewer than fifty entities are available from the Markit iTraxx Crossover Liquidity List that satisfy the criteria, the Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules provide for the creation of a Supplementary List.<sup>114</sup> The list of entities resulting from the steps above will be published on Markit’s website for comment.<sup>115</sup> Based on comments, Markit determines whether amendments are necessary.<sup>116</sup> Markit then publishes the new index.

---

<sup>109</sup> See “Markit iTraxx Europe Index Rules, August 2013,” *available at* <http://www.markit.com/assets/en/docs/products/data/indices/credit-and-loan-indices/iTraxx/Markit%20iTraxx%20Europe%20Index%20Rules%20S19.pdf>.

<sup>110</sup> See *id.* at 3.

<sup>111</sup> See *id.* at 9.

<sup>112</sup> See *id.*

<sup>113</sup> See *id.* at 10-11.

<sup>114</sup> See *id.* at 11.

<sup>115</sup> See *id.* at 14.

<sup>116</sup> See *id.*

## Dow Jones iTraxx – Product Descriptions

### Asia ex-Japan, Australia & Japan CDS Indices

#### 1. Dow Jones iTraxx Asia ex-Japan

##### Portfolio Composition

- A static portfolio of 30 equally-weighted credit default swaps on Asian entities
- 3 regional sub-indices: Korea, Greater China & Rest of Asia
- Rules-based construction based on CDS volumes by Dealer Poll
- Administered by International Index Company (IIC)
- New series of DJ iTraxx Asia ex-Japan issued every 6 months

##### Rationale

- Highly liquid credit tool
- Highly diversified Asian credit portfolio
- Attractive to investors looking to diversify rather than track
- Regional sub-indices allow investors to take more specific risks

##### Market Participants

- Portfolio Managers
  - portfolio balancing tool
  - efficient way of executing credit views
  - avoid performance lag during “ramp-up” period
- Regional banks
  - better manage portfolio risks
- Hedge funds
  - efficient tool to go long / short Asian credits
- Insurance
  - proxy hedge against senior CDO credit portfolio
- Corporate Treasury
  - enhanced access to diversified Asian credit risk
- Credit Correlation Trading Desks
  - attractive tool for portfolio hedging

##### Terms & Conditions

- Tradable in CDS format
- 5½ year maturity upon roll

#### 2. Dow Jones iTraxx Australia

##### Portfolio Composition

- A static portfolio of 25 equally-weighted credit default swaps on Australian entities
- Rules-based construction based on CDS volumes by Dealer Poll
- Administered by International Index Company (IIC)
- New series of DJ iTraxx Australia issued every 6 months

##### Rationale

- Highly liquid credit tool
- Highly diversified Australian credit portfolio
- Attractive to investors looking to diversify rather than track

##### Market Participants

- Portfolio Managers
  - portfolio balancing tool
  - efficient way of executing credit views
  - avoid performance lag during “ramp-up” period
- Hedge funds
  - efficient tool to go long / short Australian credits
- Insurance
  - proxy hedge against senior CDO credit portfolio
- Corporate Treasury
  - credit diversification
- Credit Correlation Trading Desks
  - attractive tool for portfolio hedging

##### Terms & Conditions

- Tradable in CDS format
- 5½ year maturity upon roll

### 3. Dow Jones iTraxx CJ

#### Portfolio Composition

- A static portfolio of 50 equally-weighted credit default swaps on Japanese entities
- Rules-based construction based on CDS trade volume ranking submitted by Dealers
- Administered by International Index Company (IIC) in co-operation with Quick as Calculation Agent
- New series of DJ iTraxx CJ Japan issued every 6 months

#### Rationale

- Highly liquid credit tool
- Highly diversified Japanese credit portfolio
- Attractive base to develop structured products from highly liquid Japanese credit portfolio

#### Market Participants

- Portfolio Managers
  - portfolio balancing tool
  - efficient way of executing credit views
  - avoid performance lag during "ramp-up" period
- Hedge funds
  - efficient tool to go long / short Japanese credits
- Banks and Insurance Companies
  - proxy hedge against corporate loan and bond portfolio
  - proxy hedge against senior and sub CDO credit portfolio
- Corporate Treasury
  - enhanced access to diversified Japanese credit risk
- Credit Correlation Trading Desks
  - attractive tool for portfolio hedging

#### Terms & Conditions

- Tradable in CDS format
- 5½ and 10½ year maturity upon roll

## Dow Jones iTraxx - Portfolio Rules of Construction

### 1. Dow Jones iTraxx Asia ex-Japan

- Each market maker submits a list of the most liquid Asian CDS names:
  - trading volumes of each name are aggregated by individual market makers
  - trading volumes of the past 12 months are used
  - the names are ranked according to trading volume
  - all internal transactions are excluded from the volume statistics, e.g. those with an internal prop desk
- IIC aggregates the volume ranked lists from individual market makers to compute final liquidity rankings
- A set number of names are selected, based on liquidity, to form the regional sub-indices:
  - DJ iTraxx Korea comprises 8 names
  - DJ iTraxx Greater China has 9 constituents with a minimum of 2 names from each of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan
  - DJ iTraxx Rest of Asia comprises 13 names from the remaining Asian countries
- The regional sub-indices are aggregated to form DJ iTraxx- Asia ex-Japan
- Each name in the overall and sub-indices is equally weighted.
- For indices that cannot be equally divided, weighting adjustments (in the magnitude of +/- 0.01%) will be made to names in descending order of liquidity
- DJ iTraxx Asian ex-Japan includes both investment grade and non-investment grade names
- Composition is reviewed every 6 months and adjusted following a renewed dealer poll based on liquidity

### Dow Jones iTraxx Asia ex-Japan First to Default baskets

- The following standard FTD baskets will be traded:
  - Financial
  - Diversified
- The Financial basket comprises 5 names and includes the investment grade financial entity with the highest spread from each country/region.
- The Diversified basket comprises 5 names and includes the investment grade entity with the highest spread from each country/region, excluding financials where possible.

## 2. Dow Jones iTraxx Australia

- DJ iTraxx Australia includes investment grade rated names listed on the ASX
- Each market maker submits a list of the most liquid traded names:
  - trading volumes of each name are aggregated by individual market makers
  - trading volumes of the past 12 months are used
  - for bank names, subordinated debt is used
  - all internal transactions are excluded from the volume statistics, e.g. those with an internal prop desk
- IIC aggregates the volume ranked lists from individual market makers to compute final liquidity rankings
- The top 25 names are selected from the volume ranked list to form DJ iTraxx Australia
- Each name within the index has an equal weight of 4%
- Composition is reviewed every 6 months and adjusted following a renewed dealer poll based on liquidity

## Dow Jones iTraxx Australia First to Default baskets

- The following standard FTD baskets will be traded:
  - High Beta
  - Diversified
- The High Beta basket comprises the 5 non-financial entities with the highest spread from the top 15 most liquid names.
- The Diversified basket comprises 5 names and includes the most liquid entity from each iTraxx sector (Autos, Consumer, Energy, Financial, Industrials, TMT) - if represented in the Australia index. Names already in the High Beta basket are excluded.



### 3. Dow Jones iTraxx CJ

- DJ iTraxx CJ includes investment grade rated names of Japanese corporations and banks
- Each market maker submits a list of the most liquid traded names:
  - trading volumes of each name are aggregated by individual market makers
  - trading volumes of the past 12 months are used
  - for bank names, both subordinated and senior volumes are combined
  - all internal transactions are excluded from the volume statistics, e.g. those with an internal prop desk
- IIC aggregates the volume ranked lists from individual market makers to compute final liquidity rankings
- The top 50 names with a Nikkei industry cap of 10 are selected from the volume ranked list to form DJ iTraxx CJ.
- At the time of an index roll, existing names will leave the index if they rank #76 or lower. They are replaced by the most liquid new names. If there are additional new names ranked #25 or higher, they will be included, replacing the least liquid names of the updated overall 50-name list
- The following sector indices will be traded in addition to the overall index:
  - Financials (sub debt for major banks, rest senior)
  - Technology
  - Capital goods & others
  - HiVol (10 names with the widest spreads from long list of 100 names – excl financial subordinated)
- Each name is weighted equally in the overall and sub-indices. For indices that cannot be divided equally to two decimal places, weighting adjustments (in the magnitude of +/- 0.01%) will be made in alphabetical order
- For Financial names in the overall index, senior reference obligations are used.

- Composition of the overall index is reviewed every 6 months and adjusted following a renewed CDS volume-based dealer poll
- At the time of an index roll, names will leave the HiVol index if they fall below #20 on the list of widest spreads. A new name is included if it ranks #1.
- Upon each roll the new indices will launch with 5½ and 10½-year maturities

### Dow Jones iTraxx CJ First to Default baskets

- The following standard FTD baskets will be traded:
  - Diversified
  - HiVol
- Each FTD basket contains the most liquid entity from each sector of the respective index.
- The Diversified basket comprises the most liquid entity from each of the following sectors in the 50-name index: Financial; Transportation & Utility; Consumption; Materials; Capital goods & others; Technology
- The HiVol basket comprises the most liquid entity from each sector represented in the HiVol index

### **CDX.EM Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the CDX.EM index made up of sovereign issuers from Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia as published by Markit from time to time at a predetermined level as agreed to by the counterparties

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** USD

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday of the contact month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European

### **CDX.NA.HY Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the CDX.NA.HY index made up one hundred (100) liquid North American entities with high yield credit ratings as published by Markit from time to time at a predetermined level as agreed to by the counterparties

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** USD

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday of the contact month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European

### **CDX.NA.IG Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the CDX.NA.IG index made up of one hundred twenty five (125) of the most liquid North American entities with investment grade credit ratings as published by Markit from time to time

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** USD

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3rd) Wednesday of the contact month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European

#### **iTraxx Europe Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the iTraxx Europe index made up of one hundred twenty five (125) of the most liquid European entities with investment grade credit ratings as published by Markit from time to time

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** EUR

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3rd) Wednesday of the contact month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European

#### **iTraxx Europe Crossover Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the iTraxx Europe Crossover index made up of fifty (50) European entities with non-investment grade credit ratings as published by Markit from time to time

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** EUR

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3rd) Wednesday of the contact month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European

#### **iTraxx Europe Senior Financials Option Contract**

**Contract Description** Agreement to buy or sell the right to exercise into a swap on the iTraxx Europe Senior Financials index made up of twenty five (25) European financial entities from the iTraxx Europe index referencing senior debt as published by Markit from time to time

**Contract Months** Any calendar month

**Price Quotation** Option premium is quoted in cents

**Currency** EUR

**Listing Cycle** Tenors of 1 through 10 years based on liquidity

**Series** All Series not yet expired, initiated with series 1, based on liquidity

**First Trade Date** Date of contract listing

**Last Trade Date** (Expiration Date) The third (3rd) Wednesday of the contract month, cannot be longer in duration than the last trade date of the referenced index

**Option Style** European