



# CME Group

Electronic Corporate Membership  
Questions & Answers  
December 2011

## 1. What is CME Electronic Corporate Membership?

Electronic Corporate Membership is a class of membership under CME Rule 106.R. that allows proprietary trading firms to receive discounted fees for their electronic proprietary trades that are done by qualified registered traders in accordance with CME policies. Electronic Corporate Members are not eligible for discounted fees on their open outcry trades, nor are they allowed to access CME's trading floors.

## Membership Requirements

### 2. Are there membership holding requirements for Electronic Corporate Members?

Yes. Electronic Corporate Members are required either to purchase one membership or lease two memberships (*GEM memberships do not qualify for this program*) in the division in which they wish to receive discounted rates. This requirement is **waived through December 2012** for Electronic Corporate Members satisfying a quarterly minimum volume requirement (Refer to questions 20-27).

**Note:** An Electronic Corporate Member holding the necessary membership(s) (denoted "ECM Holding Member" or "ECM-H") generally pays lower exchange fees than Electronic Corporate Members that do not hold membership(s) and satisfy minimum quarterly volume requirements (denoted "ECM Volume Incentive Program" or "ECM-W"). Refer to the "Fee Schedule" section for additional fee information.

### 3. What is the difference between an ECM-H and an ECM-W?

For the purposes of this Q&A document:

- An "ECM-H" is an Electronic Corporate Member holding the required membership(s).
- An "ECM-W" is an Electronic Corporate Member that does not hold the required membership(s) under the volume incentive program membership waiver. The membership waiver of ECM-Ws expires December 31, 2012.
- An "ECM" is an Electronic Corporate Member and includes both ECM-Hs and ECM-Ws.

**Note:** ECM-Hs pay less than ECM-Ws for trades executed within division during Regular Trading Hours (Refer to question 34 for more details).

## Firm eligibility

### 4. What types of firms are eligible for Electronic Corporate Membership? What types of firms are not eligible?

**Eligible Firms:** Proprietary trading groups are eligible for Electronic Corporate Membership. They will receive discounted fees for all electronic trading in the accounts of the proprietary trading firm conducted in accordance with CME policies.

**Ineligible Firms:** Hedge Funds, Commodity Pools, Banks, FCMs, Foreign Brokers, Broker/Dealers, Commodity Trading Advisors, Introducing Brokers and other firms that hold and/or manage third party funds are not eligible for Electronic Corporate Membership.

**5. What firms qualify as Proprietary Trading Firms?**

A proprietary trading firm is a legal entity that trades its own capital. Trading funds must be exclusively firm funds and all trading must be done in the firm's accounts. Traders must be owners of, employees of, or contractors to the firm.

**6. What guidelines are used to determine if trading is proprietary?**

A proprietary account is evidenced through:

- All profits and losses of the account are included in the income of the firm.
- All profits and losses of the account are taxed to the firm.
- The trader (non-owner) does not make any capital contribution to the account.
- Only the firm's capital is at risk of loss; no traders may make any contributions or payments to the firm nor have any capital at risk.
- All trading activity must be solely for the benefit of the ECM. No other individuals or entities can have any ownership interest in the ECM's proprietary accounts.
- All funds contributed to and traded under the ECM are subject to loss from any and all trading activity of the ECM.

Please refer to **Fee Policy Bulletin** #09-01 dated June 16, 2009 for complete details of fee policies concerning Member Firm Accounts.

**7. Can an existing ECM-H convert to an ECM-W?**

No. ECM-Hs which have met the membership requirement cannot step down to an ECM-W.

**8. Can an existing ECM-H change to a lower division of membership held?**

No. ECM-Hs cannot step down to a lower division of membership held.

**9. Can an existing ECM-H change to a higher division of membership held?**

Yes. ECM-Hs may acquire a higher division of membership to meet the membership requirements of CME Rule 106.R. As an ECM-H only the trades conducted in the division of membership held will be entitled to the lower rates during RTH.

**10. Can existing CME Rule 106.H. Trading Member Firms convert to an ECM-W?**

No.

**11. Can existing CME Rule 106.H. Trading Member Firms convert to ECM-H?**

Yes. The firm must hold the required memberships, retaining at least the membership division of the CME Rule 106.H. Member and meet all other requirements for ECM-H including the prohibition on current and former members from trading an ECM-H account.

**12. Can existing CME Clearing Members or CME Rule 106.J. Equity Member Firms (formerly known as CME Corporate Equity Members) convert to an ECM-W?**

No.

**13. Can existing CME Clearing Members or CME Rule 106.J. Equity Member firms (formerly known as CME Corporate Equity Members) convert to ECM-H?**

Yes. The firm must hold the required memberships. Upon conversion the firm will be subject to all of the ECM-H policies, including the prohibition on current and former members from trading an ECM-H account.

**14. If I am or have been a CME member within the past two years, as either an equity owner or lessee, am I allowed to establish an ECM in order to train new traders?**

Yes. CME members (whether equity owners or lessees) are allowed to own ECMs and share in the trading results of the ECM. However, any trader who owns, holds, or has owned or held a membership in any of CME's divisions within the past two years cannot trade the ECM's account electronically.

There are no restrictions prohibiting equity members who own such ECMs from subsequently selling their memberships or giving up their leases. However, they will continue to be prohibited from trading the ECM's account electronically for two years following the disposition of those memberships or leases.

**Who can trade**

**15. Are there any restrictions on who may trade an ECM's trading accounts?**

Yes. To receive discounted transaction fees, trades must be done by registered traders. In general, trades done by any owner of, employee of, or contractor to the trading firm may receive discounted fees. However, traders, including owners of the trading firm, who currently own, hold, or have owned or held trading privileges in any CME division during the two years immediately preceding their registration as a trader of the firm's accounts cannot trade the accounts electronically.

While there are no restrictions prohibiting equity members who own such ECMs from subsequently selling their memberships or giving up their leases, they will, however, continue to be prohibited from trading the ECM account electronically for two years following the disposition of their memberships or leases.

CME will conduct periodic reviews of ECM traders to ensure no current or previous (within the past two years) individual members are trading the accounts electronically. Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and any previously discounted fees paid may be re-assessed at higher rates.

Please refer to **Fee Policy Bulletin** #09-01 dated June 16, 2009 for complete details of fee policies concerning Member Firm Accounts.

**16. Is there a W-2 requirement for traders trading a proprietary trading firm's ECM accounts?**

No. However, the terms of any contractual agreement between the trading firm and its traders must support the classification of the trading activity as proprietary for purposes of this program.

Please refer to **Fee Policy Bulletin** #09-01 dated June 16, 2009 for complete details of fee policies concerning Member Firm Accounts.

**17. Can a member or former member of CME trade the ECM account?**

No. Individuals who own, hold, or have owned or held memberships in any CME division in the past two years cannot trade the ECM's account electronically. This prohibition applies equally to ECM-Hs and ECM-Ws.

**18. Can a former CME member lease a membership and trade the ECM account?**

No. Individuals who own, hold, or have owned or held memberships in any CME division in the past two years cannot trade the ECM's account electronically. This prohibition applies equally to ECM-Hs and ECM-Ws.

**19. Can I trade the ECM's account if I am or have been a GEM member? What if I have held a membership pursuant to CME Rules 106.F, H, or I?**

No. As noted above, traders of the ECM who own, hold, or have owned or held a membership in any of CME's divisions within the past two years can not trade the ECM's account electronically. This includes the GEM division as well as trading rights held via any member firm category. This prohibition applies equally to ECM-Hs and ECM-Ws.

**Minimum Volume**

**20. What are the minimum volume requirements for the membership waiver?**

ECM-Ws that traded on average 50 contracts (sides) a day in the previous calendar quarter are eligible for the waiver of the membership requirement. Eligibility for the waiver of the membership requirement will be re-evaluated on a calendar quarter basis (March, June, September and December) for the previous 3-months of trading.

ECM-Ws that do not satisfy the membership requirements and that fail the minimum quarterly volume requirement will no longer be ECM-Ws and will receive non-member/customer rates on all future trades.

**21. Must an ECM-H satisfy the trading volume requirement?**

No. Only ECM-Ws (an ECM not holding the required membership(s)) are subject to the minimum quarterly volume requirement.

**22. How is an ECM-W's average daily volume calculated for the purposes of the minimum quarterly volume requirement?**

For each quarter, CME sums the sides traded through accounts held by the ECM-W and registered in CME's Exchange Fee System as such. To be included in the sum the contract side must trade and clear on a day within the quarter. CME calculates the average daily volume by dividing that sum by the number of business days in the quarter. Exchange holidays where only Globex is open are excluded from the business day count for the quarter.

**23. How is an ECM-W's average daily volume calculated if the ECM-W was approved midway through the quarter?**

The average daily volume will be based on the sides traded while the firm was an ECM-W and the number of business days that the entity was an ECM-W during the quarter.

**24. For an ECM-W failing the minimum quarterly volume requirement, when will the membership status and fee changes go into effect?**

On the 15th of the review month (or first business day thereafter).

For instance, if an ECM-W averages below 50 contracts (sides) a day for the first quarter of 2012, the ECM-W membership and fee status will change effective April 15, 2012. For the period April 1 through April 14, the firm will retain Electronic Corporate Membership and receive the rates of an ECM-W. On and after April 15, the firm's Electronic Corporate membership will be expired and the firm will receive non-member/customer rates on all future trades.

**25. Will CME notify the ECM-W or the clearing firm of its failure to meet the minimum quarterly volume requirement?**

Yes. CME will notify an ECM-W failing the average minimum quarterly volume requirement. Additionally, CME will publish this expiration in CME's Special Executive Report and will do its best to notify an ECM-W's clearing member firms through direct communication (e.g. e-mail) that the Electronic Corporate Membership of the ECM-W is expiring. However, the expiring ECM-W is responsible for communicating with its clearing member firms the change in its membership status.

**26. Can a former ECM-W that failed the minimum quarterly volume requirement re-apply to be an ECM-W?**

Yes. If the firm chooses to re-apply, the firm must follow the application process, including payment of the application fee.

**27. Can a current ECM-W or former ECM-W that failed the minimum quarterly volume threshold become an ECM-H?**

Yes.

**Process**

**28. How do firms apply for Electronic Corporate Membership?**

Firms wishing to apply for Electronic Corporate Membership should contact the Audit Department at (312) 930-3230. The application form can be found on CME Group's website at [www.cmegroup.com](http://www.cmegroup.com) under Membership – Membership Resources – Corporate Membership Forms. Firms should also contact their clearing firms as their support will be helpful during the application and review process.

**29. How long is the approval process?**

Once the application, all supporting documents and the application fee are received, the review process starts and generally takes 4-6 weeks. CME staff will consider the applicant's business reputation, financial resources and proprietary trading activity in approving the applicant and reserves the right to reject any applicant. The decision of CME staff is final.

**30. Are there any application fees?**

Yes. A \$2,000 non-refundable application fee will be required prior to any entity being reviewed and approved to receive the discounted rates. This fee will be applied to any transfer fees associated with the future purchase or lease of a CME membership. The only exception to this fee will be for the initial application of individual member traders on SGX.

**31. If my firm is approved as an ECM does it still need a CME clearing member firm?**

Yes. All trades at CME are done through CME clearing member firms. All ECMs must maintain their own separate account on the books of a CME clearing member firm for their proprietary trades. ECM accounts may not be maintained in a non-disclosed omnibus account.

**32. How will my clearing member firm be notified that my firm has been approved as an ECM?**

While we will do our best to notify the appropriate staff at any clearing firms you have included in your application, the responsibility to inform your clearing firm(s) remains with you. Because the ECM discounted rates will be applicable at any clearing firm you utilize, we may not know about all of your clearing relationships. As a result, you must notify your clearing firms when you receive your approval notification. Your approval will be posted in CME's weekly Special Executive Report.

**33. How does a firm register traders to receive discounted fees?**

The ECM's clearing member firm must assign a unique workstation operator id to each trader. Then the Fee Administrator at the respective clearing member firm must register both the account number and the workstation operator id (also known as the Tag 50 ID) in CME's Exchange Fee System ("EFS"). The fee system requires the following information:

- Name
- Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
- Email address
- Country (primary residence)
- Workstation operator ID (i.e. Tag 50) assigned by the Clearing Firm
- Account details (i.e. account number and account owner)

Both the workstation operator ID and the account must be registered within EFS in order to receive the reduced rate. If proper registration does not occur, participants will receive the non-member rate.

**Note:** The assigned workstation operator id must be included on each electronic transaction in order to receive the discounted fees; otherwise the above registration steps will not be successful. Please refer to the following advisory for more details: <http://www.cmegroup.com/tools-information/lookups/advisories/clearing/files/Chadv09-392.pdf>.

## **Fee Schedule**

### **34. What is the CME fee schedule for ECM-Ws and ECM-Hs?**

Since **February 1, 2011**, the following fee schedule applies to:

- ECM-W entities (those which do not meet the membership requirements), for trades executed during Regular Trading Hours (RTH); and
- ECM-H entities (those which do meet the membership requirements), for trades in products that are outside of the division of the membership(s) held. \*\*

<b>Product Category</b>	<b>Electronic Trading (Globex + Clearing Fees) [per side]</b>	<b>Open Outcry Trading (Clearing Fees) [per side]</b>
E-mini Equity Index Products Futures	64¢	N/A
E-mini Equity Index Products Options	54¢	N/A
Full Size Equity Index Products	\$1.30	80¢
Interest Rate Products	59¢	64¢
Foreign Exchange Products	64¢**	60¢
Agricultural Products	96¢	64¢

\*\* For Foreign Exchange Products, ECM-H entities trading these products outside of the division of the membership(s) held are charged 54¢ per side during Extended Trading Hours (ETH).

Since **February 1, 2011**, the following fee schedule applies to:

- ECM-H entities (those which meet the membership requirements), for trades executed during Regular Trading Hours (RTH) within the division of the memberships held; and
- All trades executed for the accounts of ECMs (with or without memberships) during Extended Trading Hours (ETH).

<b>Product Category</b>	<b>Electronic Trading (Globex + Clearing Fees) [per side]</b>	<b>Open Outcry Trading (Clearing Fees) [per side]</b>
E-mini Equity Index Products Futures	49¢	N/A
E-mini Equity Index Products Options	44¢	N/A
Full Size Equity Index Products	\$1.00	80¢
Interest Rate Products	44¢	64¢
Foreign Exchange Products	44¢	60¢
Agricultural Products	81¢	64¢

35. What are the volume discounts for Eurodollar, Euroyen and Euribor Futures trades?

On a tiered basis, for corporate members and incentive program participants, the clearing fee for Eurodollar, Euroyen and Euribor Futures (combined) traded electronically is reduced for trading volumes in excess of 15,000 contracts per month. The following clearing fee discounts apply based on volume traded:

Account of	First 15,000 Sides	15,001 to 50,000 Sides	50,001 + Sides
CME Rule 106.R Electronic Corporate Memberships (ECM W and ECM H)	No Discount	10¢ (per side)	20¢ (per side)
CME Rule 106.H and 106.N Firms			
Asian Incentive Program Participants			
International Incentive Program Participants			

36. Is an ECM subject to fees charged per contract by the National Futures Association (NFA)?

No. ECM-Hs and ECM-Ws are considered members of CME; thus no NFA fee will be applicable for the firms' CME trading activity. Further, as ECM-Hs receive the ECM-W discounted rate for out-of-division electronic trades, such out-of-division trades will also not be subject to NFA fees.

37. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

If you have any fee questions, please contact the Fee Hotline, (312) 648-5470. If you have specific questions regarding owning or leasing memberships, please contact the Membership Department at (312) 930-3480. Finally for general questions and to apply for Electronic Corporate Membership, please contact the Audit Department at (312) 930-3230.