

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

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

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

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

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

A complete list of NYMEX and COMEX products in which block trading is permitted and the relevant quantity thresholds appear in Section 11 and the text of Rule 526 appears in Section 13 of this Advisory Notice.

1. Definition of Block Trades

Block trades are privately negotiated futures, options or combination transactions that meet certain quantity thresholds which are permitted to be executed apart from the public auction market. All block trades are subject to the conditions set forth in NYMEX and COMEX Rule 526 and in this Advisory Notice.

2. Participation in Block Trades

Each party to a block trade must be an Eligible Contract Participant as that term is defined in Section 1a(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act. Eligible Contract Participants generally include exchange members and member firms, broker/dealers, government entities, pension funds, commodity pools, corporations, investment companies, insurance companies, depository institutions and high net-worth individuals. Commodity trading advisors and investment advisors who are registered or exempt from registration, and foreign persons performing a similar role and subject as such to foreign regulation, may participate in block transactions provided they have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for their customers.

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

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

3. Time and Prices of Block Trades

Block trades may be executed at any time, including times during which the public auction market is closed.

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

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

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

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

The block trade minimum quantity requirements for outright futures and options are set forth in the list of block trade eligible products in Section 11 which begins on page 4 of this Advisory Notice. In order to be executed as a block trade, each leg of the spread or combination (including intra-commodity, inter-commodity and options/futures spreads) must be block-eligible and the quantity of each leg of the spread must meet the designated minimum quantity threshold.

5. TAS & TAM Block Trades

Certain block-eligible futures contract months may be executed as block trades and assigned the current day's settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price (“TAS block trades”). Additionally, effective February 13, 2012, certain block-eligible futures contract months will be permitted to be executed as block trades and assigned the current day's marker price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the marker price (“TAM block trades”).

Additionally, intra-commodity calendar spreads in the nearby month/second month spread and the second month/third month spread may be executed as TAS or TAM block trades provided that the underlying product is eligible for TAS or TAM trading.

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

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

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

The products and contract months in which TAS and TAM block trades are permitted appear in Section 11 of this Advisory Notice.

6. Block Trade Reporting Requirements

a) Time Requirements

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

b) Reporting Methods

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

i) CME ClearPort

Block trades may be reported to the CME ClearPort Block Trade Facilitation Desk by calling **1.866.246.9639**. Additionally, block trades may be electronically submitted directly to CME Clearing via CME ClearPort. For information on reporting block trades through CME ClearPort, please contact customer service at 1.800.438.8616 or via email at ClearPort@cmegroup.com.

ii) Trading Floor

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

c) Information Required when Reporting Block Trades

When reporting a block trade, the following information will be required:

- Contract, contract month and contract year for futures, and, additionally for options, strike price and put or call designation;
- Quantity of the trade or, for spreads and combinations, the quantity of each leg of the trade;
- Price of the trade or, for spreads and combinations, the price of each leg of the trade;
- Buyer's clearing firm and seller's clearing firm;
- Name and phone number of the representative reporting the trade (for floor reporting only); and
- Execution time (in Eastern Time) of the trade (i.e. the time at which the trade was consummated) (for floor reporting only).

7. Block Trade Submission Requirements to CME Clearing

Block trades reported to the trading floor must be entered by the seller or his designated representative into the CME clearing system within 30 minutes of execution and must contain the material terms of the trade, including the allocation to the correct clearing firm unless the trade will clear at the seller's qualifying clearing member firm. Within 60 minutes of execution and after entry by the seller, the buyer or his designated representative must enter into the CME clearing system a time of execution for the trade, note any disagreement with any of the terms of the trade entered by the seller, and allocate the trade to the correct clearing firm unless the trade will clear at the buyer's qualifying clearing member firm. When reporting spread or combination transactions, each leg must be entered individually. Separate submission to the CME clearing system is not required in the event that the block trade is directly entered into CME ClearPort or reported to the CME ClearPort Facilitation Desk.

8. Block Trade Recordkeeping

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

9. Dissemination of Block Trade Information

The date, execution time, contract month, price and quantity of block trades are displayed on cmegroup.com at the following link: <http://www.cmegroup.com/tools-information/blocktrades.html>. Block trade information is also displayed on the trading floor.

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

Block trade volume is also included with other privately negotiated transactions in the daily volume reports published by the exchange.

10. Pre-Execution Communications

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

11. NYMEX & COMEX Block Trade-Eligible Products

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

12. Contact Information

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

Market Regulation:	Russell Cloughen, Associate Director Robert Sniegowski, Associate Director	212.299.2880 312.341.5991
CME Clearing:	CME Clearing Support	312.207.2525

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

13. Text of NYMEX & COMEX Rule 526

Rule 526 BLOCK TRADES

The Exchange shall designate the products in which block trades shall be permitted and determine the minimum quantity thresholds for such transactions. The following shall govern block trades:

- A. A block trade must be for a quantity that is at or in excess of the applicable minimum threshold. Orders may not be aggregated in order to achieve the minimum transaction size, except by those entities described in Sections I. and J.
- B. Each party to a block trade must be an Eligible Contract Participant as that term is defined in Section 1a(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act.
- C. A member shall not execute any order by means of a block trade for a customer unless such customer has specified that the order be executed as a block trade.
- D. The price at which a block trade is executed must be fair and reasonable in light of (i) the size of the block trade, (ii) the prices and sizes of other transactions in the same contract at the relevant time, (iii) the prices and sizes of transactions in other relevant markets, including without limitation the underlying cash market or related futures markets, at the relevant time, and (iv) the circumstances of the markets or the parties to the block trade.
- E. Block trades shall not set off conditional orders (e.g., Stop Orders and MIT Orders) or otherwise affect orders in the regular market.
- F. The seller must ensure that each block trade is reported to the Exchange within five minutes of the time of execution. The report must include the contract, contract month, price, quantity of the transaction, the respective clearing members, the time of execution, and, for options, strike price, put or call and expiration month. The Exchange shall promptly publish such information separately from the reports of transactions in the regular market.
- G. Block trades must be reported to the Clearing House in accordance with an approved reporting method.
- H. Clearing members and members involved in the execution of block trades must maintain a record of the transaction in accordance with Rule 536.
- I. A commodity trading advisor ("CTA") registered or exempt from registration under the Act, including, without limitation, any investment advisor registered or exempt from registration under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, shall be the applicable entity for purposes of Sections A., B., C., and D., provided such advisors have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for the customers of such advisors.
- J. A foreign Person performing a similar role or function to a CTA or investment advisor as described in Section I, and subject as such to foreign regulation, shall be the applicable entity for purposes of Sections A., B., C., and D., provided such Persons have total assets under management exceeding \$25 million and the block trade is suitable for the customers of such Persons.