



**International Cross Asset Volume Incentive Program (IVIP)  
Questions & Answers  
February 2020**

**1. What is the International Cross Asset Volume Incentive Program (IVIP)?**

The International Cross Asset Volume Incentive Program (IVIP) enables trading arcades located and incorporated outside North America to obtain discounted fees on qualified products. These incentives apply to trades made by qualified traders located outside of North America in accordance with IVIP requirements. IVIP participants will receive discounted fees through **January 31, 2021** provided that they satisfy minimum quarterly volume requirements.

**2. What products can be traded under this program?**

Certain CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX products that are available for trading on the Globex Platform; all CME and CBOT Interest Rate futures and options and Foreign Exchange options available for trading via Open Outcry (collectively, the “Products”).

**3. Are give-up trades eligible?**

Yes, give-ups are eligible for the reduced all-in fee.

**4. Is the program restricted to specific trading hours?**

No. Firms in the program may take advantage of the discounted fees at any time. For a complete list of CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX products available on Globex and trading hours, please refer to <http://www.cmegroup.com/trading-hours.html>.

**5. Is an IVIP firm subject to fees charged per contract by the National Futures Association (NFA)?**

CME charges fees pursuant to the fee schedules at <https://www.cmegroup.com/company/clearing-fees.html>. CME does not assess incentive program participants NFA fees. For information regarding NFA fees, please contact the NFA at (312) 781-1300.

**FEE SCHEDULE & TIER DISCOUNTS**

**6. What is the CME Group fee schedule for IVIP firms?**

Please refer to the most updated fee schedule at <http://www.cmegroup.com/company/clearing-fees.html> which provides more detail on fees for this program as well as fees for products not listed below. This is just a summary table that should be used as a reference guide only:

<b>International Volume Incentive Program (IVIP) - CME and CBOT</b>		
<b>Product Category Globex Only</b>	<b>Non-Member – All-in Fees</b>	<b>IVIP All-in fees (per side)</b>
<b>CME Products</b>		
Agricultural – Futures & Options*	\$2.03	\$0.82
Weather Contracts	\$0.54	\$0.26
Full Size Foreign Exchange – Futures* (excluding FX Link)	\$1.60	\$0.54
Full Size Foreign Exchange – Futures (via FX Link)	\$0.80	\$0.60
Foreign Exchange – Options*	\$1.60	\$0.54
E-mini Foreign Exchange Contracts*	\$0.85	\$0.54
E-micro Foreign Exchange Contracts	\$0.16	\$0.10



<b>International Volume Incentive Program (IVIP) - CME and CBOT</b>		
<b>Product Category</b>	<b>Non-Member – All-in Fees</b>	<b>IVIP All-in fees (per side)</b>
<b>Globex Only</b>		
Full Size Equity Index – Futures*	\$2.40	\$1.10
Full Size Equity Index – Options	\$1.50	\$1.01
E-mini Equity Index – Futures* (Outrights and Spreads)	\$1.23	\$0.62
E-mini Equity Index – Options	\$0.55	\$0.50
Micro E-mini Equity Index Futures (Outrights and Spreads)	\$0.20	\$0.10
Nikkei/TOPIX Futures (Outrights and Spreads)	\$2.15	\$1.10
Bitcoin Futures	\$5.00	\$4.50
Bitcoin Options	\$5.00	\$4.50
Interest Rate – Futures*	\$1.25	\$0.50
Interest Rate – Options*	\$0.89	\$0.50
<b>CBOT Products</b>		
Full Size Agricultural Contracts	\$1.95	\$1.06
Mini Agricultural Contracts	\$1.03	\$0.90
ICS & CS Agricultural Options	\$3.84	\$2.06
Mini \$5 Dow Products	\$1.23	\$0.62
Micro e-Mini Dow Futures	\$0.20	\$0.10
DJ U.S. Real Estate Index Futures	\$1.23	\$0.62
2-year 3-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.60	\$0.49
5-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.65	\$0.49
10-year Ultra 10-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.75	\$0.49
30-year U.S. Treasury Bond Futures	\$0.80	\$0.49
Ultra U.S. Treasury Bond Futures	\$0.85	\$0.49
U.S. Treasury Options	\$0.82	\$0.49
Fed Fund Products	\$0.96	\$0.49
MAC Swap Futures	\$0.56	\$0.49
ERIS Swap Futures	\$0.70	\$0.50

<b>International Volume Incentive Program (IVIP) - NYMEX/COMEX</b>		
<b>NYMEX Products on CME Globex</b>		
Core Energy (CL, LO, HO, OH, RB, OB, NG, LN, ON)	\$1.50	\$0.90
NYMEX Metals (PL, PA)	\$1.55	\$1.00
All other Energy	Varies by product	Must be greater than 10% of the highest member rate
<b>COMEX Products on CME Globex - Futures Only</b>		
Core Metal (GC, SI, HG)	\$1.55	\$1.00
E-micro Gold (MGC)	\$0.30	\$0.20
1,000 oz. Silver (SIL)	\$0.60	\$0.40
Shanghai Gold (SGC, SGU)	\$1.50	\$1.00

<b>International Volume Incentive Program (IVIP) - PIT</b>		
<b>Product Category</b>	<b>Standard customer</b>	<b>IVIP All-in fees</b>



Pit Trading	(non-member) rates	(per side)
<b>CME Products</b>		
Interest Rate Futures & Options*	\$0.70	\$0.50
Foreign Exchange Options*	\$0.60	\$0.54
<b>CBOT Products</b>		
2-year   3-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.60	\$0.49
5-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.65	\$0.49
10-year   Ultra 10-year U.S. Treasury Futures	\$0.75	\$0.49
30-year U.S. Treasury Bond Futures	\$0.80	\$0.49
Ultra U.S. Treasury Bond Futures	\$0.85	\$0.49
U.S. Treasury Options	\$0.75	\$0.49
Fed Fund Futures & Options	\$0.56	\$0.49

\*These products are eligible for volume discounts. Please see volume tiers below.

**Progressive Volume Discount - for CME Product Exchange Only**

- 0-1,000 sides Average Daily Volume (ADV) - fixed fee discount
- 1,000 + ADV – progressive fee discount, depending on the asset class

Tiers - CME Products for IIP				
Tier Structure (ADV Thresholds)	Interest Rates	FX	e-Mini Equity Futures	e-Mini Equity Options
0 - 1000	\$0.50	\$0.54	\$0.62	\$0.50
1001 - 5000	\$0.35	\$0.41	\$0.42	\$0.40
5001+	\$0.25	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.36

**ELIGIBILITY**

**7. Who Qualifies for IVIP?**

- Proprietary Trading Arcades that are separate Ltd/LLC firms located and incorporated outside of North America traded by traders located outside of North America are eligible for the IVIP. Separate Ltd/LLC firms (unless wholly owned subsidiaries) must be registered separately.
- Teams of individuals with joint P&Ls using the participant arcade must be separately registered and approved by CME as eligible for discounted rates. *Teams that adjust their legal status for the purpose of achieving lower combined rates may not be allowed to participate.*
- Both Point-and-Click and Automated Trading Systems may qualify.
- Traders under a participating arcade may receive discounted rates in accordance with the incentives outlined below if and only if these traders:
  - Have primary income coming from trading;
  - Pay a desk fee;
  - Primarily trade from the physical office owned, leased, or rented and operated by the IVIP firm;
  - Share risk with the IVIP Firm; and



- Register with CME Group as Exempt Individual Traders and the participant arcade makes them available for product notices and education.
- The requirements listed above must be met on an ongoing basis. If a participating firm at any point no longer qualifies, they will be removed from the IVIP.

**Please note CME Group may be unable to accept participants located in certain countries and limits on qualification may apply for applicants located in certain countries. Please contact the CME Group Membership Concierge Team for further information regarding any location restrictions.**

#### **8. Who does not qualify for IVIP?**

Proprietary Trading Firms, Commercial Firms, Hedge Funds, Commodity Pools, Banks, FCMs, Brokers, Broker/Dealers, Commodity Trading Advisors, Introducing Brokers, Spread Betting Firms, Asset/Investment Managers, Pension Funds and other firms that hold and/or manage third party funds do not qualify. Please note that firms that are wholly or partially owned by, or affiliated with, any of these firm types will also be ineligible for the IVIP.

#### **9. Who qualifies as a trading arcade?**

As defined by CME Group, a trading arcade is a legal entity in which individuals who are owners, employees or contractors of that entity provide a legal, risk management and/or physical structure and trading facilities to traders in return for a share of trading profits. Transactions are executed in the name of accounts owned by the trading arcade and originate from the trading arcade facility or from a remote site connected to the trading arcade facility. The funds used for trading may be corporate pools of funds or commingled individual/corporate funds. Additionally,

- All trading must be done electronically by owners, employees or contractors of the trading arcade firm;
- All trading must be conducted in accounts of the trading arcade which are held in the name of the trading arcade; and
- All funds contributed must be at risk of and subject to loss from any and all trading activity of the trading arcade. Thus, funds contributed by an individual trader are not only at risk and subject to loss from the individual's trading activity of the trading arcade account, but are at risk and subject to loss from any and all the trading activity of the trading arcade.

#### **WHO CAN TRADE?**

##### **10. Are there any restrictions on who may trade IVIP's trading accounts?**

Yes, to receive discounted transaction fees, trades must be conducted by registered traders located outside of North America. In general, trades done by any owner of, employee of, or contractor to the trading firm may receive discounted fees.

##### **11. If I am an individual trading my own proprietary account, can I qualify for the program?**

No, individuals trading their own proprietary account do not qualify for IVIP. The trading accounts are required to be in the name of the IVIP firm to qualify.

#### **MINIMUM VOLUME**

##### **12. What are the minimum volume requirements to stay in the program?**



For continued eligibility and incentive qualification, participants must maintain a combined average daily volume (“ADV”) in the Products of **2,500 contracts (sides)** measured over a given calendar quarter. Eligibility will be re-evaluated on a calendar quarter basis (March, June, September and December). Micro E-mini Equity Index products will be excluded from this ADV requirement.

IVIP firms that do not satisfy the minimum quarterly volume requirement will no longer be eligible for the IVIP; however, CME Group may grant a one-time waiver to participants who do not meet the volume requirement. Firms can reapply; however, the standard non-refundable application fee will apply.

**13. How is an IVIP firm’s average daily volume calculated for the purposes of the minimum quarterly volume requirement?**

For each quarter, CME Group sums the qualified product sides traded through accounts held by the IVIP firm and registered in CME Group’s Exchange Fee System (“EFS”) as such. To be included in the sum, the contract side must trade and clear on a day within the applicable calendar quarter. CME Group calculates the average daily volume by dividing that sum by the number of business days in the calendar quarter. Exchange holidays are excluded from the business day count for the quarter.

**14. How will an IVIP firm’s average daily volume be calculated if the IVIP firm was approved midway through the calendar quarter?**

The average daily volume will be based on the sides traded and the number of business days the firm was in the IVIP during the calendar quarter. For example, a firm who was an IVIP participant for 10 business days during the quarter would be required to maintain minimum volume of 25,000 sides (10 business days \* 2,500) during the quarter to meet the volume requirement.

**15. For an IVIP firm failing to meet the minimum quarterly volume requirement, when will the firm be dismissed from the program?**

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

For instance, if an IVIP firm averages below 2,500 contracts (sides) ADV for the first quarter, the IVIP status will change effective April 15 (or first business day thereafter). For the period April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, the firm will receive IVIP rates. On and after April 16<sup>th</sup>, the firm will no longer be eligible for the program and will receive non-member/customer rates on all future trades.

**16. Will CME Group notify the IVIP firm or the clearing firm of its failure to meet the minimum quarterly volume requirement?**

Yes, the CME Group will notify an IVIP firm failing the average minimum quarterly volume requirement. Additionally, CME Group will do its best to notify an IVIP firm’s clearing member firms through e-mail on file with CME Group that the IVIP participant has been withdrawn from the program. However, the IVIP firm is responsible for communicating this change in status to its clearing member firms.

**REGISTRATION – APPLICATION/APPROVAL PROCESS**

**17. How do firms apply for the International Cross Asset Volume Incentive Program?**

Firms wishing to apply for IVIP should contact the CME Group Membership Concierge Team at (312) 435-3555 or [conciergeteam@cmegroup.com](mailto:conciergeteam@cmegroup.com). The application form can be found on CME Group’s Web site at [www.cmegroup.com/company/membership/international-incentives.html](http://www.cmegroup.com/company/membership/international-incentives.html). Firms should



also contact their clearing firms as their support will be helpful during the application and review process. For region-specific questions, please contact the Client Development & Sales team within our respective offices:

<b>Europe, Middle East &amp; Africa (EMEA)</b> Matthew Judge <a href="mailto:Matthew.Judge@cmegroup.com">Matthew.Judge@cmegroup.com</a> +44 (0) 20 3379 3730	<b>Asia</b> Rajiv Shah <a href="mailto:Rajiv.Shah@cmegroup.com">Rajiv.Shah@cmegroup.com</a> +65 6593 5509
Richard Stoker <a href="mailto:Richard.Stoker@cmegroup.com">Richard.Stoker@cmegroup.com</a> +44 (0) 20 3379 3733	

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

Once it has been confirmed in writing by the CME Group Membership Concierge Team that the application, all supporting documents, and the application fee are received, the due diligence review process starts and generally takes 6-8 weeks; however, review times may vary significantly based on many factors including, but not limited to: complex regulatory requirements, completeness of applications and supporting documentation, complex firm and organizational structures, applicant response times, and number of applications under review. CME staff will consider the applicant’s reputation and business integrity, adequacy of its financial resources and credit, and any applicable regulatory restrictions in reviewing the applicant. CME staff have sole discretion to determine whether an applicant is admitted to or continues participation in the program.

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

Yes. A \$2,000 non-refundable application fee will be required prior to any entity being reviewed.

**20. If my firm is approved as an IVIP firm does it still need a CME Group clearing member firm?**

Yes. All trades at CME Group are cleared through CME Group (CME, CBOT, NYMEX and COMEX) [clearing member firms](#). All IVIP firms must maintain their own separate account on the books of a CME Group clearing member firm for their proprietary trades unless otherwise approved by CME Group.

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

CME Group will do its best to notify the appropriate staff at any clearing firms included in an applicant firm’s application; however, the responsibility to inform clearing firm(s) remains with the IVIP participant firm. Because the IVIP discounted rates are applicable at any clearing firm utilized by an IVIP participant firm, clearing firms must be notified so accounts and trader IDs can be properly registered within EFS. CME Group may not be aware of all clearing relationships of an IVIP participant firm. As such, IVIP participant firms must notify all applicable clearing firms upon receipt of final approval notification.

**22. If our firm uses multiple clearing firms or changes clearing firms once approved, do we need to submit an additional application?**

No, but if an approved IVIP firm changes or adds clearers, it is the responsibility of the IVIP firm to inform their clearing member firm that the firm is approved for IVIP. This is necessary so that the clearer can register trader and account details in EFS, as applicable.



## **REGISTRATION – EXCHANGE FEE SYSTEM (EFS) PROCESS**

### **23. How does a clearing firm register an IVIP firm in order to receive the discounted fees?**

The trading account must be registered to the respective IVIP entity within the Exchange Fee System (EFS) in order to receive the all-in reduced rates, including any volume discounts. If account registration does not occur, non-member rates will apply.

**NOTE:** Identification and registration of Globex Operator IDs (Tag 50 IDs), is still the responsibility of the clearing member (or other entity approved by CME Group) to ensure that such Tag 50 IDs are properly registered and kept updated within the Fee System.

### **24. How is volume accumulated to apply the IVIP volume discounts?**

Accumulation will be across trading accounts, across clearing/billing firms by asset class. Each IVIP Participant will be treated as one for purposes of the volume aggregation.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **25. When does this program expire?**

The program will expire on **January 31, 2021**. Therefore, any firm that is approved and continues to meet the program requirements will receive discounted rates through January 31, 2021 as long as the IVIP firm and its traders are properly registered within the Exchange Fee System.

### **26. What will happen when the program expires?**

Participants will be charged non-member customer fees according to CME Group's then-current fee schedule.

### **27. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

For any fee related questions, please contact the Fee Hotline at (312) 648-5470. For general questions and how to apply for IVIP, please contact CME Group Membership Concierge Team at (312) 435-3555 or [conciergeteam@cmegroup.com](mailto:conciergeteam@cmegroup.com), or the CME Group contacts indicated in Q17.

### **28. How can I make the application fee payment?**

Please contact the CME Group Membership Concierge Team at [conciergeteam@cmegroup.com](mailto:conciergeteam@cmegroup.com) for wire instructions.

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