

Chapter 251A

Options on British Pound Sterling/U.S. Dollar Futures

251A00. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

This chapter is limited in application to trading in put and call options on British pound (pound sterling) futures contracts. The procedures for trading, clearing, inspection, delivery and settlement and any other matters not specifically covered herein shall be governed by the rules of the Exchange.

251A01. OPTION CHARACTERISTICS

251A01A. Contract Months, Trading Hours, and Trading Halts

Options contracts shall be listed for such contract months (i.e., expirations) and scheduled for trading during such hours, except as indicated below, as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

251A01B. Trading Unit

The trading unit shall be an option to buy, in the case of the call, or to sell, in the case of the put, one pound sterling futures contract as specified in Chapter 251.

251A01C. Price Increments

For options trading on CME Globex and via open outcry and for submission for clearing via CME ClearPort, the price of an option shall be quoted in U.S. dollars per pound sterling. Each \$0.0001 per pound sterling (one point) shall represent \$6.25. For example, a quote of .0070 represents an option price of \$437.50 (70 points x \$6.25 per point) of premium. The minimum fluctuation shall be one point (also known as one tick).

In addition, for options that are quoted in volatility terms on CME Globex, the minimum fluctuation shall be 0.01 percent for the volatility quote. Also, following a volatility trade, when CME Globex converts the volatility-traded options position into a premium-based options position for clearing, the minimum price increment for the premium-based option position shall be \$0.00002 per British pound sterling (equal to \$1.25).

251A01D. Underlying Futures Contract

The underlying futures contract is the nearest quarterly futures contract following the options expiration except for options expiring the week prior to a quarterly futures termination. For options expiring the week prior to a quarterly futures termination, the underlying futures contract is the next nearest quarterly futures contract.

251A01E. Position Accountability

A person owning or controlling a combination of options and underlying futures contracts that exceeds 10,000 futures-equivalent contracts net on the same side of the market in all contract months combined for British pound sterling futures and options shall provide, in a timely fashion, upon request by the Exchange, information regarding the nature of the position, trading strategy, and hedging information if applicable.

For the purpose of this rule, the futures equivalent of an option contract is 1 times the previous business day's IOM risk factor for the option series. Also for purposes of this rule, a long call option, a short put option and a long underlying futures contract are on the same side of the market; similarly, a short call option, a long put option and a short underlying futures contract are on the same side of the market.

251A01F. Accumulation of Positions

For the purposes of this rule, the positions of all accounts directly or indirectly owned or controlled by a person or persons, and the positions of all accounts of a person or persons acting pursuant to an expressed or implied agreement or understanding, and the positions of all accounts in which a person or persons have a proprietary or beneficial interest, shall be cumulated.

251A01G. Special Price Fluctuation Limits

At the commencement of each trading day, the contract shall be subject to special price fluctuation limits as set forth in Rule 589 and in the Special Price Fluctuation Limits Table in Interpretations & Special Notices Section of Chapter 5.

251A01H. [Reserved]

251A01.I. [Reserved]**251A01.J. Termination of Trading and Expiration Days for Options**

1. Monthly Options in the March Quarterly Cycle ("Quarterly Options")

Trading in monthly options in the March quarterly cycle (i.e., March, June, September and December) shall terminate at 9:00 a.m. Central time on the second Friday immediately preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month. If the foregoing date for termination is a scheduled Exchange holiday, trading in monthly options shall terminate on the immediately preceding business day. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

2. Monthly Options Not in the March Quarterly Cycle ("Serial Options")

Trading in monthly options not in the March quarterly cycle (i.e., January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November) shall terminate at 9:00 a.m. Central time on the second Friday immediately preceding the third Wednesday of the contract month. If the foregoing date for termination is a scheduled Exchange holiday, trading in monthly options shall terminate on the immediately preceding business day. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

3. Weekly Options

Trading in weekly options shall terminate at 9:00 a.m. Central time on those Fridays that are not also the termination of trading of a monthly option as described in the preceding sections 1 and 2. If the foregoing date for termination is a scheduled Exchange holiday, trading in weekly options shall terminate on the immediately preceding business day. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

4. Wednesday Weekly Options

Trading in Wednesday weekly options shall terminate at 9:00 a.m. Central time on Wednesdays. If the foregoing date for termination is a scheduled Exchange holiday, trading in Wednesday weekly options shall terminate on the immediately preceding business day. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

251A01.K. Exercise Prices

Regular exercise prices shall be stated in terms of U.S. dollars per pound sterling in intervals of \$.005, e.g., \$1.450, \$1.455, \$1.460, \$1.465, \$1.470, etc.

251A02. LISTING OF EXERCISE PRICES

1. Monthly Options in the March Quarterly Cycle ("Quarterly Options")

At the commencement of trading in a contract month, the Exchange shall list put and call options at the regular exercise price that is nearest the previous day's settlement price of the underlying futures contract. For options on British pound sterling futures, the Exchange shall list put and call options at the next forty-eight higher and next forty-eight lower regular exercise prices.

When a sale, bid, offer, or settlement price in the underlying futures occurs within half a regular exercise price interval of the forty-eighth highest or forty-eighth lowest existing regular exercise prices for options on British pound sterling futures put and call options at the next higher or next lower regular exercise price shall be listed for trading on the next trading day. New options may be listed for trading up to and including the termination of trading.

The Board may modify the provisions governing the establishment of exercise prices as it deems appropriate.

2. Options Not in the March Quarterly Cycle ("Serial" and "Weekly Options")

Upon demand, the Exchange shall list put and call options at any regular exercise price listed for trading in the next March quarterly cycle futures option that is nearest the expiration of the option. New options may be listed for trading up to and including the termination of trading.

3. Dynamically-Listed Exercise Prices.

Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range exercise prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis.

251A03. EXERCISE AND ASSIGNMENT

In addition to the applicable procedures and requirements of Chapter 7, the following shall apply to the exercise of option contracts on British pound sterling/U.S. dollar futures. All options on British pound sterling/U.S. dollar futures are European-style exercise only. Early option exercise prior to the option expiration day is not permitted. Contrary option exercise instructions are also not allowed.

251A03.A.1. [Reserved]

251A03.A.2. [Reserved]

251A03.A.3. Exercise of Options

All in-the-money options are automatically exercised by the Clearing House on the day of expiration for the option. All out-of-the-money options are abandoned by the Clearing House on the day of expiration for the option. To determine whether an option is in or out of the money on this day, the Exchange shall calculate the relevant "CME currency fixing price" from GLOBEX-traded underlying futures contracts as follows:

- Tier 1 Take the 60-second average of sale (trade) prices, weighted by volume from 8:59:00 to 8:59:59 a.m. on the day of determination of the CME currency fixing price.
- Tier 2 If less than three or no sales (trades) occurred during the 60-second interval noted above, take the midpoint of each bid & ask spread where available and average the resulting midpoints over the 60-second interval.
- Tier 3 If no sales (trades) and no bid and ask prices occurred during the 60-second interval, then Exchange staff shall derive the CME currency fixing price (as a synthetic futures price) from quote vendor spot rates and appropriate maturity forward points.

251A03.B. Assignment

Exercise notices created by the Clearing House for buyers of options shall be assigned by the Clearing House through a process of random selection to clearing members with open short positions in the same series. A clearing member to which an exercise notice is assigned shall be notified thereof as soon as practicable after such notice is assigned by the Clearing House, but not later than 45 minutes before the opening of Regular Trading Hours in the underlying futures contract on the following business day.

The clearing member assigned an exercise notice shall be assigned a short position in the underlying futures contract if a call is exercised or a long position if a put is exercised. The clearing member representing the option buyer shall be assigned a long position in the underlying futures contract if a call is exercised and a short position if a put is exercised.

All such futures positions shall be assigned at a price equal to the exercise price of the option and shall be marked to market in accordance with Rule 814 on the trading day of acceptance by the Clearing House of the exercise notice.

251A04. [RESERVED]

(End Chapter 251A)

INTERPRETATIONS & SPECIAL NOTICES RELATING TO CHAPTER 251A

CLARIFICATION OF NEW NON-AGRICULTURAL OPTION SPECULATIVE POSITION LIMIT RULE

(Special Executive Report S-1618, March 31, 1986)

Please note that the new non-agricultural option speculative position limit rule supersedes the speculative position rule for the underlying futures contract. Therefore, for example, a trader may hold a gross futures position that exceeds the futures position limit rule if that gross position is part of a spread with options, such that the net position across options and futures is less than the applicable limit set in the option rule.