

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	CME, CBOT, NYMEX & COMEX
Subject	TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC Transactions
Rule References	Rule 524
Advisory Date	July 13, 2023
Advisory Number	CME Group RA2302-5
Effective Date	July 31, 2023

Effective on trade date July 31, 2023, and pending all relevant CFTC regulatory review periods, this Market Regulation Advisory Notice will supersede CME Group Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA2301-5 from June 1, 2023. It is being issued in connection with the adoption of CME and CBOT Rule.524.D. (“Trade Marker at Close (‘TMAC’) Transactions”). The new TMAC transaction type will allow market participants to trade certain equity index futures contracts at the current day’s applicable marker price, or at any valid price increment up to four ticks higher or lower than the marker. (See [SER-9219](#))

The marker price for TMAC transactions will be derived from the volume-weighted average price (“VWAP”) of outright transactions in the underlying instrument executed on CME Globex electronic trading platform (“CME Globex”) in the 30-second window ending at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Prevailing Time (“EPT”). Trading activity in this 30-second window is also used by the Exchanges for purposes of calculating reference prices known as the Fixing Prices for the respective instruments. The daily TMAC marker price for each eligible instrument will therefore equal the Fixing Price, published by the Exchanges and made available on the CME Group [website](#).

No other substantive changes have been made to this Advisory Notice.

Information on the specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, or TMAC transactions is contained in the Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Table set forth in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section at the end of Chapter 5 of each Exchange’s Rulebook. The table may also be accessed [here](#).

TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC transactions are subject to the information contained in the Advisory Notice, each Exchange’s Rule 524, and, for BTIC, TACO, and TMAC transactions, provisions contained in applicable CME and CBOT futures product chapters. The text of each Exchange’s Rule 524 appears in Section 6 of this Advisory Notice.

1. General Information on TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC Transactions

TAS permits parties to trade at a differential to the current day’s not-yet-known futures settlement price. TAM and TMAC permit parties to trade at a differential to the current day’s not-yet-known Exchange-determined marker price.

Orders for CME and CBOT TAS and TMAC-eligible futures products may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the current day’s settlement price, marker price, or any valid price increment up to four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

CME and CBOT TAS and TMAC-eligible futures products may also be executed as block trades, EFPs, or EFRs and priced at the current day's settlement price, marker price, or any valid price increment up to four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

Orders for NYMEX and COMEX TAS- and TAM-eligible futures products may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the current day's settlement or marker price, as applicable, or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable settlement or marker price, except for spot month Copper futures which may be executed on CME Globex and priced solely at the settlement price, or TAS flat.

NYMEX and COMEX TAS- and TAM-eligible futures products may also be executed as block trades, EFPs, or EFRs and priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement or marker price, except for spot month Copper futures block trades, EFPs, and EFRs which may be priced solely at the settlement price, or TAS flat.

BTIC permits parties to trade at a differential (basis) to an eligible futures contract's underlying cash Index or a related index as described in the product chapter in which the closing level is not-yet-known.

TACO permits parties to trade at a differential (basis) to an eligible futures contract's underlying cash Index special opening quotation ("SOQ"), which is not-yet-known.

Orders for certain CME and CBOT futures products may be entered into CME Globex for execution at the current day's eligible closing price or any fair and reasonable basis above or below the current day's eligible closing price.

Certain CME and CBOT futures products may be executed as a block trade and priced at the underlying futures contracts' eligible closing price or at a differential (basis) to the cash Index, or a related index as described in the product chapter, closing price.

Orders for CME E-mini S&P 500 futures may be entered into CME Globex or executed as a block trade for pricing at the next following regularly scheduled SOQ or any fair and reasonable basis above or below the next following regularly scheduled SOQ.

The basis must be stated in admissible futures price increments for the specific futures contract. In the case of a BTIC or TACO block trade, the negotiated basis must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration.

Information on products eligible to be executed as block trades and priced as TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, or TMAC transactions may be found here:

<http://www.cmegroup.com/clearing/trading-practices/block-trades.html>

2. Regulatory Considerations

All market participants are reminded that any trading activity that is intended to disrupt orderly trading or to manipulate or attempt to manipulate prices to benefit a TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, or TMAC position, including a position established as a block trade, will subject the member and/or the market participant to disciplinary action for any of a number of rule violations, including, but not limited to:

- price manipulation or attempted price manipulation

- wash trading
- conduct detrimental to the interest or welfare of the Exchange or conduct which tends to impair the dignity or good name of the Exchange
- engaging in conduct inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade

Investigation of suspected manipulative or disruptive activity related to TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, or TMAC or activity in the related underlying markets will include the Market Regulation Department's ("Department") review of positions and trading activity in the applicable Exchange markets and any related markets to determine if such activity was disruptive, collusive, and/or caused or attempted to cause aberrant price movement during these periods. Pursuant to Rule 432.L.3, market participants are reminded that it is an offense to fail to produce any books or records requested by authorized Exchange staff within 10 days after such request is made or such shorter period of time as determined by the Exchange in exigent circumstances. The Department always has the authority to request books and records as well as other relevant information regarding the nature of a participant's trading and positions in Exchange products and in any related markets as part of its regulatory program.

3. Entry of TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC Orders on CME Globex

Rule 524 permits the initiation of TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC orders into CME Globex only subsequent to the beginning of each group's pre-open state and during the time period the applicable contracts are available for TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, or TMAC trading on CME Globex, as applicable. The initiation of any TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO or TMAC order on CME Globex outside of these time periods is strictly prohibited.

Market participants are reminded that the timing of each groups' pre-open state may be randomized, as described in the Client Systems Wiki, available [here](#).

Any market participant who initiates the entry of a TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO or TMAC order prior to receipt of the security status message indicating that the market has transitioned to the pre-open will be subject to disciplinary action by a panel of the Business Conduct Committee, notwithstanding that the order may have been rejected by the CME Globex system. Sanctions for noncompliance may include a fine, disgorgement of any profits realized as a result of any orders accepted by CME Globex which were initiated prior to receipt of the security status message and/or a suspension of access to the market. Market participants must have appropriate protocols in place to ensure that TAS, TAM, BTIC, TACO, and TMAC orders are not initiated prior to receipt of the security status message.

4. TAS and TAM Calendar Spreads

As set forth in the TAS Table, certain intra-commodity calendar spreads are permitted to be entered into CME Globex and priced at the settlement or marker price, or a specified number of ticks above or below the settlement or marker price.

Additionally, certain NYMEX and COMEX intra-commodity calendar spreads are permitted to be executed as block trades and priced at the settlement or marker price or at a positive or negative differential.

TAS and TAM spread trades may be executed at zero or at a positive or negative differential (positive/negative 1 through positive/negative 10 for eligible NYMEX and COMEX products) (positive/negative 1 through positive/negative 4 for eligible CME and CBOT products) on CME Globex or, where allowable, as block trades. For more information regarding leg price assignment on Globex see the Client Systems Wiki, available [here](#).

5. TAS, BTIC, and TACO Pricing and Daily Price Limits

Notwithstanding that CME Live Cattle, Feeder Cattle and Lean Hogs futures and CBOT Corn, Soybean, Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, Wheat and KC HRW Wheat futures are subject to daily price limits, market participants executing a trade in one of those products which is priced at a tick increment above or below the settlement price (negative 4 through negative 1 or positive 1 through positive 4) may result in a final trade price above or below the daily price limit.

Similarly, BTIC and TACO transactions may result in an assigned futures price outside of the applicable futures daily price limits.

6. Text of CME, CBOT, and NYMEX/COMEX Rule 524

CME and CBOT

524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”), BASIS TRADE AT INDEX CLOSE (“BTIC”) AND BASIS TRADE AT CASH OPEN (“TACO”) TRANSACTIONS

The Exchange shall determine the products, contract months and time periods during which TAS, BTIC, and TACO transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS, BTIC, or TACO transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) at the end of Chapter 5.

524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAS trading on Globex and during such TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAS-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 or as an Exchange of Futures for Physical (“EFP”) or Exchange of Futures for Risk (“EFR”) transaction pursuant to the requirements of Rule 538.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transaction may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

524.B. Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) Transactions

A Basis Trade at Index Close (“BTIC”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction which is priced with reference to the closing level of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index, or the closing level of a related index as described in the applicable product chapter, on a particular trading day (the “Basis”). The following shall govern BTIC transactions:

1. A BTIC order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable futures contract is available for BTIC trading on Globex and during such BTIC-eligible futures contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any BTIC order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a BTIC-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, except that a BTIC block trade cannot be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring BTIC-eligible futures contract.
3. The Basis established in any BTIC transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such BTIC transaction shall be the closing level of the applicable cash Index, or the closing level of a related index as described in the applicable product chapter, for that trading day adjusted by the Basis established in such BTIC transaction. For any BTIC-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a BTIC block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A BTIC futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits. The assigned futures price is deemed final when determined by the Exchange, absent an index price correction by the index provider. If the closing level of a cash Index, or the closing level of a related index as described in the applicable product chapter, is corrected by the applicable cash Index provider prior to 4:00 p.m. CT on the following Business Day, the assigned futures price corresponding to such BTIC transaction shall be amended using the corrected closing level of the applicable cash Index, or the closing level of a related index as described in the applicable product chapter, adjusted by the Basis established in such BTIC transaction, and the assigned futures price shall be deemed final at that time.
4. Additional product-specific BTIC provisions, including those relating to disruptions in the publication of an index and the applicable index closing times are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

524.C. Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) Transactions

A Basis Trade at Cash Open (“TACO”) transaction is an Exchange futures transaction that is priced with reference to the next following regularly scheduled special opening quotation (“SOQ”) of such futures contract’s underlying cash Index (the “Basis”). The following shall govern TACO transactions:

1. A TACO order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TACO trading on Globex and during such TACO-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TACO order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TACO-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526, provided that for any expiring TACO-eligible contract, a TACO block trade is prohibited with reference to such contract’s cash Index SOQ for the last day of trading in such contract.
3. The Basis established in any TACO transaction must be stated in admissible price increments for the applicable futures contract as set forth in the applicable product chapter. The assigned futures price corresponding to such TACO transaction shall be the next following regularly scheduled SOQ of the applicable cash Index adjusted by the Basis established in such TACO transaction.
For any TACO-eligible futures contract, the magnitude of the Basis in a TACO block trade must be fair and reasonable in light of factors including, but not limited to, financing rates, expected dividend income, and time remaining until the underlying futures contract expiration. A TACO futures transaction may result in an assigned futures price outside of applicable daily price limits.
4. In the event of a disruption in the primary listing exchange for a given cash Index (or a disruption in the applicable national bourse or market in the case of a given non-US cash Index) such that the administrator of such cash Index is unable to produce a regularly scheduled SOQ, all pending and executed TACO transactions in the corresponding futures contract shall be canceled by the Exchange. Such disruption shall be declared by the Exchange in its sole discretion.
5. Additional product-specific TACO requirements are set forth in the applicable product chapter in the Rulebook.

524.D. Trade Marker at Close (“TMAC”) Transactions

The following shall govern TMAC transactions:

1. A TMAC order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TMAC trading on Globex and during such TMAC-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TMAC order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TMAC-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 or as an Exchange of Futures for Physical (“EFP”) or Exchange of Futures for Risk (“EFR”) transaction pursuant to the requirements of Rule 538.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TMAC transaction may be executed at the current day’s applicable marker price or at any valid price increment four ticks higher or lower than the applicable marker price.

NYMEX/COMEX

524. TRADING AT SETTLEMENT (“TAS”) AND TRADING AT MARKER (“TAM”) TRANSACTIONS

The Exchange shall determine the products, contract months and time periods during which TAS and TAM transactions shall be permitted. Specific products, contract months and spreads eligible for pricing as TAS or TAM transactions are set forth in the TAS Table (“Table”) at the end of Chapter 5.

524.A. Trading at Settlement (“TAS”) Transactions

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. A TAS order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAS trading on Globex and during such TAS-eligible contract’s prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAS-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 or as an Exchange of Futures for Physical (“EFP”) or Exchange of Futures for Risk (“EFR”) transaction pursuant to the requirements of Rule 538.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAS transaction may be executed at the current day’s settlement price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

524.B. Trading at Marker (“TAM”) Transactions

The following shall govern TAM transactions:

1. A TAM order may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contract is available for TAM trading on Globex and during such TAM-eligible contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
2. Unless otherwise specified in the Table, a TAM-eligible product and contract month may be executed as a block trade pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 or as an EFP or EFR transaction pursuant to the requirements of Rule 538.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, a TAM transaction may be executed at the current day's applicable marker price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable marker price.

Questions regarding this Advisory Notice may be directed to the following individuals in Market Regulation:

Erin Middleton, Director, Rules & Regulatory Outreach, 312.341.3286
Paige Gawrys, Senior Specialist, Rules & Regulatory Outreach, 312.872.5078
Jennifer Dendrinis, Senior Director, Investigations, 312.341.7812
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Myles Peralta, Lead Investigator, 312.454.5310
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For media inquiries concerning this Advisory Notice, please contact CME Group Corporate Communications at 312.930.3434 or news@cmegroup.com.