

testing and review of proper system functioning, adequate capacity and security for any automated systems should be included in its application. A board of trade should submit in the contract market application, information on the objective testing and review carried out on its automated system. The Commission believes that the guidelines issued by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) in 1990 (which have been referred to as the "Principles for Screen-Based Trading Systems"), and adopted by the Commission on November 21, 1990 (55 FR 48670), as supplemented in October, 2000, are appropriate guidelines for an electronic trading facility to apply to electronic trading systems. Any program of objective testing and review of the system should be performed by a qualified independent professional (but not necessarily a third-party contractor).

Designation Criterion 5 of section 5(b) of the Act: *FINANCIAL INTEGRITY OF TRANSACTIONS—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules and procedures for ensuring the financial integrity of transactions entered into by or through the facilities of the contract market, including the clearance and settlement of the transactions with a derivatives clearing organization.*

(a) A designated contract market should provide for the financial integrity of transactions by setting appropriate minimum financial standards for members and non-intermediated market participants, margining systems, appropriate margin forms and appropriate default rules and procedures. Absent Commission action pursuant to its exemptive authority under section 4(c) of the Act, transactions executed on the contract market (other than stock futures products), if cleared, must be cleared through a derivatives clearing organization registered as such with the Commission. The Commission believes ensuring and enforcing the financial integrity of transactions and intermediaries, and the protection of customer funds should include monitoring compliance with the contract market's minimum financial standards. In order to monitor for minimum financial requirements, a contract market should routinely receive and promptly review financial and related information.

(b) A designated contract market should have rules concerning the protection of customer funds that address appropriate minimum financial standards for intermediaries, the segregation of customer and proprietary funds, the custody of customer funds, the investment standards for customer funds, related recordkeeping procedures and related intermediary default procedures.

Designation Criterion 6 of section 5(b) of the Act: *DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES—The board of trade shall establish and enforce disciplinary procedures that authorize the board of trade to discipline, suspend, or expel members or*

market participants that violate the rules of the board of trade, or similar methods for performing the same functions, including delegation of the functions to third parties.

The disciplinary procedures established by a designated contract market should give the contract market both the authority and ability to discipline and limit or suspend a member's activities as well as the authority and ability to terminate a member's activities pursuant to clear and fair standards. The authority to discipline or limit or suspend the activities of a member or of a market participant could be established in a contract market's rules, user agreements or other means. An organized exchange or a trading facility could satisfy this criterion for a member with trading privileges but having no, or only nominal, equity, in the facility and for a non-member market participant by expelling or denying future access to such persons upon a finding that such a person has violated the board of trade's rules.

Designation Criterion 7 of section 5(b) of the Act: *PUBLIC ACCESS—The board of trade shall provide the public with access to the rules, regulations, and contract specifications of the board of trade.*

A designated contract market should provide information to the public by placing the information on its Web site.

Designation Criterion 8 of section 5(b) of the Act: *ABILITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules that will allow the board of trade to obtain any necessary information to perform any of the functions described in this appendix, including the capacity to carry out such international information-sharing agreements as the Commission may require.*

A designated contract market should have the authority to collect information and documents on both a routine and non-routine basis including the examination of books and records kept by the contract market's members and by non-intermediated market participants. Appropriate information-sharing agreements could be established with other boards of trade or the Commission could act in conjunction with the contract market to carry out such information sharing.

[66 FR 42277, Aug. 10, 2001, as amended at 71 FR 1965, Jan. 12, 2006]

APPENDIX B TO PART 38—GUIDANCE ON, AND ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES IN, COMPLIANCE WITH CORE PRINCIPLES

1. This appendix provides guidance on complying with the core principles, both initially and on an ongoing basis, to maintain designation under Section 5(d) of the Act and this part. The guidance is provided in paragraph (a) following each core principle and it can be used to demonstrate to the Commission core principle compliance, under

§§38.3(a) and 38.5. The guidance for each core principle is illustrative only of the types of matters a board of trade may address, as applicable, and is not intended to be used as a mandatory checklist. Addressing the issues and questions set forth in this appendix would help the Commission in its consideration of whether the board of trade is in compliance with the core principles. To the extent that compliance with, or satisfaction of, a core principle is not self-explanatory from the face of the board of trade's rules (as defined in §40.1 of this chapter), an application pursuant to §38.3, or a submission pursuant to §38.5 should include an explanation or other form of documentation demonstrating that the board of trade complies with the core principles.

2. Acceptable practices meeting selected requirements of the core principles are set forth in paragraph (b) following each core principle. Boards of trade that follow the specific practices outlined under paragraph (b) for any core principle in this appendix will meet the selected requirements of the applicable core principle. Paragraph (b) is for illustrative purposes only, and does not state the exclusive means for satisfying a core principle.

Core Principle 1 of section 5(d) of the Act: *IN GENERAL—To maintain the designation of a board of trade as a contract market, the board of trade shall comply with the core principles specified in this subsection. The board of trade shall have reasonable discretion in establishing the manner in which it complies with the core principles.*

A board of trade applying for designation as a contract market must satisfactorily demonstrate its capacity to operate in compliance with the core principles under section 5(d) of the Act and §38.3. The Commission may require that a board of trade operating as a contract market demonstrate to the Commission that it is in compliance with one or more core principles.

Core Principle 2 of section 5(d) of the Act: *COMPLIANCE WITH RULES—The board of trade shall monitor and enforce compliance with the rules of the contract market, including the terms and conditions of any contracts to be traded and any limitations on access to the contract market.*

(a) *Application guidance.* (1) A designated contract market should have arrangements and resources for effective trade practice surveillance programs, with the authority to collect information and documents on both a routine and non-routine basis, including the examination of books and records kept by the contract market's members and by non-intermediated market participants. The arrangements and resources should facilitate the direct supervision of the market and the analysis of data collected. Trade practice surveillance programs may be carried out by the contract market itself or through delega-

tion or contracting-out to a third party. If the contract market delegates or contracts-out the trade practice surveillance responsibility to a third party, such third party should have the capacity and authority to carry out such program, and the contract market should retain appropriate supervisory authority over the third party.

(2) A designated contract market should have arrangements, resources and authority for effective rule enforcement. The Commission believes that this should include the authority and ability to discipline and limit, or suspend the activities of a member or market participant as well as the authority and ability to terminate the activities of a member or market participant pursuant to clear and fair standards. An organized exchange or a trading facility could satisfy this criterion for members with trading privileges but having no, or only nominal, equity, in the facility and non-member market participants, by expelling or denying such persons future access upon a determination that such a person has violated the board of trade's rules.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* An acceptable trade practice surveillance program generally would include:

(1) Maintenance of data reflecting the details of each transaction executed on the contract market;

(2) Electronic analysis of this data routinely to detect potential trading violations;

(3) Appropriate and thorough investigative analysis of these and other potential trading violations brought to the contract market's attention; and

(4) Prompt and effective disciplinary action for any violation that is found to have been committed. The Commission believes that the latter element should include the authority and ability to discipline and limit or suspend the activities of a member or market participant pursuant to clear and fair standards that are available to market participants. *See, e.g.* 17 CFR part 8.

Core Principle 3 of section 5(d) of the Act: *CONTRACTS NOT READILY SUBJECT TO MANIPULATION—The board of trade shall list on the contract market only contracts that are not readily susceptible to manipulation.*

(a) *Application guidance.* Contract markets may list new products for trading by self-certification under §40.2 of this chapter or may submit products for Commission approval under §40.3 and part 40, appendix A, of this chapter.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* Guideline No. 1, 17 CFR part 40, appendix A may be used as guidance in meeting this core principle for both new product listings and existing listed contracts.

Core Principle 4 of section 5(d) of the Act: *MONITORING OF TRADING—The board of trade shall monitor trading to prevent manipulation, price distortion, and disruptions of the delivery or cash-settlement process.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A contract market could prevent market manipulation through a dedicated regulatory department, or by delegation of that function to an appropriate third party.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* (1) An acceptable program for monitoring markets will generally involve the collection of various market data, including information on traders' market activity. Those data should be evaluated on an ongoing basis in order to make an appropriate regulatory response to potential market disruptions or abusive practices.

(2) The designated contract market should collect data in order to assess whether the market price is responding to the forces of supply and demand. Appropriate data usually include various fundamental data about the underlying commodity, its supply, its demand, and its movement through marketing channels. Especially important are data related to the size and ownership of deliverable supplies—the existing supply and the future or potential supply, and to the pricing of the deliverable commodity relative to the futures price and relative to similar, but non-deliverable, kinds of the commodity. For cash-settled markets, it is more appropriate to pay attention to the availability and pricing of the commodity making up the index to which the market will be settled, as well as monitoring the continued suitability of the methodology for deriving the index.

(3) To assess traders' activity and potential power in a market, at a minimum, every contract market should have routine access to the positions and trading of its market participants and, if applicable, should provide for such access through its agreements with its third-party provider of clearing services. Although clearing member data may be sufficient for some contract markets, an effective surveillance program for contract markets with substantial numbers of customers trading through intermediaries should employ a much more comprehensive large-trader reporting system (LTRS).

Core Principle 5 of section 5(d) of the Act: *POSITION LIMITATIONS OR ACCOUNTABILITY—To reduce the potential threat of market manipulation or congestion, especially during trading in the delivery month, the board of trade shall adopt position limitations or position accountability for speculators, where necessary and appropriate.*

(a) *Application guidance.* [Reserved]

(b) *Acceptable practices.* (1) In order to diminish potential problems arising from excessively large speculative positions, and to facilitate orderly liquidation of expiring futures contracts, markets may need to set limits on traders' positions for certain commodities. These position limits specifically may exempt bona fide hedging, permit other exemptions, or set limits differently by markets, by delivery months, or by time periods. For purposes of evaluating a contract mar-

ket's speculative-limit program, the Commission considers the specified limit levels, aggregation policies, types of exemptions allowed, methods for monitoring compliance with the specified levels, and procedures for enforcement to deal with violations.

(2) Provisions concerning speculative position limits are set forth in part 150. In general, position limits are not necessary for markets where the threat of excessive speculation or manipulation is nonexistent or very low. Thus, contract markets do not need to adopt speculative position limits for futures markets on major foreign currencies, contracts based on certain financial instruments having very liquid and deep underlying cash markets, and contracts specifying cash settlement where the potential for distortion of such price is negligible. Where speculative position limits are necessary, acceptable speculative-limit levels typically should be set in terms of a trader's combined position in the futures contract plus its position in the related option contract (on a delta-adjusted basis).

(3) A contract market may provide for position accountability provisions in lieu of position limits for contracts on financial instruments, intangible commodities, or certain tangible commodities. Markets appropriate for position accountability rules include those with large open-interest, high daily trading volumes and liquid cash markets.

(4) Spot-month limits should be adopted for markets based on commodities having more limited deliverable supplies or where otherwise necessary to minimize the susceptibility of the market to manipulation or price distortions. The level of the spot limit for physical-delivery markets should be based upon an analysis of deliverable supplies and the history of spot-month liquidations. Spot-month limits for physical-delivery markets are appropriately set at no more than 25 percent of the estimated deliverable supply. For cash-settled markets, spot-month position limits may be necessary if the underlying cash market is small or illiquid such that traders can disrupt the cash market or otherwise influence the cash-settlement price to profit on a futures position. In these cases, the limit should be set at a level that minimizes the potential for manipulation or distortion of the futures contract's or the underlying commodity's price. Markets may elect not to provide all-months-combined and non-spot month limits.

(5) Contract markets should have aggregation rules that apply to those accounts under common control, those with common ownership, i.e., where there is a ten percent or greater financial interest, and those traded according to an express or implied agreement. Contract markets will be permitted to set more stringent aggregation policies. For

example, one major board of trade has adopted a policy of automatically aggregating the position of members of the same household, unless they were granted a specific waiver. Contract markets may grant exemptions to their position limits for bona fide hedging (as defined in §1.3(z) of this chapter) and may grant exemptions for reduced risk positions, such as spreads, straddles and arbitrage positions.

(6) Contract markets with many products with large numbers of traders should have an automated means of detecting traders' violations of speculative limits or exemptions. Contract markets should monitor the continuing appropriateness of approved exemptions by periodically reviewing each trader's basis for exemption or requiring a reapplication.

(7) Contract markets should establish a program for effective enforcement of these limits. Contract markets should use their LTRS to monitor and enforce daily compliance with position limit rules. The Commission notes that a contract market may allow traders to periodically apply to the contract market for an exemption and, if appropriate, be granted a position level higher than the applicable speculative limit. The contract market should establish a program to monitor approved exemptions from the limits. The position levels granted under such hedge exemptions generally are based upon the trader's commercial activity in related markets. Contract markets may allow a brief grace period where a qualifying trader may exceed speculative limits or an existing exemption level pending the submission and approval of appropriate justification. A contract market should consider whether it wants to restrict exemptions during the last several days of trading in a delivery month. Acceptable procedures for obtaining and granting exemptions include a requirement that the contract market approve a specific maximum higher level.

(8) Finally, an acceptable speculative limit program should have specific policies for taking regulatory action once a violation of a position limit or exemption is detected. The contract market policy should consider appropriate actions, regardless of whether the violation is by a non-member or member, and should address traders carrying accounts through more than one intermediary.

(9) A violation of contract market position limits that have been approved by the Commission is also a violation of section 4a(e) of the Act. The Commission will consider for approval all contract market position limit rules.

Core Principle 6 of section 5(d) of the Act: *EMERGENCY AUTHORITY—The board of trade shall adopt rules to provide for the exercise of emergency authority, in consultation or cooperation with the Commission, where necessary and appropriate, including the authority*

to—(A) liquidate or transfer open positions in any contract; (B) suspend or curtail trading in any contract; and (C) require market participants in any contract to meet special margin requirements.

(a) *Application guidance.* A designated contract market should have clear procedures and guidelines for contract market decision-making regarding emergency intervention in the market, including procedures and guidelines to avoid conflicts of interest while carrying out such decision-making. A contract market should also have the authority to intervene as necessary to maintain markets with fair and orderly trading as well as procedures for carrying out the intervention. Procedures and guidelines should include notifying the Commission of the exercise of a contract market's regulatory emergency authority, explaining how conflicts of interest are minimized, and documenting the contract market's decision-making process and the reasons for using its emergency action authority. Information on steps taken under such procedures should be included in a submission of a certified rule and any related submissions for rule approval pursuant to Part 40, when carried out pursuant to a contract market's emergency authority. To address perceived market threats, the contract market, among other things, should be able to impose position limits in the delivery month, impose or modify price limits, modify circuit breakers, call for additional margin either from customers or clearing members, order the liquidation or transfer of open positions, order the fixing of a settlement price, order a reduction in positions, extend or shorten the expiration date or the trading hours, suspend or curtail trading on the market, order the transfer of customer contracts and the margin for such contracts from one member including non-intermediated market participants of the contract market to another, or alter the delivery terms or conditions, or, if applicable, should provide for such actions through its agreements with its third-party provider of clearing services.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* [Reserved]

Core Principle 7 of section 5(d) of the Act: *AVAILABILITY OF GENERAL INFORMATION—The board of trade shall make available to market authorities, market participants, and the public information concerning—(A) the terms and conditions of the contracts of the contract market; and (B) the mechanisms for executing transactions on or through the facilities of the contract market.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A designated contract market should have arrangements and resources for the disclosure of contract terms and conditions and trading mechanisms to the Commission, market participants and the public. Procedures should also include providing information on listing new products, rule amendments or other changes

to previously disclosed information to the Commission, market participants and the public. Provision of all such information to market participants and the public could be by timely placement of the information on a contract market's web site.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* In making information available to market participants and the public, on its Web site, a designated contract market should place information on the Web site no later than the day a new product is listed, the day a new or amended rule is implemented or the day previously disclosed information is changed. For example, the timely provision of this information on a contract market's Web site could be done through press releases, newsletters or notices to members. Additionally, a contract market should ensure that the rulebook posted on its Web site is available to the public (*i.e.*, can be accessed by visitors to the Web site without the need to register, log in, provide a user name or obtain a password) and is kept current. A rulebook will be considered current if: (1) Notice of any substantive new or amended rule is provided within one day of implementation, either by press release, newsletter, notice to members or actual posting of the change in the rulebook; and (2) all new rules, both substantive and non-substantive, are posted in the rulebook within five days of implementation.

Core Principle 8 of section 5(d) of the Act: *DAILY PUBLICATION OF TRADING INFORMATION—The board of trade shall make public daily information on settlement prices, volume, open interest, and opening and closing ranges for actively traded contracts on the contract market.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A contract market should provide to the public information regarding settlement prices, price range, volume, open interest and other related market information for all actively traded contracts, as determined by the Commission, on a fair, equitable and timely basis. The Commission believes that section 5(d)(8) requires contract markets to publicize trading information for any non-dormant contract. Provision of information for any applicable contract could be through such means as provision of the information to a financial information service and by timely placement of the information on a contract market's web site.

(b) *Acceptable Practices.* The mandatory compliance with Section 16.01, "Trading volume, open contracts, prices and critical dates," required under the regulations, would constitute an acceptable practice under Core Principle 8.

Core Principle 9 of section 5(d) of the Act: *EXECUTION OF TRANSACTIONS—The board of trade shall provide a competitive, open, and efficient market and mechanism for executing transactions.*

(a) *Application guidance.* (1) A competitive, open and efficient market and mechanism for executing transactions includes a board of trade's methodology for entering orders and executing transactions.

(2) Appropriate objective testing and review of any automated systems should occur initially and periodically to ensure proper system functioning, adequate capacity and security. A designated contract market's analysis of its automated system should address appropriate principles for the oversight of automated systems, ensuring proper system function, adequate capacity and security. The Commission believes that the guidelines issued by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) in 1990 (which have been referred to as the "Principles for Screen-Based Trading Systems"), and adopted by the Commission on November 21, 1990 (55 FR 48670), as supplemented in October 2000, are appropriate guidelines for a designated contract market to apply to electronic trading systems. Any program of objective testing and review of the system should be performed by a qualified independent professional. The Commission believes that information gathered by analysis, oversight or any program of objective testing and review of any automated systems regarding system functioning, capacity and security should be made available to the Commission.

(3) A designated contract market that determines to allow block trading should ensure that the block trading does not operate in a manner that compromises the integrity of prices or price discovery on the relevant market.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* A professional that is a certified member of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association experienced in the industry would be an example of an acceptable party to carry out testing and review of an electronic trading system.

Core Principle 10 of section 5(d) of the Act: *TRADE INFORMATION—The board of trade shall maintain rules and procedures to provide for the recording and safe storage of all identifying trade information in a manner that enables the contract market to use the information for purposes of assisting in the prevention of customer and market abuses and providing evidence of any violations of the rules of the contract market.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A designated contract market should have arrangements and resources for recording of full data entry and trade details and the safe storage of audit trail data. A designated contract market should have systems sufficient to enable the contract market to use the information for purposes of assisting in the prevention of customer and market abuses through reconstruction of trading.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* (1) The goal of an audit trail is to detect and deter customer

and market abuse. An effective contract market audit trail should capture and retain sufficient trade-related information to permit contract market staff to detect trading abuses and to reconstruct all transactions within a reasonable period of time. An audit trail should include specialized electronic surveillance programs that would identify potentially abusive trades and trade patterns, including, for instance, withholding or disclosing customer orders, trading ahead, and preferential allocation. An acceptable audit trail must be able to track a customer order from time of receipt through fill allocation or other disposition. The contract market must create and maintain an electronic transaction history database that contains information with respect to transactions executed on the designated contract market.

(2) An acceptable audit trail should include the following: original source documents, transaction history, electronic analysis capability, and safe storage capability. A contract market whose audit trail satisfies the following acceptable practices would satisfy Core Principle 10.

(i) Original source documents. Original source documents include unalterable, sequentially identified records on which trade execution information is originally recorded, whether recorded manually or electronically. For each customer order (whether filled, unfilled or cancelled, each of which should be retained or electronically captured), such records reflect the terms of the order, an account identifier that relates back to the account(s) owner(s), and the time of order entry. (For floor-based contract markets, the time of report of execution of the order should also be captured.)

(ii) Transaction history. A transaction history which consists of an electronic history of each transaction, including (a) all data that are input into the trade entry or matching system for the transaction to match and clear; (b) the categories of participants for which such trades are executed, including whether the person executing a trade was executing it for his/her own account or an account for which he/she has discretion, his/her clearing member's house account, the account of another member, including market participants present on the floor, or the account of any other customer; (c) timing and sequencing data adequate to reconstruct trading; and (d) the identification of each account to which fills are allocated.

(iii) Electronic analysis capability. An electronic analysis capability that permits sorting and presenting data included in the transaction history so as to reconstruct trading and to identify possible trading violations with respect to both customer and market abuse.

(iv) Safe storage capability. Safe storage capability provides for a method of storing

the data included in the transaction history in a manner that protects the data from unauthorized alteration, as well as from accidental erasure or other loss. Data should be retained in accordance with the record-keeping standards of Core Principle 17.

Core Principle 11 of section 5(d) of the Act: *FINANCIAL INTEGRITY OF CONTRACTS—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules providing for the financial integrity of any contracts traded on the contract market (including the clearance and settlement of the transactions with a derivatives clearing organization), and rules to ensure the financial integrity of any futures commission merchants and introducing brokers and the protection of customer funds.*

(a) *Application guidance.* Clearing of transactions executed on a designated contract market other than transactions in security futures products, should be provided through a Commission-registered derivatives clearing organization. In addition, a designated contract market should maintain the financial integrity of its transactions by maintaining minimum financial standards for its members and non-intermediated market participants and by having default rules and procedures. The minimum financial standards should be monitored for compliance purposes. The Commission believes that in order to monitor for minimum financial requirements, a designated contract market should routinely receive and promptly review financial and related information from its members. Rules concerning the protection of customer funds should address the segregation of customer and proprietary funds, the custody of customer funds, the investment standards for customer funds, related record-keeping and related intermediary default procedures. The contract market should audit its members that are intermediaries for compliance with the foregoing rules as well as applicable Commission rules. These audits should be conducted consistent with the guidance set forth in Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight Interpretations 4-1 and 4-2. A contract market may delegate to a designated self-regulatory organization responsibility for receiving financial reports and for conducting compliance audits pursuant to the guidelines set forth in §1.52 of this chapter.

(b) *Acceptable Practices.* [Reserved]

Core Principle 12 of section 5(d) of the Act: *PROTECTION OF MARKET PARTICIPANTS—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules to protect market participants from abusive practices committed by any party acting as an agent for the participants.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A designated contract market should have rules prohibiting conduct by intermediaries that is fraudulent, noncompetitive, unfair, or an abusive practice in connection with the execution of trades and a program to detect and discipline

such behavior. The contract market should have methods and resources appropriate to the nature of the trading system and the structure of the market to detect trade practice abuses.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* [Reserved]

Core Principle 13 of section 5(d) of the Act: *DISPUTE RESOLUTION—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules regarding and provide facilities for alternative dispute resolution as appropriate for market participants and any market intermediaries.*

(a) *Application guidance.* A designated contract market should provide customer dispute resolution procedures that are fair and equitable and make them available on a voluntary basis, either directly or through another self-regulatory organization, to customers that are non-eligible contract participants.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* (1) Under Core Principle 13, a designated contract market is required to provide for dispute resolution mechanisms that are appropriate to the nature of the market.

(2) In order to satisfy acceptable standards, a designated contract market should provide a customer dispute resolution mechanism that is fundamentally fair and is equitable. An acceptable customer dispute resolution mechanism would:

(i) Provide the customer with an opportunity to have his or her claim decided by an objective and impartial decision-maker.

(ii) Provide each party with the right to be represented by counsel, at the party's own expense.

(iii) Provide each party with adequate notice of the claims presented against him or her, an opportunity to be heard on all claims, defenses and permitted counterclaims, and an opportunity for a prompt hearing.

(iv) Authorize prompt, written, final settlement awards that are not subject to appeal within the contract market, and

(v) Notify the parties of the fees and costs that may be assessed.

(3) The use of such procedures should be voluntary for customers who are not eligible contract participants, and could permit counterclaims as provided in §166.5 of this chapter.

(4) If the designated contract market also provides a procedure for the resolution of disputes that do not involve customers (*i.e.*, member-to-member disputes), the procedure for resolving such disputes must be independent of and shall not interfere with or delay the resolution of customers' claims or grievances.

(5) A designated contract market may delegate to another self-regulatory organization or to a registered futures association its responsibility to provide for customer dispute resolution mechanisms, provided, however, that, if the designated contract market does

delegate that responsibility, the contract market shall in all respects treat any decision issued by such other organization or association as if the decision were its own including providing for the appropriate enforcement of any award issued against a delinquent member.

Core Principle 14 of section 5(d) of the Act: *GOVERNANCE FITNESS STANDARDS—The board of trade shall establish and enforce appropriate fitness standards for directors, members of any disciplinary committee, members of the contract market, and any other persons with direct access to the facility (including any parties affiliated with any of the persons described in this core principle).*

(a) *Application guidance.* (1) A designated contract market should have appropriate eligibility criteria for the categories of persons set forth in the Core Principle that should include standards for fitness and for the collection and verification of information supporting compliance with such standards. Minimum standards of fitness for persons who have member voting privileges, governing obligations or responsibilities, or who exercise disciplinary authority are those bases for refusal to register a person under section 8a(2) of the Act. In addition, persons who have governing obligations or responsibilities, or who exercise disciplinary authority, should not have a significant history of serious disciplinary offenses, such as those that would be disqualifying under §1.63 of this chapter. Members with trading privileges but having no, or only nominal, equity, in the facility and non-member market participants who are not intermediated and do not have these privileges, obligations, responsibilities or disciplinary authority could satisfy minimum fitness standards by meeting the standards that they must meet to qualify as a "market participant." Natural persons who directly or indirectly have greater than a ten percent ownership interest in a designated contract market should meet the fitness standards applicable to members with voting rights.

(2) The Commission believes that such standards should include providing the Commission with fitness information for such persons, whether registration information, certification to the fitness of such persons, an affidavit of such persons' fitness by the contract market's counsel or other information substantiating the fitness of such persons. If a contract market provides certification of the fitness of such a person, the Commission believes that such certification should be based on verified information that the person is fit to be in his or her position.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* [Reserved]

Core Principle 15 of section 5(d) of the Act: *CONFLICTS OF INTEREST—The board of trade shall establish and enforce rules to minimize conflicts of interest in the decision making*

process of the contract market and establish a process for resolving such conflicts of interest.

(a) *Application guidance.* The means to address conflicts of interest in decision-making of a contract market should include methods to ascertain the presence of conflicts of interest and to make decisions in the event of such a conflict. In addition, the Commission believes that the contract market should provide for appropriate limitations on the use or disclosure of material non-public information gained through the performance of official duties by board members, committee members and contract market employees or gained through an ownership interest in the contract market.

(b) *Acceptable Practices.* All designated contract markets (“DCMs” or “contract markets”) bear special responsibility to regulate effectively, impartially, and with due consideration of the public interest, as provided for in Section 3 of the Act. Under Core Principle 15, they are also required to minimize conflicts of interest in their decision-making processes. To comply with this Core Principle, contract markets should be particularly vigilant for such conflicts between and among any of their self-regulatory responsibilities, their commercial interests, and the several interests of their management, members, owners, customers and market participants, other industry participants, and other constituencies. Acceptable Practices for minimizing conflicts of interest shall include the following elements:

(1) *Board Composition for Contract Markets*

(i) At least thirty-five percent of the directors on a contract market’s board of directors shall be public directors; and

(ii) The executive committees (or similarly empowered bodies) shall be at least thirty-five percent public.

(2) *Public Director*

(i) To qualify as a public director of a contract market, an individual must first be found, by the board of directors, on the record, to have no material relationship with the contract market. A “material relationship” is one that reasonably could affect the independent judgment or decision making of the director.

(ii) In addition, a director shall be considered to have a “material relationship” with the contract market if any of the following circumstances exist:

(A) The director is an officer or employee of the contract market or an officer or employee of its affiliate. In this context, “affiliate” includes parents or subsidiaries of the contract market or entities that share a common parent with the contract market;

(B) The director is a member of the contract market, or an officer or director of a member. “Member” is defined according to Section 1a(24) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Commission Regulation 1.3(q);

(C) The director, or a firm with which the director is an officer, director, or partner, receives more than \$100,000 in combined annual payments from the contract market, or any affiliate of the contract market (as defined in Subsection (2)(ii)(A)), for legal, accounting, or consulting services. Compensation for services as a director of the contract market or as a director of an affiliate of the contract market does not count toward the \$100,000 payment limit, nor does deferred compensation for services prior to becoming a director, so long as such compensation is in no way contingent, conditioned, or revocable;

(D) Any of the relationships above apply to a member of the director’s “immediate family,” *i.e.*, spouse, parents, children and siblings.

(iii) All of the disqualifying circumstances described in Subsection (2)(ii) shall be subject to a one-year look back.

(iv) A contract market’s public directors may also serve as directors of the contract market’s affiliate (as defined in Subsection (2)(ii)(A)) if they otherwise meet the definition of public director in this Section (2).

(v) A contract market shall disclose to the Commission which members of its board are public directors, and the basis for those determinations.

(3) *Regulatory Oversight Committee*

(i) A board of directors of any contract market shall establish a Regulatory Oversight Committee (“ROC”) as a standing committee, consisting of only public directors as defined in Section (2), to assist it in minimizing actual and potential conflicts of interest. The ROC shall oversee the contract market’s regulatory program on behalf of the board. The board shall delegate sufficient authority, dedicate sufficient resources, and allow sufficient time for the ROC to fulfill its mandate.

(ii) The ROC shall:

(A) Monitor the contract market’s regulatory program for sufficiency, effectiveness, and independence;

(B) Oversee all facets of the program, including trade practice and market surveillance; audits, examinations, and other regulatory responsibilities with respect to member firms (including ensuring compliance with financial integrity, financial reporting, sales practice, recordkeeping, and other requirements); and the conduct of investigations;

(C) Review the size and allocation of the regulatory budget and resources; and the number, hiring and termination, and compensation of regulatory personnel;

(D) Supervise the contract market’s chief regulatory officer, who will report directly to the ROC;

(E) Prepare an annual report assessing the contract market’s self-regulatory program

for the board of directors and the Commission, which sets forth the regulatory program's expenses, describes its staffing and structure, catalogues disciplinary actions taken during the year, and reviews the performance of disciplinary committees and panels;

(F) Recommend changes that would ensure fair, vigorous, and effective regulation; and

(G) Review regulatory proposals and advise the board as to whether and how such changes may impact regulation.

(4) *Disciplinary Panels*

All contract markets shall minimize conflicts of interest in their disciplinary processes through disciplinary panel composition rules that preclude any group or class of industry participants from dominating or exercising disproportionate influence on such panels. Contract markets can further minimize conflicts of interest by including in all disciplinary panels at least one person who would qualify as a public director, as defined in Subsections (2)(ii) and (2)(iii) above, except in cases limited to decorum, attire, or the timely submission of accurate records required for clearing or verifying each day's transactions. If contract market rules provide for appeal to the board of directors, or to a committee of the board, then that appellate body shall also include at least one person who would qualify as a public director as defined in Subsections (2)(ii) and (2)(iii) above.

Core Principle 16 of section 5(d) of the Act: *COMPOSITION OF BOARDS OF MUTUALLY OWNED CONTRACT MARKETS—In the case of a mutually owned contract market, the board of trade shall ensure that the composition of the governing board reflects market participants.*

(a) *Application guidance.* The composition of a mutually-owned contract market's governing board should fairly represent the diversity of interests of the contract market's market participants.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* [Reserved]

Core Principle 17 of section 5(d) of the Act: *RECORDKEEPING—The board of trade shall maintain records of all activities related to the business of the contract market in a form and manner acceptable to the Commission for a period of 5 years.*

(a) *Application guidance.* [Reserved]

(b) *Acceptable practices.* Section 1.31 of this chapter governs recordkeeping obligations under the Act and the Commission's regulations thereunder. In order to provide broad flexible performance standards for recordkeeping, §1.31 was updated and amended by the Commission in 1999. Accordingly, §1.31 itself establishes the guidance regarding the form and manner for keeping records.

Core Principle 18 of section 5(d) of the Act: *ANTITRUST CONSIDERATIONS—Unless necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Act, the board of trade shall endeavor to avoid—(A) adopting any rules or taking any ac-*

tions that result in any unreasonable restraints of trade; or (B) imposing any material anti-competitive burden on trading on the contract market.

(a) *Application guidance.* An entity seeking designation as a contract market may request that the Commission consider under the provisions of section 15(b) of the Act any of the entity's rules, including trading protocols or policies, and including both operational rules and the terms or conditions of products listed for trading, at the time of designation or thereafter. The Commission intends to apply section 15(b) of the Act to its consideration of issues under this core principle in a manner consistent with that previously applied to contract markets.

(b) *Acceptable practices.* [Reserved]

[66 FR 42277, Aug. 10, 2001, as amended at 67 FR 62352, Oct. 7, 2002; 71 FR 1965, 1966, Jan. 12, 2006; 72 FR 6957, Feb. 14, 2007; 72 FR 65658, Nov. 23, 2007; 74 FR 18990, Apr. 27, 2009]

PART 39—DERIVATIVES CLEARING ORGANIZATIONS

Sec.

39.1 Scope.

39.2 Exemption.

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39.4 Procedures for implementing derivatives clearing organization rules and clearing new products.

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APPENDIX A TO PART 39—APPLICATION GUIDANCE AND COMPLIANCE WITH CORE PRINCIPLES

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 7b as amended by appendix E of Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763A-365.

SOURCE: 66 FR 45609, Aug. 29, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§ 39.1 Scope.

The provisions of this part apply to any derivatives clearing organization as defined under section 1a(9) of the Act which is registered or deemed to be registered with the Commission as a derivatives clearing organization, is required to register as such with the Commission pursuant to section 5b(a) of the Act, or which voluntarily applies to register as such with the Commission pursuant to section 5b(b) or otherwise.