

Notice to Customers

Exchange for Related Positions

Certain futures exchanges permit eligible customers to enter into privately-negotiated off-exchange futures or option on futures transactions (collectively, “futures”) known as exchange for related positions (“EFRP”). An EFRP involves the simultaneous execution of a futures transaction and an equivalent related position. Types of EFRPs include:

- Exchange of Futures for Physical (“EFP”) or Against Actual (“AA”) – the simultaneous execution of a futures contract and a corresponding physical transaction or a forward contract on a physical transaction.
- Exchange of Futures for Risk (“EFR”) – the simultaneous execution of a futures contract and a corresponding OTC swap or other OTC derivative transaction.
- Exchange of Option for Option (“EOO”) – the simultaneous execution of an option contract and a corresponding transaction in an OTC option or other OTC instrument with similar characteristics.

Customers that engage in EFRP transactions are responsible for reviewing, understanding and complying with the relevant provisions governing EFRP transactions including, but not limited to, Rule 538 of the CME Group (CME, CBOT and NYMEX) and Rule 4.06 of ICE Futures US, and the frequently asked questions and other guidance that each exchange has issued with respect thereto.

Customers are subject to the jurisdiction of the exchange through which the EFRP transaction is entered into and, therefore, may be required to produce records and otherwise cooperate in any inquiry that the exchange may undertake with respect to the EFRP transaction. Moreover, customers may be sanctioned by the exchange if an EFRP transaction does not comply with the requirements of applicable exchange rules and guidance. For this reason, customers are encouraged to review these requirements with any employees that may engage in EFRP transactions on their behalf.

- Certain common requirements of the rules and guidance issued by CME Group and ICE Futures US are summarized below. However, this summary is not a substitute for the customer’s obligation to review and understand such rules and related guidance in their entirety.
- The futures contract and the related position must be effected for the account of the same beneficial owner. If the customer is the seller of (or the holder of the short market exposure associated with) the related position, the customer must be the buyer of the futures contract(s) being exchanged in the EFRP; conversely, if the customer is the buyer of (or the holder of the long market exposure associated with) the related position, the customer must be the seller of the futures contract(s) being exchanged in the EFRP.
- Contingent or transitory EFRP transactions are prohibited. EFRP transactions may not be contingent upon the execution of another EFRP or related transaction that results in the offset of the related position without the incurrence of market risk that is material in the context of the related position transactions.
 - Note that EFPs (but not EFRs or EOOs) in foreign currency futures in which the parties immediately offset the cash transaction are permitted. An immediately offsetting FX EFP is not prohibited as a transitory EFRP because the offsetting physical transaction is not contingent on the EFP. An exchange would expect to see confirmation statements issued by the bank/foreign exchange dealer party to the transaction.

- Each side of an EFRP transaction must be independent. For example, confirmation of the related position may not be contingent on the acceptance of the futures transaction for clearing.
- EFRP transactions may be executed at any commercially reasonable price agreed by the parties. However, parties may be asked to demonstrate that EFRPs executed at prices away from the prevailing market price were executed at such prices for legitimate commercial purposes.
- The customer must maintain all records relevant to the futures transaction and the related cash, swap or derivative transaction in accordance with applicable exchange rules. Upon request, the customer must provide its FCM with documentation sufficient to verify its purchase or sale of the related position.
- The accounts on the opposite sides of the EFRP must be for different beneficial owners or be under separate decision-making control. For EFRP transactions between accounts with the same beneficial ownership, the parties to the trade must be able to demonstrate the independent control of the accounts and that the transaction was conducted at arm's length and had economic substance for each party to the trade.
- CME Group's Market Regulation Advisory Notice ("MRAN") on the subject of Exchange for Related Positions: <http://www.cmegroup.com/rulebook/files/ra1311-5rr-rule538.pdf>
- ICE Futures U.S. EFRP FAQs: https://www.theice.com/publicdocs/futures_us/EFRP_FAQ.pdf

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact your account executive.