

4110. Capital Compliance

The Rule

Notices

(a) When necessary for the protection of investors or in the public interest, FINRA may, at any time or from time to time with respect to a particular carrying or clearing member or all carrying or clearing members, pursuant to authority exercised by FINRA's Executive Vice President charged with oversight for financial responsibility, or his or her written officer delegate, prescribe greater net capital or net worth requirements than those otherwise applicable, including more stringent treatment of items in computing net capital or net worth, or require such member to restore or increase its net capital or net worth. In any such instance, FINRA shall issue a notice pursuant to Rule 9557.

(b)(1) Unless otherwise permitted by FINRA, a member shall suspend all business operations during any period in which it is not in compliance with applicable net capital requirements set forth in SEA Rule 15c3-1.

(2) FINRA may issue a notice pursuant to Rule 9557 directing a member that is not in compliance with applicable net capital requirements set forth in SEA Rule 15c3-1 to suspend all or a portion of its business.

(c)(1) No equity capital of a member may be withdrawn for a period of one year from the date such equity capital is contributed, unless otherwise permitted by FINRA in writing. Subject to the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this Rule, this paragraph shall not preclude a member from withdrawing profits earned.

(2) A carrying or clearing member shall not, without the prior written approval of FINRA, withdraw capital, pay a dividend or effect a similar distribution that would reduce such member's equity, or make any unsecured advance or loan to a stockholder, partner, sole proprietor, employee or affiliate, where such withdrawals, payments, reductions, advances or loans in the aggregate, in any 35 rolling calendar day period, on a net basis, exceeds 10% of its excess net capital.

(d) Sale-And-Leasebacks, Factoring, Financing, Loans and Similar Arrangements

(1)(A) No carrying or clearing member shall consummate a sale-and-leaseback arrangement with respect to any of its assets, or a sale, factoring, or financing arrangement with respect to any unsecured accounts receivable, where any such arrangement would increase the member's tentative net capital by 10% or more, without the prior written authorization of FINRA.

(B) No carrying member shall consummate any arrangement concerning the sale or factoring of customer debit balances, irrespective of amount, without the prior written authorization of FINRA.

(2) Any loan agreement entered into by a carrying or clearing member, the proceeds of which exceed 10% of such member's tentative net capital and which is intended to reduce the deduction in computing net capital for fixed assets and other assets which cannot be readily converted into cash under SEA Rule 15c3-1(c)(2)(iv), must be submitted to and be acceptable to FINRA, prior to such reduction becoming effective.

(3) Members subject to paragraphs (d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B) or (d)(2), shall not consummate any arrangement pursuant to such paragraph(s) if the aggregate of all such arrangements outstanding would exceed 20% of such member's tentative net capital, without the prior written authorization of FINRA.

(4) Any agreement relating to a determination of a "ready market" for securities based upon the securities being accepted as collateral for a loan by a bank under SEA Rule 15c3-1(c)(11)(ii), must be submitted to and be acceptable to FINRA before the securities may be deemed to have a "ready market."

(e) Subordinated Loans, Notes Collateralized by Securities and Capital Borrowings

(1) All subordinated loans or notes collateralized by securities shall meet such standards as FINRA may require to ensure the continued financial stability and operational capability of the member, in addition to those specified in Appendix D of SEA Rule 15c3-1.

(2) Unless otherwise permitted by FINRA, each member partnership whose general partner enters into any secured or unsecured borrowing, the proceeds of which will be contributed to the capital of the member, shall submit the following for approval in order for such proceeds to qualify as capital acceptable for inclusion in the computation of the net capital of the member:

A signed copy of the loan agreement which must:

(A) have at least a 12 month duration; and

(B) provide non-recourse to the assets of the member.

Additional documents may be required, the nature of which will vary, depending upon the legal status of the lender e.g. an individual, bank, estate, trust, corporation, partnership, etc.

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.01 Compliance with Applicable Law. For purposes of paragraph (e)(1), the member shall assure itself that any applicable provisions of the Securities Act and/or State Blue Sky laws have been satisfied and may be required to submit evidence thereof to FINRA prior to approval of the subordinated loan agreement.

.02 Members Operating Pursuant to the Exemptive Provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i). For purposes of this Rule, all requirements that apply to a member that clears or carries customer accounts shall also apply to any member that, operating pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i), either clears customer transactions pursuant to such exemptive provisions or holds customer funds in a bank account established thereunder.

Amended by SR-FINRA-2010-002 eff. Feb. 8, 2010.

Adopted by SR-FINRA-2008-067 eff. Feb. 8, 2010.

Selected Notice: 09-71.

4111. Restricted Firm Obligations

(a) General

A member designated as a Restricted Firm shall be required, except as provided in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this Rule, to establish a Restricted Deposit Account and deposit in that account cash or qualified securities with an aggregate value that is not less than the member's Restricted Deposit Requirement, and shall be subject to such conditions or restrictions on the member's operations as determined by the Department to be necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors and in the public interest.

(b) Annual Calculation by FINRA of Preliminary Criteria for Identification

For each member, the Department will compute annually (on a calendar-year basis) the Preliminary Identification Metrics to determine if the member meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification.

(c) Initial Department Evaluation and One-Time Staff Reduction

(1) Initial Department Evaluation

If the member is deemed to meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification, the Department shall conduct an internal evaluation to determine whether (A) the member does not warrant further review under this Rule because the Department has information to conclude that the computation of the member's Preliminary Identification Metrics included disclosure events (and other conditions) that should not have been included because they are not consistent with the purpose of the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and are not reflective of a firm posing a high degree of risk. The Department shall also consider whether the member has addressed the concerns signaled by the disclosure events or conditions or altered its business operations such that the Preliminary Criteria for Identification calculation no longer reflects the member's current risk profile, or (B) except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this Rule, the member should proceed to a Consultation.

(2) One-Time Staff Reduction

If the Department determines that the member meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and such member has met such criteria for the first time, such member may reduce its staffing levels to no longer meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification within 30 business days after being informed by the Department. The member shall provide evidence of the staff reduction to the Department identifying the terminated individuals. Once the member has reduced staffing levels to no longer meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification, it shall not rehire in any capacity a person terminated to accomplish the staff reduction for a period of one year.

(3) Close-Out Review

If the Department determines that the member no longer warrants further review in accordance with paragraph (c)(1)(A) or (c)(2) of this Rule, the Department shall close out the review of the member for such year.

(d) Consultation

(1) General

If the Department determines that the member meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and should proceed to a Consultation, the Department shall conduct the Consultation to allow the member to demonstrate why it does not meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and should not be designated as a Restricted Firm. If the member is designated as a Restricted Firm, the Department may require it to be subject to a Restricted Deposit Requirement or to such conditions or restrictions as the Department in its discretion shall deem necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors or in the public interest, or both. The member bears the burden of demonstrating that it should not be designated as a Restricted Firm and should not be subject to the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement.

(A) A member may overcome the presumption that it should be designated as a Restricted Firm by clearly demonstrating that the Department's calculation that the member meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification included events in the Disclosure Event and Expelled Firm Association Categories that should not have been included because for example, they are duplicative, involving the same customer and the same matter, or are not sales practice related; and

(B) A member may overcome the presumption that it should be subject to the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement by clearly demonstrating to the Department that the member would face significant undue financial hardship if it were subject to the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement and that a lesser deposit requirement would satisfy the objectives of this Rule and be consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; or that conditions and restrictions on the operations and activities of the member and its associated persons would address the concerns indicated by the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and protect investors and the public interest.

(2) Scheduling Consultation

The Department shall provide a written letter to each member it determines should proceed to a Consultation or that will proceed to a Consultation pursuant to paragraph (f)(2) of this Rule at least seven days prior to the Consultation, of the date, time and place of the Consultation and shall coordinate with the member to schedule further meetings as necessary. A Consultation shall begin at the time scheduled, unless the Department, for good cause shown by the member, provides a written letter that postpones the commencement of the Consultation. Postponements shall not exceed 30 days unless the member establishes the reasons a longer postponement is necessary.

(3) Consultation Process

In conducting its evaluation of whether a member should be designated as a Restricted Firm and subject to a Restricted Deposit Requirement, the Department shall consider:

(A) information provided by the member during any meetings as part of the Consultation;

(B) relevant information or documents, if any, submitted by the member, in the manner and form prescribed by the Department, as shall be necessary or appropriate for the Department to review the computation of the Preliminary Criteria for Identification;

(C) a plan, if any, submitted by the member, in the manner and form prescribed by the Department, proposing in detail the specific conditions or restrictions that the member seeks to have the Department consider;

(D) such other information or documents as the Department may reasonably request in its discretion from the member related to the evaluation; and

(E) any other information the Department deems necessary or appropriate to evaluate the matter.

(e) Department Decision and Notice

(1) Department Decision

Following the Consultation, but no later than 30 days from the date of the latest letter provided to the member under paragraph (d)(2) of this Rule, the Department shall render a Department Decision as follows:

(A) If the Department determines that the member has rebutted the presumption set forth in paragraph (d)(1)(A) of this Rule that it should be designated as a Restricted Firm, the Department's decision shall state that the firm shall not be designated as a Restricted Firm.

(B) If the Department determines that the member has failed to rebut the presumption set forth in paragraphs (d)(1)(A) and (d)(1)(B) of this Rule that it should be designated as a Restricted Firm that shall be subject to the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement, the Department's decision shall designate the member as a Restricted Firm and require the member to: (i) promptly establish a Restricted Deposit Account and deposit in that account the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement; and (ii) implement and maintain specified conditions or restrictions, as the Department deems necessary or appropriate, on the operations and activities of the member and its associated persons to address the concerns indicated by the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and protect investors and the public interest.

(C) If the Department determines that the member has failed to rebut the presumption in paragraph (d)(1)(A) of this Rule that it should be designated as a Restricted Firm but that it has rebutted the presumption in paragraph (d)(1)(B) of this Rule that it shall be subject to the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement, the Department shall designate the member as a Restricted Firm and shall: (i) impose no Restricted Deposit Requirement on the member or require the member to promptly establish a Restricted Deposit Account and deposit in that account a Restricted Deposit Requirement in such dollar amount less than the maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement as the Department deems necessary or appropriate; and (ii) require the member to implement and maintain specified conditions or restrictions, as the Department deems necessary or appropriate, on the operations and activities of the member and its associated persons to address the concerns indicated by the Preliminary Criteria for Identification and protect investors and the public interest.

(2) Notice of Department Decision, No Stays

No later than 30 days following the latest letter provided to the member under paragraph (d)(2) of this Rule, the Department shall issue a notice of the Department's decision pursuant to Rule 9561(a) that states the obligations to be imposed on the member, if any, under this Rule 4111 and the ability of the member under Rule 9561 to request a hearing with the Office of Hearing Officers. A timely request for a hearing shall not stay the effectiveness of the notice issued under Rule 9561(a), except that for a notice under Rule 9561(a) a member subject to a Restricted Deposit Requirement shall be required to deposit in a Restricted Deposit Account the lesser of 25 percent of its Restricted Deposit Requirement or 25 percent of its average excess net capital during the prior calendar year, until the Office of Hearing Officers or the NAC issues a written decision under Rule 9559; provided, however, that a member that has been re-designated as a Restricted Firm as set forth in paragraph (f)(2) of this Rule and is already subject to a previously imposed Restricted Deposit Requirement shall be required to keep in the Restricted Deposit Account the assets then on deposit therein until the Office of Hearing Officers or NAC issues a written decision under Rule 9559.

(f) Continuation or Termination of Restricted Firm Obligations

(1) Currently Designated Restricted Firms

A member or Former Member that is currently designated as a Restricted Firm subject to the requirements of this Rule shall not be permitted to withdraw all or any portion of its Restricted Deposit Requirement, or seek to terminate or modify any deposit requirement, conditions, or restrictions that have been imposed pursuant to this Rule, without the prior written consent of the Department. There shall be a presumption that the Department shall deny an application by a member or Former Member that is currently designated as a Restricted Firm to withdraw all or any portion of its Restricted Deposit Requirement. An application under this paragraph for a withdrawal from a Restricted Deposit Requirement shall comply with the content requirements in paragraph (f)(3)(A)(i) through (iv) of this Rule.

(2) Re-Designation as a Restricted Firm

Where a member has been designated as a Restricted Firm in one year and is determined to meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification the following year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this Rule, the Department shall provide a written letter to the member stating that it shall be re-designated as a Restricted Firm, and that the obligations previously imposed on the member in accordance with this Rule shall remain effective and unchanged, unless either the member or the Department requests a Consultation in writing within seven days of the date of the letter, in which case the obligations previously imposed shall remain effective and unchanged unless and until the Department modifies or terminates them after the Consultation. If a Consultation is conducted, there shall be a presumption that the Restricted Deposit Requirement and conditions or restrictions, if any, previously imposed on the member shall remain effective and unchanged absent a showing by the party seeking changes that the previously imposed obligations are no longer necessary or appropriate for the protection of investors or in the public interest. If a Consultation is not timely requested, the member shall be subject to paragraph (f) (1) of this Rule. When FINRA re-designates a member as a Restricted Firm and the member is subject to a Restricted Deposit Requirement, the member shall promptly after such re-designation (or, in the case where a hearing is requested pursuant to Rule 9561, promptly after the Office of Hearing Officers or the NAC issues a written decision under Rule 9559) deposit additional cash or qualified securities in the member's Restricted Deposit Account to the extent necessary to cause the aggregate value of the cash and qualified securities in the member's Restricted Deposit Account to be not less than its re-designated Restricted Deposit Requirement.

(3) Previously Designated Restricted Firms

(A) A member or Former Member that is a Restricted Firm in one year, but does not meet the Preliminary Criteria for Identification or is not designated as a Restricted Firm the following year(s), shall no longer be subject to any deposit requirement, conditions, or restrictions previously imposed on it under this Rule; provided, however, the member or Former Member shall not be permitted to withdraw any portion of its Restricted Deposit Requirement without submitting an application and obtaining the prior written consent of the Department. Such application shall:

(i) be made in such form and manner as FINRA may prescribe;

(ii) be accompanied by a copy of a current account statement for the member or Former Member's Restricted Deposit Account;

(iii) include a certification by the member's or Former Member's chief executive officer (or equivalent officer) stating the member's or Former Member's Restricted Deposit Requirement; the value of the cash or qualified securities on deposit in the member's or Former Member's Restricted Deposit Account; the value of cash or qualified securities on deposit in the member's or Former Member's Restricted Deposit Account that the member or Former Member is seeking the Department's consent to withdraw; and

(iv) include evidence that there are no "Covered Pending Arbitration Claims," unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding against the member, the member's Associated Persons or the Former Member, or if there are any "Covered Pending Arbitration Claims," unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding, provide a detailed description of such.

(B) After such review and investigation as it considers necessary or appropriate, the Department shall determine whether to authorize a withdrawal, in part or whole, of cash or qualified securities from the member's or Former Member's Restricted Deposit Account. There shall be presumptions that the Department shall: (i) approve an application for withdrawal if the member, the member's Associated Persons, or the Former Member have no "Covered Pending Arbitration Claims," unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding; and (ii) (a) deny an application for withdrawal if the member, the member's Associated Persons who are owners or control persons, or the Former Member have any "Covered Pending Arbitration Claims," unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding, or if the member's Associated Persons have any "Covered Pending Arbitration Claims," unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding that involved conduct or alleged conduct that occurred while associated with the member; but (b) approve an application by a Former Member for withdrawal if the Former Member commits in the manner specified by the Department to use the amount it seeks to withdraw from its Restricted Deposit to pay the Former Member's specified unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements relating to arbitrations outstanding. Within 30 days from the date the application is received by the Department, the Department shall issue a notice of the Department's decision pursuant to Rule 9561(a).

(g) Books and Records

Each member shall maintain records evidencing the member's compliance with this Rule and any Restricted Deposit Requirement or conditions or restrictions imposed in accordance with this Rule, including without limitation, records relating to the calculation of the Preliminary Criteria for Identification, Consultation, the Restricted Deposit Account, conditions or restrictions imposed, and agreements with bank(s) or clearing firm(s), for a period of six years from the date the member is no longer subject to the requirements of this Rule. In addition, a firm that is subject to a Restricted Deposit Requirement shall provide to the Department, upon its request, records, agreements and account statements that demonstrate the firm's compliance with the Restricted Deposit Requirement.

(h) Notice of Failure to Comply

FINRA may issue a notice pursuant to Rule 9361(b) directing a member that is not in compliance with the Restricted Deposit Requirement or the conditions or restrictions imposed by this Rule to suspend all or a portion of its business.

(i) Definitions

For purposes of this Rule, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) The term "Consultation" means one or more meetings or consultations between the Department and a member that meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification.

(2) The term "Covered Pending Arbitration Claim," for purposes of this Rule 4111, means an investment-related, consumer initiated claim filed against the member or its Associated Persons in any arbitration forum that is unresolved; and whose claim amount (individually or, if there is more than one claim, in the aggregate) exceeds the member's excess net capital. For purposes of this definition, the claim amount includes claimed compensatory loss amounts only, not requests for pain and suffering, punitive damages or attorney's fees, and shall be the maximum amount for which the member or Associated Person, as applicable, is potentially liable regardless of whether the claim was brought against additional persons or the Associated Person reasonably expects to be indemnified, share liability or otherwise lawfully avoid being held responsible for all or part of such maximum amount.

(3) The term "Department" means FINRA's Department of Member Regulation.

(4) The term "Disclosure Event and Expelled Firm Association Categories" means the following categories of disclosure events and other information:

(A) "Registered Person Adjudicated Events" means any one of the following events that are reportable on the registered person's Uniform Registration Forms:

(i) a final investment-related, consumer-initiated customer arbitration award or civil judgment against the registered person in which the registered person was a named party or was a "subject of" the customer arbitration award or civil judgment;

(ii) a final investment-related, consumer-initiated customer arbitration settlement, civil litigation settlement or a settlement prior to a customer arbitration or civil litigation for a dollar amount at or above \$15,000 in which the registered person was a named party or was a "subject of" the customer arbitration settlement, civil litigation settlement or a settlement prior to a customer arbitration or civil litigation;

(iii) a final investment-related civil judicial matter that resulted in a finding, sanction or order;

(iv) a final regulatory action that resulted in a finding, sanction or order, and was brought by the SEC or Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), other federal regulatory agency, a state regulatory agency, a foreign financial regulatory authority, or a self-regulatory organization; or

(v) a criminal matter in which the registered person was convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) in a domestic, foreign, or military court to any felony or any reportable misdemeanor.

(B) "Registered Person Pending Events" means any one of the following events associated with the registered person that are reportable on the registered person's Uniform Registration Forms:

(i) a pending investment-related civil judicial matter;

(ii) a pending investigation by a regulatory authority;

(iii) a pending regulatory action that was brought by the SEC or CFTC, other federal regulatory agency, a state regulatory agency, a foreign financial regulatory authority, or a self-regulatory organization; or

(iv) a pending criminal charge associated with any felony or any reportable misdemeanor.

(C) "Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Events" means any one of the following events associated with the registered person at a previous member that are reportable on the registered person's Uniform Registration Forms:

(i) a termination in which the registered person voluntarily resigned, was discharged or was permitted to resign from a previous member after allegations; or

(ii) a pending or closed internal review by a previous member.

(D) "Member Firm Adjudicated Events" means any one of the following events that are reportable on the member's Uniform Registration Forms, or are based on customer arbitrations filed with FINRA's dispute resolution forum:

(i) a final investment-related, consumer-initiated customer arbitration award in which the member was a named party;

(ii) a final investment-related civil judicial matter that resulted in a finding, sanction or order;

(iii) a final regulatory action that resulted in a finding, sanction or order, and was brought by the SEC or CFTC, other federal regulatory agency, a state regulatory agency, a foreign financial regulatory authority, or a self-regulatory organization; or

(iv) a criminal matter in which the member was convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) in a domestic, foreign, or military court to any felony or any reportable misdemeanor.

(E) "Member Firm Pending Events" means any one of the following events that are reportable on the member's Uniform Registration Forms:

(i) a pending investment-related civil judicial matter;

(ii) a pending regulatory action that was brought by the SEC or CFTC, other federal regulatory agency, a state regulatory agency, a foreign financial regulatory authority, or a self-regulatory organization; or

(iii) a pending criminal charge associated with any felony or any reportable misdemeanor.

(F) "Registered Persons Associated with Previously Expelled Firms" means any Registered Person In-Scope who was registered for at least one year with a previously expelled firm and whose registration with the previously expelled firm terminated during the Evaluation Period.

(5) The term "Evaluation Date" means the date, each calendar year, as of which the Department calculates the Preliminary Identification Metrics to determine if the member meets the Preliminary Criteria for Identification.

(6) The term "Evaluation Period" means the prior five years from the Evaluation Date, provided that for the Registered Person Pending Events and Member Firm Pending Events categories and pending internal reviews in the Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Events category, it would correspond to the Evaluation Date (and include all events that are pending as of the Evaluation Date).

(7) The term "Former Member" means an entity that has withdrawn or resigned its FINRA membership, or that has had its membership cancelled or revoked.

(8) The term "qualified security" has the meaning given it in SEA Rule 15c3-3(a)(6).

(9) The term "Preliminary Criteria for Identification" means meeting the following conditions:

(A) Two or more of the member's Preliminary Identification Metrics are equal to or more than the corresponding Preliminary Identification Metrics Thresholds, and at least one of these metrics is among the following metrics:

(i) Registered Person Adjudicated Event Metric;

(ii) Member Firm Adjudicated Event Metric; and

(iii) Expelled Firm Association Metric; and

(B) The member has two or more Registered Person and Member Firm Events during the Evaluation Period.

(10) The term "Preliminary Identification Metrics" means the following six metrics that are based on the number of disclosure events (defined above) per Registered Persons In-Scope or percent of Registered Persons In-Scope associated with previously expelled firms:

(A) "Registered Person Adjudicated Event Metric" would be computed as the sum of Registered Person Adjudicated Events that reached a resolution during the Evaluation Period, across all Registered Persons In-Scope and divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(B) "Registered Person Pending Event Metric" would be computed as the sum of Registered Person Pending Events as of the Evaluation Date, across all Registered Persons In-Scope and divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(C) "Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Event Metric" would be computed as the sum of Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Events that reached a resolution during the Evaluation Period and pending internal reviews by a previous member as of the Evaluation Date, across all Registered Persons In-Scope and divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(D) "Member Firm Adjudicated Event Metric" would be computed as the sum of Member Firm Adjudicated Events that reached a resolution during the Evaluation Period, divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(E) "Member Firm Pending Event Metric" would be computed as the sum of Member Firm Pending Events as of the Evaluation Date, divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(F) "Expelled Firm Association Metric" would be computed as the sum of Registered Persons Associated with Previously Expelled Firms, divided by the number of Registered Persons In-Scope.

(11) The term "Preliminary Identification Metrics Thresholds" means the following thresholds corresponding to each of the six Preliminary Identification Metrics.

Preliminary Identification Metrics Thresholds							
Firm Size Category	Number of Registered Persons In-Scope in Firm Size Category	Thresholds for Registered Person Event Metrics:			Thresholds for Member Firm Event Metrics:		Threshold for Expelled Firm Association Metric:
		Registered Person Adjudicated Event Metric	Registered Person Pending Event Metric	Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Event Metric	Member Firm Adjudicated Event Metric	Member Firm Pending Event Metric	Expelled Firm Association Metric
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	1-4	0.50	0.20	0.10	0.75	0.25	0.30
2	5-9	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.25
3	10-19	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.30	0.05	0.20
4	20-50	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.02	0.15
5	51-150	0.20	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.01	0.03
6	151-499	0.15	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.01
7	500+	0.10	0.05	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.01

(12) The term "Registered Person and Member Firm Events" means the sum of the following categories of defined events during the Evaluation Period:

- (A) Registered Person Adjudicated Events;
- (B) Registered Person Pending Events;
- (C) Registered Person Termination and Internal Review Events;
- (D) Member Firm Adjudicated Events; and
- (E) Member Firm Pending Events.

(13) The term "Registered Persons In-Scope" means all persons registered with the firm for one or more days within the one year prior to the Evaluation Date.

(14) The term "Restricted Deposit Account" means an account in the name of the member:

- (A) at a bank (as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act) or the member's clearing firm;
- (B) subject to an agreement in which the bank or the member's clearing firm, as applicable, agrees:
 - (i) not to permit withdrawals (other than withdrawals of interest or the withdrawal of qualified securities or cash after and on the same day as the deposit of cash or qualified securities of equal value) from the Restricted Deposit Account without the prior written consent of FINRA;
 - (ii) to keep the account separate from any other accounts maintained by the member with the bank or clearing firm;
 - (iii) that the cash or securities on deposit in the account will at no time be used directly or indirectly as security for a loan to the member by the bank or clearing firm and will not be subject to any set-off, right, charge, security interest, lien, or claim of any kind in favor of the bank, clearing firm or any person claiming through the bank or clearing firm;
 - (iv) that if the member becomes a Former Member, the assets deposited in the Restricted Deposit Account to satisfy the Restricted Deposit Requirement shall be kept in the Restricted Deposit Account, and the bank or clearing firm will not permit withdrawals from the Restricted Deposit Account without the prior written consent of FINRA as set forth in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(3) of this Rule; and
 - (v) that FINRA is a third-party beneficiary to such agreement and that such agreement may not be amended without the prior written consent of FINRA; and
- (C) not subject to any right, charge, security interest, lien or claim of any kind granted by the member.

(15) The term "Restricted Deposit Requirement" means one of the following amounts:

(A) the specific maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement for a member, determined by the Department taking into consideration the nature of the firm's operations and activities, revenues, commissions, assets, liabilities, expenses, net capital, the number of offices and registered persons, the nature of the disclosure events counted in the numeric thresholds, insurance coverage for customer arbitration awards or settlements, concerns raised during FINRA exams, and the amount of any of the firm's or its Associated Persons' Covered Pending Arbitration Claims, unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid settlements related to arbitrations. Based on a review of these factors, the Department would determine a maximum Restricted Deposit Requirement for the member that would be consistent with the objectives of this Rule, but would not significantly undermine the continued financial stability and operational capability of the firm as an ongoing enterprise over the next 12 months; or

(B) the amount, adjusted after the Consultation, determined by the Department; and

(C) with respect to a Former Member, the Restricted Deposit Requirement last calculated pursuant to paragraph (i)(15)(A) or (15)(B) of this Rule when the firm was a member.

(16) The term "Restricted Firm" means each member that is designated as such in accordance with paragraphs (e)(1)(B) and (e)(1)(C) of this Rule.

(17) The term "Uniform Registration Forms" means the Forms BD, U4, U5 and U6, as applicable.

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.01 Net Capital Treatment of the Deposits in the Restricted Deposit Account. Because of the restrictions on withdrawals from a Restricted Deposit Account, deposits in such an account cannot be readily converted into cash and therefore shall be deducted in determining the member's net capital under SEA Rule 15c3-1 and FINRA Rule 4110.

.02 Compliance with Rule 1017. Nothing in this Rule shall be construed as altering in any manner a member's obligations under Rule 1017.

.03 Examples of Conditions and Restrictions. For purposes of this Rule, the conditions or restrictions that the Department may impose include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) limitations on business expansions, mergers, consolidations or changes in control;

(b) filing all advertising with FINRA's Department of Advertising Regulation;

(c) imposing requirements on establishing and supervising offices;

(d) requiring a compliance audit by a qualified, independent third party;

(e) limiting business lines or product types offered;

(f) limiting the opening of new customer accounts;

(g) limiting approvals of registered persons entering into borrowing or lending arrangements with their customers;

(h) requiring the member to impose specific conditions or limitations on, or to prohibit, registered persons' outside business activities of which the member has received notice pursuant to Rule 3270; and

(i) requiring the member to prohibit or, as part of its supervision of approved private securities transactions for compensation under Rule 3280 or otherwise, impose specific conditions on associated persons' participation in private securities transactions of which the member has received notice pursuant to Rule 3280.

Adopted by by SR-FINRA-2020-041 eff. Jan. 1, 2022.

Selected Notice: 21-34.

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4120. Regulatory Notification and Business Curtailment

The Rule

Notices

(a) Notification

(1) Each carrying or clearing member shall promptly, but in any event within 24 hours, notify FINRA in writing if its net capital falls below the following percentages:

(A) the member's net capital is less than 150 percent of its minimum dollar net capital requirement or such greater percentage thereof as may from time to time be designated by FINRA;

(B) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its aggregate indebtedness is more than 1,000 percent of its net capital;

(C) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2);

(D) the member is approved to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1e, and

(i) its tentative net capital as defined in SEA Rule 15c3-1(c)(15) is less than 150 percent of the minimum tentative net capital amount required by SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(i)(A),

(ii) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its net capital is less than the sum of 1/10th of its aggregate indebtedness and 150 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3), or

(iii) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than the sum of the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2) and 150 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3);

(E) the member is registered as a security-based swap dealer operating pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10), and

(i) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its net capital is less than the sum of 1/10th of its aggregate indebtedness and 150 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3), or

(ii) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than the sum of the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2) and 150 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3);

(F) the member is registered as a Futures Commission Merchant pursuant to the Commodity Exchange Act, and its net capital is less than 120 percent of the minimum risk-based capital requirements of Commodity Exchange Act Rule 1.17; or

(G) the member's deduction of capital withdrawals, which it anticipates making, whether voluntarily or as a result of a commitment, including maturities of subordinated liabilities entered into pursuant to Appendix D of SEA Rule 15c3-1, during the next six months, and/or special deductions from net capital set forth in [Rule 4210\(e\)\(8\)\(C\)](#), would result in any one of the conditions described in paragraph (a)(1)(A) through (F) of this Rule.

(b) Restrictions on Business Expansion

(1) Except as otherwise permitted by FINRA in writing, a member that carries customer accounts or clears transactions shall not expand its business during any period in which any of the conditions described in paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule continue to exist for more than 15 consecutive business days, provided that such condition(s) has been known to FINRA or the member for at least five consecutive business days. FINRA may issue a notice pursuant to [Rule 9557](#) directing any such member not to expand its business; however, FINRA's authority to issue such notice does not negate the member's obligation not to expand its business in accordance with this paragraph (b)(1).

(2) No member may expand its business during any period in which FINRA restricts the member from expanding its business for any financial or operational reason. In any such instance, FINRA shall issue a notice pursuant to [Rule 9557](#).

(3) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this Rule, the term "expansion of business" may include:

- (A) net increase in the number of registered representatives or other producing personnel;
- (B) exceeding average capital commitments over the previous three months for market making or block positioning;
- (C) initiation of market making in new securities or any new proprietary trading or other commitment in securities or commodities in which a market is not made (other than riskless trades associated with customer orders);
- (D) exceeding average commitments over the previous three months for underwritings;
- (E) opening of new branch offices;
- (F) entering any new line of business or deliberately promoting or expanding any present lines of business;
- (G) making unsecured or partially secured loans, advances, drawings, guarantees or other similar receivables; and
- (H) such other activities as FINRA deems appropriate under the circumstances, in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

(c) Reduction of Business

(1) Except as otherwise permitted by FINRA in writing, a member that carries customer accounts or clears transactions is obligated to reduce its business to a point enabling its available capital to exceed the standards set forth in paragraph (a)(1)(A) through (G) of this Rule, when any of the following conditions continue to exist for more than 15 consecutive business days, provided that such condition(s) has been known to FINRA or the member for at least five consecutive business days:

- (A) the member's net capital is less than 125 percent of its minimum dollar net capital requirement or such greater percentage thereof as may from time to time be designated by FINRA;
- (B) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its aggregate indebtedness is more than 1,200 percent of its net capital;
- (C) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than one percentage point below the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2);
- (D) the member is approved to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1e, and
 - (i) its tentative net capital as defined in SEA Rule 15c3-1(c)(15) is less than the amount specified under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(ii),
 - (ii) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its net capital is less than the sum of 1/12th of its aggregate indebtedness and 125 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3), or
 - (iii) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than the sum of one percentage point below the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2) and 125 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(7)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3);
- (E) the member is registered as a security-based swap dealer operating pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10), and
 - (i) the member is subject to the aggregate indebtedness requirement of SEA Rule 15c3-1, and its net capital is less than the sum of 1/12th of its aggregate indebtedness and 125 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3), or
 - (ii) the member elects to use the alternative method of computing net capital pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii), and its net capital is less than the sum of one percentage point below the level specified in SEA Rule 17a-11(b)(2) and 125 percent of the amount required under SEA Rule 15c3-1(a)(10)(i)(A)(1), (2), or (3);
- (F) the member is registered as a Futures Commission Merchant pursuant to the Commodity Exchange Act, and its net capital is less than 110 percent of the minimum risk-based capital requirements of Commodity Exchange Act Rule 1.17; or
- (G) the member's deduction of capital withdrawals, including maturities of subordinated liabilities entered into pursuant to Appendix D of SEA Rule 15c3-1, scheduled during the next six months, and/or special deductions from net capital set forth in [Rule 4210\(e\)\(8\)\(C\)](#), would result in any one of the conditions described in paragraph (c)(1)(A) through (F) of this Rule.

FINRA may issue a notice pursuant to [Rule 9557](#) directing any such member to reduce its business to a point enabling its available capital to exceed the standards set forth in paragraph (a)(1)(A) through (G) of this Rule; however, FINRA's authority to issue such notice does not negate the member's obligation to reduce its business in accordance with this paragraph (c)(1).

(2) A member must reduce its business as directed by FINRA for any financial or operational reason. In any such instance, FINRA shall issue a notice pursuant to [Rule 9557](#).

(3) For purposes of paragraph (c) of this Rule, the term "business reduction" shall mean reducing or eliminating parts of a member's business in order to reduce the amount of capital required, which may include:

- (A) promptly paying all or a portion of free credit balances to customers;
- (B) promptly effecting delivery to customers of all or a portion of fully paid securities in the member's possession or control;
- (C) introducing all or a portion of its business to another member on a fully disclosed basis;
- (D) reducing the size or modifying the composition of its inventory and reducing or ceasing market making;
- (E) closing of one or more existing branch offices;
- (F) collecting unsecured or partially secured loans, advances, drawings, guarantees or other similar receivables;
- (G) accepting no new customer accounts;
- (H) restricting the payment of salaries or other sums to partners, officers, directors, shareholders, or associated persons of the member;
- (I) effecting liquidating or closing customer and/or proprietary transactions;
- (J) accepting only unsolicited customer orders; and
- (K) such other activities as FINRA deems appropriate under the circumstances in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

••• **Supplementary Material:** -----

.01 Exercise of Discretion by FINRA. The following are examples of the conditions under which FINRA may exercise its discretion pursuant to paragraphs (b)(2) or (c)(2) of this Rule:

- (a) The member has experienced a substantial change in the manner in which it processes its business, which, in the view of FINRA, increases the potential risk of loss to customers or other members;
- (b) The member's books and records are not maintained in accordance with the provisions of SEA Rules 17a-3 or 17a-4;
- (c) The member is not in compliance, or is unable to demonstrate compliance, with applicable net capital requirements;
- (d) The member is not in compliance, or is unable to demonstrate compliance, with SEA Rule 15c3-3 (Customer Protection - Reserves and Custody of Securities);
- (e) The member is unable to clear and settle transactions promptly; or
- (f) The member's overall business operations are in such condition, given the nature of its business that, notwithstanding the absence of any of the conditions enumerated in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this Supplementary Material, a determination of financial or operational difficulty should be made.

.02 Correspondent Firms. The Rule contemplates that any restrictions or conditions imposed on a carrying or clearing member's business under this Rule may require that member to restrict the business activities of one or more correspondent firms for which the member clears, insofar as such business would be handled by such carrying or clearing member.

.03 Members Operating Pursuant to the Exemptive Provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i). For purposes of this Rule, all requirements that apply to a member that clears or carries customer accounts shall also apply to any member that, operating pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i), either clears customer transactions pursuant to such exemptive provisions or holds customer funds in a bank account established thereunder.

Amended by SR-FINRA-2021-008 eff. Feb. 6, 2022.
Amended by SR-FINRA-2010-024 eff. Dec. 2, 2010.
Adopted by SR-FINRA-2008-067 eff. Feb. 8, 2010.

Selected Notices: [09-71](#), [10-45](#), [22-03](#).

[← 4111. RESTRICTED FIRM OBLIGATIONS](#)

UP

[4130. REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES OF SECTION 15C MEMBERS EXPERIENCING
FINANCIAL AND/OR OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES](#) >

VERSIONS

Feb 06, 2022 onwards



4130. Regulation of Activities of Section 15C Members Experiencing Financial and/or Operational Difficulties

The Rule

Notices

(a) Application - For purposes of this Rule, the term "member" shall be limited to any member of FINRA registered with the SEC pursuant to Section 15C of the Exchange Act that is not designated to another self-regulatory organization by the SEC for financial responsibility pursuant to Section 17 of the Exchange Act and SEA Rule 17d-1.

(b) Each member subject to Section 402.2 of the rules of the Treasury Department shall comply with the capital requirements prescribed therein and with the provisions of this Rule.

(c) A member, when so directed by FINRA shall not expand its business during any period in which:

(1) Any of the following conditions continue to exist for more than 15 consecutive business days:

(A) the member's liquid capital is less than 150 percent of the total haircuts or such greater percentage thereof as may from time to time be prescribed by FINRA;

(B) the member's liquid capital minus total haircuts is less than 150 percent of its minimum dollar capital requirement; or

(C) the deduction of ownership equity and maturities of subordinated debt scheduled during the next six months would result in any one of the conditions described in (A) or (B) of this subparagraph (1); or

(2) FINRA restricts the member for any other financial or operational reason.

(d) A member, when so directed by FINRA, shall forthwith reduce its business:

(1) To a point at which the member would not be subject to a prohibition against expansion of its business as set forth in paragraphs (c) (1)(A), (B), or (C) of this Rule if any of the following conditions continue to exist for more than 15 consecutive business days:

(A) the member's liquid capital is less than 125 percent of total haircuts or such greater percentage thereof as may from time to time be prescribed by FINRA;

(B) the member's liquid capital minus total haircuts is less than 125 percent of its minimum dollar capital requirement; or

(C) the deduction of ownership equity and maturities of subordinated debt scheduled during the next six months would result in any one of the conditions described in (A) or (B) of this subparagraph (1); and

(2) As required by FINRA when it restricts a member for any other financial or operational reason.

(e) A member shall suspend all business operations during any period of time when the member is not in compliance with applicable liquid capital requirements as set forth in Section 402.2 of the rules of the Treasury Department. FINRA staff may issue a notice to such member directing it to suspend all business operations; however, the member's obligation to suspend all business operations arises from its obligations under Section 402.2 of the rules of the Treasury Department and is not dependent on any notice that may be issued by FINRA staff.

(f) Any notice directing a member to limit or suspend its business operations shall be issued by FINRA staff pursuant to Rule 9557.

Amended by SR-FINRA-2008-067 eff. Feb. 8, 2010.
Amended by SR-NASD-2003-110 eff. June 28, 2004.
Amended by SR-NASD-2003-74 eff. Dec. 1, 2003.
Adopted by SR-NASD-95-39 eff. Oct. 10, 1996.

Selected Notices: 03-67, 04-36, 09-71.

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4140. Audit

The Rule

Notices

(a) FINRA may at any time, due to concerns regarding the accuracy or integrity of a member's financial statements, books and records or prior audited financial statements, direct any member to cause an audit to be made by an independent public accountant of its accounts, or cause an examination to be made in accordance with attestation, review or consultation standards prescribed by the AICPA. Such audit or examination shall be directed pursuant to authority exercised by FINRA's Executive Vice President charged with oversight for financial responsibility, or his or her written officer delegate, and shall be made in accordance with such requirements as FINRA may prescribe.

(b) Any member failing to file an audited financial and/or operational report or examination report under this Rule in the prescribed time shall be subject to a late fee as set forth in Schedule A Section 4(g)(1) to the FINRA By-Laws.

Adopted by SR-FINRA-2008-067 eff. Feb. 8, 2010.

Selected Notice: 09-71.



4150. Guarantees by, or Flow Through Benefits for, Members

The Rule

Notices

(a) Prior written notice shall be given to FINRA whenever any member guarantees, endorses or assumes, directly or indirectly, the obligations or liabilities of another person.

(b) Prior written approval must be obtained from FINRA whenever any member receives flow through capital benefits in accordance with Appendix C of SEA Rule 15c3-1.

••• Supplementary Material: -----

.01 Financial and Operational Impact. The written notice required by paragraph (a) of this Rule shall be given to FINRA at least 10 business days prior to entering into such arrangement or relationship with another person. Both the written notice required by paragraph (a) of this Rule and the request for approval under paragraph (b) of this Rule shall include the address and general nature of business conducted by such person, a description of the relationship or arrangement between the parties, details regarding the capitalization of such person (including the percentage of ownership or profits by the member), as well as the actual and potential effect of the arrangement or relationship on the member's capital (including net capital) and operations and such other information as FINRA may require. A request for approval under paragraph (b) of this Rule shall further include an opinion of counsel where such is required in conformity with Appendix C of SEA Rule 15c3-1.

.02 Member Dealings. A member may at any time be required to provide FINRA with information with respect to the arrangement, relationship and dealings with a person referred to in this Rule.

.03 Books and Records. No member shall enter into an arrangement described in this Rule unless it has the authority to make available promptly the books and records of such other person for inspection by FINRA in the United States. The books and records of such person shall be kept separately from those of the member.

.04 FOCUS Reporting Requirements. For persons referred to in this Rule that are registered broker-dealers, the member shall furnish to FINRA copies of such person's FOCUS Reports simultaneous with their being filed with the person's designated examining authority. For persons referred to in this Rule that are not registered broker-dealers, FINRA requires, in lieu of FOCUS, submission of financial and operational statements, in such format and at such time periods as may be required by FINRA, sufficient to gauge the capital and operational effects of the arrangement or relationship.

.05 Routine Guarantees. Guarantees executed routinely in the normal course of business such as trade guarantees, signature guarantees, endorsement of securities and the writing of options, are not subject to the requirements of this Rule provided that, in regard to the guarantee of the writing of options, the transaction is appropriately recorded on the member's books and records in accordance with SEA Rule 17a-3(a)(10) and is reflected in its net capital computation pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1.

.06 Guarantees Already in Effect. Within 30 days of August 1, 2011, each member shall advise FINRA, in writing, of any guarantees, endorsements, assumptions of obligations/liabilities, or flow through capital benefits, in effect as of August 1, 2011 not having otherwise been reported, in writing, to the appropriate Regulatory Coordinator.

Adopted by SR-FINRA-2010-061 eff. Aug. 1, 2011.

Selected Notice: 11-26.



4160. Verification of Assets

(a) A member, when notified by FINRA, may not continue to custody or retain record ownership of assets, whether such assets are proprietary or customer assets, at a financial institution that is not a member of FINRA, which, upon FINRA staff's request, fails promptly to provide FINRA with written verification of assets maintained by the member at such financial institution.

(b) The Rule shall not apply:

- (1) to proprietary assets of members that are treated as non-allowable assets under SEA Rule 15c3-1; or
- (2) in instances where FINRA determines that there is no independent custody or record ownership of the assets.

••• Supplementary Material: -----

.01 Asset Transfers. Any member required to transfer its proprietary and/or customer assets pursuant to this Rule shall effect such transfer within a reasonable period of time.

.02 Member Obligations Under SEA Rule 15c3-3. Nothing in this Rule shall be construed as altering in any manner a member's obligations under SEA Rule 15c3-3.

Adopted by SR-FINRA-2010-042 eff. Feb 1, 2011; amended by SR-FINRA-2010-062 eff. Feb. 1, 2011.

Selected Notice: 10-61.

4210. Margin Requirements

The Rule

Notices

This version is valid from Apr 06, 2022 through Oct 25, 2022.

Amendments have been announced but are not yet effective. To view other versions open the versions tab on the right.

(a) Definitions

For purposes of this Rule, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

(1) The term "basket" shall mean a group of stocks that FINRA or any national securities exchange designates as eligible for execution in a single trade through its trading facilities and that consists of stocks whose inclusion and relative representation in the group are determined by the inclusion and relative representation of their current market prices in a widely disseminated stock index reflecting the stock market as a whole.

(2) The term "current market value" means the total cost or net proceeds of a security on the day it was purchased or sold or at any other time the preceding business day's closing price as shown by any regularly published reporting or quotation service except for security futures contracts (see paragraph (f)(10)(C)(ii)). If there is no closing price, a member may use a reasonable estimate of the market value of the security as of the close of business on the preceding business day.

(3) The term "customer" means any person for whom securities are purchased or sold or to whom securities are purchased or sold whether on a regular way, when issued, delayed or future delivery basis. It will also include any person for whom securities are held or carried and to or for whom a member extends, arranges or maintains any credit. The term will not include the following: (A) a broker or dealer from whom a security has been purchased or to whom a security has been sold for the account of the member or its customers, or (B) an "exempted borrower" as defined by Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Regulation T"), except for the proprietary account of a broker-dealer carried by a member pursuant to paragraph (e)(6) of this Rule.

(4) The term "designated account" means the account of:

(A) a bank (as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act),

(B) a savings association (as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,

(C) an insurance company (as defined in Section 2(a)(17) of the Investment Company Act),

(D) an investment company registered with the SEC under the Investment Company Act,

(E) a state or political subdivision thereof, or

(F) a pension or profit sharing plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) or of an agency of the United States or of a state or a political subdivision thereof.

(5) The term "equity" means the customer's ownership interest in the account, computed by adding the current market value of all securities "long" and the amount of any credit balance and subtracting the current market value of all securities "short" and the amount of any debit balance. Any variation settlement received or paid on a security futures contract shall be considered a credit or debit to the account for purposes of equity.

(6) The term "exempted security" or "exempted securities" has the meaning as in Section 3(a)(12) of the Exchange Act.

(7) The term "margin" means the amount of equity to be maintained on a security position held or carried in an account.

(8) The term "person" has the meaning as in Section 3(a)(9) of the Exchange Act.

(9) The term "highly rated foreign sovereign debt securities" means any debt securities (including major foreign sovereign debt securities) issued or guaranteed by the government of a foreign country, its provinces, state or cities, or a supranational entity, if at the time of the extension of credit the issue, the issuer or guarantor, or any other outstanding obligation of the issuer or guarantor ranked junior to or on