

March 18, 2003

Katherine A. England
Assistant Director
Division of Market Regulation
Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549-1001

Re: File No. SR-NASD-2003-45 – Margin Rule for Security Futures Contracts

Dear Ms. England:

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4, enclosed please find the above-numbered rule filing. Also enclosed is a 3-1/2" disk containing the rule filing in Microsoft Word 7.0 to facilitate production of the Federal Register release.

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia M. Albrecht, Office of General Counsel, Regulatory Policy and Oversight, NASD, at (202) 728-8026; e-mail patricia.albrecht@nasd.com. The fax number of the Office of General Counsel is (202) 728-8264.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Z. Sweeney
Senior Vice President
and Corporate Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Hong-Anh Tran

File No. SR-NASD-2003-45
Consists of 40 Pages
March 18, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C.

Form 19b-4

Proposed Rule Change

by

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECURITIES DEALERS, INC.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

1. Text of Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”), the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposed rule change to make permanent the amendments to NASD Rule 2520 (“Margin Requirements”) for margin requirements for security futures contracts. On January 24, 2003, the SEC approved these amendments on a pilot basis (“Pilot”) until March 6, 2003.¹ On March 5, 2003, the SEC extended the pilot until March 20, 2003.²

The proposed rule change is being made to make NASD’s margin rule consistent with margin rules already adopted by the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) and other self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) regarding security futures contracts.

The proposed rule change would: (1) permit customer margining of security futures contracts, and establish initial and maintenance margin requirements for security futures contracts; (2) allow for initial and maintenance margin levels for offsetting positions involving security futures contracts and related positions at lower levels than would be required if margined separately; (3) provide for a Market Maker exclusion for proprietary trades of a “Security Futures Dealer” (“SFD”) and allow for “good faith” margin treatment for the accounts of approved options specialists, market makers, and other specialists; (4) provide definitions relative to security futures contracts for application of this rule; (5) provide that security futures contracts

¹ Exchange Act Release No. 47244 (January 24, 2003), 68 FR 5317 (February 3, 2003). Specifically, the approval of the amendments to NASD Rule 2520 on a pilot basis allows NASD to facilitate the trading in security futures in securities accounts for those NASD members that are not also members of the NYSE while, at the same time, considering any comments it receives on the amendments to Rule 2520 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts.

² Exchange Act Release No. 47470 (March 5, 2003), 68 FR 12397 (March 14, 2003).

transacted in a futures account shall not be subject to any provisions of Rule 2520; (6) provide for money market mutual funds as defined in Rule 2a-7³ under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "ICA"),⁴ to be used to satisfy margin requirements for security futures contracts provided certain conditions are met; (7) require that security futures contracts transacted in a securities account be subject to all other provisions of Rule 2520, particularly Rule 2520(f)(8)(B) ("Day Trading"); and (8) permit members for which NASD is the Designated Examining Authority ("DEA") to participate in the trading of security futures contracts. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit A to this rule filing. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

(a) The proposed rule change to Rule 2520 relating to the margin requirements for security futures contracts was approved by unanimous written consent of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of NASD on October 16, 2002, which authorized the filing of the rule change with the SEC. Counsel for the NASDAQ Stock Market and NASD Dispute Resolution were provided an opportunity to consult with respect to the proposed rule change, pursuant to the Plan of Allocation and Delegation of Functions by NASD. No other action by NASD is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change to make permanent the amendments to Rule 2520.

³ 17 CFR § 270.2a-7.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 80a et seq.

(b) Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to Gary L. Goldsholle, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Regulatory Policy and Oversight, NASD at (202) 728-8104; or Patricia M. Albrecht, Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Policy and Oversight, NASD at (202) 728-8026.

3. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Purpose

Background

In December 2000, the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000⁵ (the “CFMA”) was signed into law. The CFMA, among other things, repealed the Shad-Johnson Accord, and now permits, for the first time, the trading of futures on narrow-based indices and single stocks (collectively referred to as “security futures contracts” or “SFCs”). SFCs are hybrid products in that they have characteristics traditionally associated with both securities and futures. The CFMA requires that these products be treated as both “securities” and “futures” and subject them to regulation by the SEC and the CFTC. The enactment of the CFMA surfaced a number of regulatory issues, including determining appropriate margin treatment for SFCs.

The CFTC and SEC have adopted customer margin requirements for SFCs (“SEC/CFTC Margin Regulations”)⁶ pursuant to authority delegated to them by the Federal Reserve Board (“FRB”) under Section 7(c)(2)(B) of the Act.⁷ As noted in the adopting release,⁸ new subsection

⁵ Appendix E of Pub. L. No. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

⁶ 17 CFR § 242.400 through 406.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. § 78g(c)(2)(B).

⁸ File No. S7-16-01; Release No. 34-46292; 67 FR 53146 (August 14, 2002).

(2) to Section 7(c) provides that the customer margin requirements for SFCs must satisfy four requirements: (1) they must preserve the financial integrity of markets trading security futures contracts; (2) they must prevent systemic risk; (3) they must (a) be consistent with the margin requirements for comparable options traded on an exchange registered pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act,⁹ and (b) provide for initial and maintenance margin that are not lower than the lowest level of margin, exclusive of premium, required for comparable exchange traded options; and (4) they must be and remain consistent with the margin requirements established by the FRB under Regulation T.¹⁰ These margin regulations became effective on September 13, 2002.

Pursuant to these amendments, NASD filed proposed amendments to NASD Rule 2520. The Commission approved the amendments on a pilot basis until March 6, 2003.¹¹ On March 5, 2003, the Commission extended the Pilot until March 20, 2003 in order to allow the Pilot to continue in effect on an uninterrupted basis and to permit customers to continue trading security futures contracts in securities accounts while NASD considered the comments noted below that it has received on the Pilot.¹²

Among the amendments approved as part of the Pilot was new Rule 2520(f)(11) (“Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures”) which provides that security futures contracts transacted in a securities account be subject to all other provisions of Rule 2520, including 2520(f)(8)(B) (“Day Trading”).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. § 78f.

¹⁰ 12 CFR § 220.

¹¹ Exchange Act Rel. No. 47244 (January 24, 2003), 68 FR 5317 (February 3, 2003). The Commission also approved the NYSE’s amendments to Rule 431 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts on a pilot basis until March 6, 2003. Exchange Act Rel. No. 47129 (January 3, 2003), 68 FR 2094 (January 15, 2003).

¹² Exchange Act Rel. No. 47470 (March 5, 2003), 68 FR 12397 (March 14, 2003).

Rule 2520(f)(11)(D) (“Security Futures Dealers’ Accounts”), Rule 2520(f)(11)(E) (“Approved Options Specialists’ or Market Makers’ Accounts”), and Rule 2520(f)(11)(F) (“Approved Specialists’ Accounts – others”) are also new rule provisions approved as part of the Pilot. As approved, the rule would permit “good faith” margin treatment for specified hedged offset positions carried in the accounts noted above. However, unlike the amendments proposed by other SROs¹³ for SFDs, NASD’s proposal permits members to accord offset treatment in accounts carried for such specialists, market makers, and SFDs only when their activity is limited to bona fide specialist or market making transactions. The limitations imposed are consistent with NASD’s belief that market makers bear the primary responsibility and obligation to maintain fair and orderly markets, and provide liquidity to the marketplace.

NASD received one comment letter on the Pilot from the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. (“CBOE”).¹⁴ In its letter, the CBOE requested that the Commission not grant permanent approval of NASD’s rule as proposed and approved on a pilot basis unless NASD amended the rule to exempt security futures contracts from its daily trading provisions and deleted references to the term “bona fide” in connection with market maker or specialist transactions.

NASD is now proposing to adopt on a permanent basis margin requirements for security futures contracts carried in a securities account with modifications from the Pilot as discussed below.

¹³ See Exchange Act Rel. No. 46555 (September 26, 2002), 67 FR 61707 (October 1, 2002).

¹⁴ CBOE’s December 20, 2002 comment letter is a resubmission of its December 9, 2002 comment letter regarding the NYSE’s proposed amendments to Rule 431 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts. The CBOE stated that because the proposed amendments were so similar in nature, its comments on the NYSE’s proposed amendments were applicable to NASD’s proposed rule change. Letter from CBOE, Edward J. Joyce, President and COO, to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC (December 20, 2002); *see also* Letter from CBOE, Edward J. Joyce, President and COO, to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC (December 9, 2002).

As approved, NASD's day trading margin requirements would apply to security futures contracts carried in securities accounts. The CBOE believes that day trading provisions should not apply to such accounts because it would create a disparity that the CFMA was designed to eliminate. In this regard, CBOE's letter states that the SEC and CFTC did not impose day trading margin requirements on security futures contracts carried in futures and securities accounts. The CBOE argues that since similar margin rules recently approved by the Commission do not impose day trading margin requirements on security futures contracts carried in futures accounts, permanent approval of NASD's proposed rule will lead to a regulatory disparity the CFMA was designed to prevent.

In proposing its rule amendment, it was not NASD's intent to create a regulatory disparity with other SRO rules. However, SRO rules can be more stringent than those of the Commission. While NASD is guided by the Commission's rules in proposing its rules, NASD has latitude to promulgate more stringent rules when it believes they are necessary for the protection of investors. In this regard, application of the day trading margin requirements of Rule 2520 to security futures contracts is consistent with the treatment of all securities transacted in a margin account under this rule. Further, members fully support such a requirement. Accordingly, NASD proposes to apply NASD's day trading margin requirements to security futures contracts carried in securities accounts.

The CBOE also requests that NASD delete the proposed term "bona fide" in connection with market maker or specialist transactions. The CBOE notes that the Exchange does not define the term "bona fide" nor does it use the term in relation to the other provisions of its margin rule relating to market maker and specialist transactions.

In response to these comments, NASD will hereby amend the amend the proposed rule text by deleting the term “bona fide” in connection with specialist or market maker transactions. In proposing such language, it was NASD’s intent to permit good faith margin treatment for off-setting positions that were effected by specialists or market makers in discharging the primary responsibilities noted above in its original filing, rather than to permit persons other than qualified market makers to act in such a capacity - hence the term “bona fide” in connection with specialist and market making transactions. Upon consideration, and in order to be consistent with similar rules proposed by other SROs, NASD will delete the term “bona fide” and instead incorporate the definition of an SFD as referenced in Rule 400(c)(2)(v)¹⁵ under the Exchange Act to clarify what constitutes a SFD for purposes of the rule. Notwithstanding this amendment, NASD reiterates that good faith margin treatment will be permitted only for transactions effected by SFDs in discharging their responsibilities and obligations to maintain fair and orderly markets, and to provide liquidity to the marketplace.

(b) Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that NASD's rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. NASD believes that the proposed rule change is designed to accomplish these goals by permitting customers to trade security futures contracts in securities accounts.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.400(c)(2)(v).

4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

5. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

NASD received written comments from CBOE on the original proposed rule change that was filed with the Commission on November 15, 2002, and amended on January 15, 2003.

NASD has responded to the CBOE's comments and hereby amends its original rule proposal filed with the Commission on November 15, 2002.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

NASD does not consent at this time to an extension of the time period for Commission action specified in Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

NASD requests the Commission to find good cause pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after its publication in the Federal Register. NASD requests accelerated approval in order to permit customers to trade security futures contracts on an uninterrupted basis after the Pilot program expires on March 20, 2003. In addition, the proposed rule change clarifies NASD members' obligations under NASD Rule 2520 with respect to their trading in security futures.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

Exhibit A. Text of Proposed Amendments to Rule 2520.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, NASD has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

NASD, INC.

BY: _____
Barbara Z. Sweeney , Senior Vice President and
Corporate Secretary

Date: March 18, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NASD-2003-45)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Amendments to NASD Rule 2520 for Margin Requirements for Security Futures Contracts

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on , the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is granting accelerated approval of the proposed rule change.

I. SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATION'S STATEMENT OF THE TERMS OF SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

The proposed rule change makes permanent the amendments to NASD Rule 2520 establishing margin requirements for security futures contracts. The SEC approved these amendments on a pilot basis (“the Pilot”) until March 6, 2003,³ and extended NASD the Pilot until March 20, 2003.⁴

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR § 240.19b-4.

³ Exchange Act Release No. 47244 (January 24, 2003), 68 FR 5317 (February 3, 2003). Specifically, the approval of the amendments to NASD Rule 2520 on a pilot basis allows NASD to facilitate the trading in security futures in securities accounts for those NASD members that are not also members of the NYSE while, at the same time, considering any comments it receives on the amendments to Rule 2520 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts.

⁴ Exchange Act Release No. 47470 (March 5, 2003), 68 FR 12397 (March 14, 2003).

The proposed rule change is being made to make NASD's margin rule consistent with margin rules already adopted by the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") regarding security futures contracts.

The proposed rule change would: (1) permit customer margining of security futures contracts, and establish initial and maintenance margin requirements for security futures contracts; (2) allow for initial and maintenance margin levels for offsetting positions involving security futures contracts and related positions at lower levels than would be required if margined separately; (3) provide for a Market Maker exclusion for proprietary trades of a "Security Futures Dealer" ("SFD") and allow for "good faith" margin treatment for the accounts of approved options specialists, market makers, and other specialists; (4) provide definitions relative to security futures contracts for application of this rule; (5) provide that security futures contracts transacted in a futures account shall not be subject to any provisions of Rule 2520; (6) provide for money market mutual funds as defined in Rule 2a-7⁵ under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "ICA"),⁶ to be used to satisfy margin requirements for security futures contracts provided certain conditions are met; (7) require that security futures contracts transacted in a securities account be subject to all other provisions of Rule 2520, particularly Rule 2520(f)(8)(B) ("Day Trading"); and (8) permit members for which NASD is the Designated Examining Authority ("DEA") to participate in the trading of security futures contracts.

⁵ 17 CFR § 270.2a-7.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 80a et seq.

II. SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATION'S STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF, AND STATUTORY BASIS FOR, THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

In its filing with the Commission, NASD included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. NASD has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Purpose

Background

In December 2000, the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000⁷ (the “CFMA”) was signed into law. The CFMA, among other things, repealed the Shad-Johnson Accord, and now permits, for the first time, the trading of futures on narrow-based indices and single stocks (collectively referred to as “security futures contracts” or “SFCs”). SFCs are hybrid products in that they have characteristics traditionally associated with both securities and futures. The CFMA requires that these products be treated as both “securities” and “futures” and subject them to regulation by the SEC and the CFTC. The enactment of the CFMA surfaced a number of regulatory issues, including determining appropriate margin treatment for SFCs.

The CFTC and SEC have adopted customer margin requirements for SFCs (“SEC/CFTC Margin Regulations”)⁸ pursuant to authority delegated to them by the Federal Reserve Board

⁷ Appendix E of Pub. L. No. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

⁸ 17 CFR § 242.400 through 406.

(“FRB”) under Section 7(c)(2)(B) of the Act.⁹ As noted in the adopting release,¹⁰ new subsection (2) to Section 7(c) provides that the customer margin requirements for SFCs must satisfy four requirements: (1) they must preserve the financial integrity of markets trading security futures contracts; (2) they must prevent systemic risk; (3) they must (a) be consistent with the margin requirements for comparable options traded on an exchange registered pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act,¹¹ and (b) provide for initial and maintenance margin that are not lower than the lowest level of margin, exclusive of premium, required for comparable exchange traded options; and (4) they must be and remain consistent with the margin requirements established by the FRB under Regulation T.¹² These margin regulations became effective on September 13, 2002.

Pursuant to these amendments, NASD filed proposed amendments to NASD Rule 2520. The Commission approved the amendments on a pilot basis until March 6, 2003.¹³ On March 5, 2003, the Commission extended the Pilot until March 20, 2003 in order to allow the Pilot to continue in effect on an uninterrupted basis and to permit customers to continue trading security futures contracts in securities accounts while NASD considered the comments noted below that it has received on the Pilot.¹⁴

⁹ 15 U.S.C. § 78g(c)(2)(B).

¹⁰ File No. S7-16-01; Release No. 34-46292; 67 FR 53146 (August 14, 2002).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. § 78f.

¹² 12 CFR § 220.

¹³ Exchange Act Rel. No. 47244 (January 24, 2003), 68 FR 5317 (February 3, 2003). The Commission also approved the NYSE’s amendments to Rule 431 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts on a pilot basis until March 6, 2003. Exchange Act Rel. No. 47129 (January 3, 2003), 68 FR 2094 (January 15, 2003).

¹⁴ Exchange Act Rel. No. 47470 (March 5, 2003), 68 FR 12397 (March 14, 2003).

Among the amendments approved as part of the Pilot was new Rule 2520(f)(11) (“Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures”) which provides that security futures contracts transacted in a securities account be subject to all other provisions of Rule 2520, including 2520(f)(8)(B) (“Day Trading”).

Rule 2520(f)(11)(D) (“Security Futures Dealers’ Accounts”), Rule 2520(f)(11)(E) (“Approved Options Specialists’ or Market Makers’ Accounts”), and Rule 2520(f)(11)(F) (“Approved Specialists’ Accounts – others”) are also new rule provisions approved as part of the Pilot. As approved, the rule would permit “good faith” margin treatment for specified hedged offset positions carried in the accounts noted above. However, unlike the amendments proposed by other SROs¹⁵ for SFDs, NASD’s proposal permits members to accord offset treatment in accounts carried for such specialists, market makers, and SFDs only when their activity is limited to bona fide specialist or market making transactions. The limitations imposed are consistent with NASD’s belief that market makers bear the primary responsibility and obligation to maintain fair and orderly markets, and provide liquidity to the marketplace.

NASD received one comment letter on the Pilot from the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. (“CBOE”).¹⁶ In its letter, the CBOE requested that the Commission not grant permanent approval of NASD’s rule as proposed and approved on a pilot basis unless NASD amended the rule to exempt security futures contracts from its daily trading provisions and deleted references to the term “bona fide” in connection with market maker or specialist transactions.

¹⁵ See Exchange Act Rel. No. 46555 (September 26, 2002), 67 FR 61707 (October 1, 2002).

¹⁶ CBOE’s December 20, 2002 comment letter is a resubmission of its December 9, 2002 comment letter regarding the NYSE’s proposed amendments to Rule 431 relating to margin requirements for security futures contracts. The CBOE stated that because the proposed amendments were so similar in nature, its comments on the NYSE’s proposed amendments were applicable to NASD’s proposed rule change. Letter from CBOE, Edward J.

NASD is now proposing to adopt on a permanent basis margin requirements for security futures contracts carried in a securities account with modifications from the Pilot as discussed below.

As approved, NASD's day trading margin requirements would apply to security futures contracts carried in securities accounts. The CBOE believes that day trading provisions should not apply to such accounts because it would create a disparity that the CFMA was designed to eliminate. In this regard, CBOE's letter states that the SEC and CFTC did not impose day trading margin requirements on security futures contracts carried in futures and securities accounts. The CBOE argues that since similar margin rules recently approved by the Commission do not impose day trading margin requirements on security futures contracts carried in futures accounts, permanent approval of NASD's proposed rule will lead to a regulatory disparity the CFMA was designed to prevent.

In proposing its rule amendment, it was not NASD's intent to create a regulatory disparity with other SRO rules. However, SRO rules can be more stringent than those of the Commission. While NASD is guided by the Commission's rules in proposing its rules, NASD has latitude to promulgate more stringent rules when it believes they are necessary for the protection of investors. In this regard, application of the day trading margin requirements of Rule 2520 to security futures contracts is consistent with the treatment of all securities transacted in a margin account under this rule. Further, members fully support such a requirement. Accordingly, NASD proposes to apply NASD's day trading margin requirements to security futures contracts carried in securities accounts.

Joyce, President and COO, to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC (December 20, 2002); *see also* Letter from CBOE, Edward J. Joyce, President and COO, to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, SEC (December 9, 2002).

The CBOE also requests that NASD delete the proposed term “bona fide” in connection with market maker or specialist transactions. The CBOE notes that the Exchange does not define the term “bona fide” nor does it use the term in relation to the other provisions of its margin rule relating to market maker and specialist transactions.

In response to these comments, NASD will hereby amend the amend the proposed rule text by deleting the term “bona fide” in connection with specialist or market maker transactions. In proposing such language, it was NASD’s intent to permit good faith margin treatment for off-setting positions that were effected by specialists or market makers in discharging the primary responsibilities noted above in its original filing, rather than to permit persons other than qualified market makers to act in such a capacity - hence the term “bona fide” in connection with specialist and market making transactions. Upon consideration, and in order to be consistent with similar rules proposed by other SROs, NASD will delete the term “bona fide” and instead incorporate the definition of an SFD as referenced in Rule 400(c)(2)(v)¹⁷ under the Exchange Act to clarify what constitutes a SFD for purposes of the rule. Notwithstanding this amendment, NASD reiterates that good faith margin treatment will be permitted only for transactions effected by SFDs in discharging their responsibilities and obligations to maintain fair and orderly markets, and to provide liquidity to the marketplace. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit A to this rule filing. Proposed new language is in italics; proposed deletions are in brackets.

(b) Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that NASD's rules must be designed to

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.400(c)(2)(v).

prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. NASD believes that the proposed rule change is designed to accomplish these goals by permitting customers to trade security futures contracts in securities accounts.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

NASD has received one written comment from the CBOE on the original proposed rule change that was filed with the Commission on November 15, 2002 and amended on January 15, 2003. NASD has responded to the CBOE's comments and hereby amends its original rule proposal filed with the Commission on January 15, 2003.

III. DATE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE AND TIMING FOR COMMISSION ACTION

NASD has requested that the Commission find good cause pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after publication in the Federal Register. The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to NASD and, in particular, the requirements of Section 15A and the rules and regulations thereunder. The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after the date of publication of notice of filing thereof in that accelerated approval will permit customers to trade security futures contracts on an uninterrupted basis after the Pilot program expires on March 20,

2003. In addition, the proposed rule change clarifies NASD members' obligations under NASD Rule 2520 with respect to their trading in security futures.

IV. SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by [insert date 21 days from the date of publication].

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority, 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Margaret H. McFarland
Deputy Secretary

EXHIBIT A

SR-NASD-2003-45

Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

2520. Margin Requirements

(a) Definitions

For the purposes of this paragraph, the following term shall have the meanings specified below:

(1) The term “basket” shall mean a group of stocks that NASD 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)(11)(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 organization 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 organization 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 organization pursuant to Section (e)(6) of this Rule.

(4) The term “designated account” means the account of a bank, trust company, insurance company, investment trust, state or political subdivision thereof, charitable or nonprofit educational institution regulated under the laws of the United States or any state, or pension or profit sharing plan subject to 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 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 Act.

(b) Initial Margin

For the purpose of effecting new securities transactions and commitments, the customer shall be required to deposit margin in cash and/or securities in the account which shall be at least the greater of:

(1) the amount specified in Regulation T, or Rules 400 through 406 under the Act or Rules 41.42 through 41.48 under the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”); or

(2) the amount specified in Section (c)[(3)]¹ of this Rule; or

(3) such greater amount as NASD [the Association]² may from time to time require for specific securities; or

(4) equity of at least \$2,000 except that cash need not be deposited in excess of the cost of any security purchased (this equity and cost of purchase provision shall not apply to “when distributed” securities in a cash account). The minimum equity requirement for a “pattern day trader” is \$25,000 pursuant to paragraph (f)(8)(B)(iv)a. of this Rule.

Withdrawals of cash or securities may be made from any account which has a debit balance, “short” position or commitments, provided it is in compliance with Regulation T and Rules 400 through 406 under the Act and Rules 41.42 through 41.48 under the CEA, and after such withdrawal the equity in the account is at least the greater of \$2,000 (\$25,000 in the case of a “pattern day trader”) or an amount sufficient to meet the maintenance margin requirements of this Rule.

¹ The reference to subparagraph 3 is a technical error, and therefore, is being eliminated.

² This proposed rule change is a clerical amendment.

(c) Maintenance Margin

The margin that must be maintained in all accounts of customers, except for cash accounts subject to other provisions of this rule, shall be as follows:

(1) 25 percent of the current market value of all securities, except for security futures contracts, “long” in the account; plus

(2) \$2.50 per share or 100 percent of the current market value, whichever amount is greater, of each stock “short” in the account selling at less than \$5.00 per share; plus

(3) \$5.00 per share or 30 percent of the current market value, whichever amount is greater, of each stock “short” in the account selling at \$5.00 per share or above; plus

(4) 5 percent of the principal amount or 30 percent of the current market value, whichever amount is greater, of each bond “short” in the account.

(5) The minimum maintenance margin levels for security futures contracts, long and short, shall be 20 percent of the current market value of such contract. (See paragraph (f) of this Rule for other provisions pertaining to security futures contracts.)

(d) No Change.

(e) Exceptions to Rule

The foregoing requirements of this Rule are subject to the following exceptions:

(1) through (5) No Change.

(6) Broker/Dealer Accounts

(A) A member may carry the proprietary account of another broker/dealer, which is registered with the Commission, upon a margin basis which is satisfactory to both parties, provided the requirements of Regulation T and Rules 400 through 406 under the Act and Rules 41.42 through 41.48 under the CEA are adhered to

and the account is not carried in a deficit equity condition. The amount of any deficiency between the equity maintained in the account and the haircut requirements pursuant to SEC Rule 15c3-1 shall be charged against the member's net capital when computing net capital under SEC Rule 15c3-1.

(B) No Change.

(7) Nonpurpose Credit

In a nonsecurities credit account, a member may extend and maintain nonpurpose credit to or for any customer without collateral or on any collateral whatever, provided:

(A) the account is recorded separately and confined to the transactions and relations specifically authorized by Regulation T;

(B) the account is not used in any way for the purpose of evading or circumventing any regulation of NASD [the Association]³ or of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and Rules 400 through 406 under the Act and Rules 41.42 through 41.48 under the CEA; and

(C) the amount of any deficiency between the equity in the account and the margin required by the other provisions of this paragraph shall be charged against the member's net capital as provided in SEC Rule 15c3-1.

The term “nonpurpose credit” means an extension of credit other than “purpose credit,” as defined in Section 220.2 of Regulation T.

(8) through (10) No Change.

³ This proposed rule change is a clerical amendment.

(f) Other Provisions

(1) through (10) No Change.

(11) Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures

(A) Applicability

No member may effect a transaction involving, or carry an account containing, a security futures contract with or for a customer in a margin account, without obtaining proper and adequate margin as set forth in this section.

(B) Amount of customer margin.

(i) General Rule. As set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this rule, the minimum initial and maintenance margin levels for each security futures contract, long and short, shall be twenty (20) percent of the current market value of such contract.

(ii) Excluded from the rule's requirements are arrangements between a member and a customer with respect to the customer's financing of proprietary positions in security futures, based on the member's good faith determination that the customer is an "Exempted Person," as defined in Rule 401(a)(9) under the Act, and Rule 41.43(a)(9) under the CEA, except for the proprietary account of a broker/dealer carried by a member pursuant to paragraph (e)(6)(A) of this Rule. Once a registered broker or dealer, or member of a national securities exchange ceases to qualify as an "Exempted Person," it shall notify the member of this fact before

establishing any new security futures positions. Any new security futures positions will be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(iii) Permissible Offsets. Notwithstanding the minimum margin levels specified in paragraph (f)(11)(B)(i) of this Rule, customers with offset positions involving security futures and related positions may have initial or maintenance margin levels (pursuant to the offset table below) that are lower than the levels specified in paragraph (f)(11)(B)(i) of this Rule.

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
(1)	<u>Long security future (or basket of security futures representing each component of a narrow-based securities index) and long put option on the same underlying security (or index).</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long security future, plus pay for the long put in full.</u>	<u>The lower of: (1) 10 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the put plus the aggregate put out-of-the-money amount, if any; or (2) 20 percent of the current market value of the long security future.</u>
(2)	<u>Short security future (or basket of security futures representing each component of a narrow-based securities index) and short put option on the same underlying security (or index).</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short security future, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any. Proceeds from the put sale may be applied.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short security future, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(3)	<u>Long security future and short position in the same security (or securities basket) underlying the security</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>The initial margin required under Regulation T for the short stock or stocks.</u>	<u>5 percent of the current market value as defined in Regulation T of the stock or stocks underlying the security future.</u>

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
	<u>future.</u>			
(4)	<u>Long security future (or basket of security futures representing each component of a narrow-based securities index) and short call option on the same underlying security (or index).</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long security future, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any. Proceeds from the call sale may be applied.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long security future, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(5)	<u>Long a basket of narrow-based security futures that together tracks a broad based index and short a broad-based security index call option contract on the same index.</u>	<u>Narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long basket of narrow-based security futures, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any. Proceeds from the call sale may be applied.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long basket of narrow-based security futures, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any.</u>

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
(6)	<u>Short a basket of narrow-based security futures that together tracks a broad-based security index and short a broad-based security index put option contract on the same index.</u>	<u>Narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short basket of narrow-based security futures, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any. Proceeds from the put sale may be applied.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short basket of narrow-based security futures, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(7)	<u>Long a basket of narrow-based security futures that together tracks a broad-based security index and long a broad-based security index put option contract on the same index.</u>	<u>Narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long basket of narrow-based security futures, plus pay for the long put in full.</u>	<u>The lower of: (1) 10 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the put, plus the aggregate put out-of-the-money amount, if any; or (2) 20 percent of the current market value of the long basket of security futures.</u>
(8)	<u>Short a basket of narrow-based security futures that together tracks a broad-based security index and long a broad-based security index call option contract on the same index.</u>	<u>Narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short basket of narrow-based security futures, plus pay for the long call in full.</u>	<u>The lower of: (1) 10 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the call, plus the aggregate call out-of-the-money amount, if any; or (2) 20 percent of the current market value of the short basket of security futures.</u>
(9)	<u>Long security future and short security future on the same underlying security (or index).</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>The greater of: 5 percent of the current market value of the long security future; or (2) 5 percent of the current market value of the short security future.</u>	<u>The greater of: 5 percent of the current market value of the long security future; or (2) 5 percent of the current market value of the short security future.</u>

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
(10)	<u>Long security future, long put option and short call option. The long security future, long put and short call must be on the same underlying security and the put and call must have the same exercise price. (Conversion)</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long security future, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any, plus pay for the put in full. Proceeds from the call sale may be applied.</u>	<u>10 percent of the aggregate exercise price, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(11)	<u>Long security future, long put option and short call option. The long security future, long put and short call must be on the same underlying security and the put exercise price must be below the call exercise price. (Collar)</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the long security future, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any, plus pay for the put in full. Proceeds from call sale may be applied.</u>	<u>The lower of: (1) 10 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the put plus the aggregate put out-of-the-money amount, if any; or (2) 20 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the call, plus the aggregate call in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(12)	<u>Short security future and long position in the same security (or securities basket) underlying the security future.</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index</u>	<u>The initial margin required under Regulation T for the long security or securities.</u>	<u>5 percent of the current market value, as defined in Regulation T, of the long stock or stocks.</u>
(13)	<u>Short security future and long position in a security immediately convertible into the same security underlying the security future, without restriction, including the payment of money.</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index</u>	<u>The initial margin required under Regulation T for the long security or securities.</u>	<u>10 percent of the current market value, as defined in Regulation T, of the long stock or stocks.</u>

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
(14)	<u>Short security future (or basket of security futures representing each component of a narrow-based securities index) and long call option or warrant on the same underlying security (or index).</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short security future, plus pay for the call in full.</u>	<u>The lower of: (1) 10 percent of the aggregate exercise price of the call, plus the aggregate call out-of-the-money amount, if any; or (2) 20 percent of the current market value of the short security future.</u>
(15)	<u>Short security future, short put option and long call option. The short security future, short put and long call must be on the same underlying security and the put and call must have the same exercise price. (Reverse Conversion)</u>	<u>Individual stock or narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>20 percent of the current market value of the short security future, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any, plus pay for the call in full. Proceeds from put sale may be applied.</u>	<u>10 percent of the aggregate exercise price, plus the aggregate put in-the-money amount, if any.</u>
(16)	<u>Long (short) a security future and short (long) an identical⁴ security future traded on a different market.</u>	<u>Individual stock and narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>The greater of: (1) 3 percent of the current market value of the long security future(s); or (2) 3 percent of the current market value of the short security future(s).</u>	<u>The greater of: (1) 3 percent of the current market value of the long security future(s); or (2) 3 percent of the current market value of the short security future(s).</u>

⁴ Two security futures contracts will be considered "identical" for this purpose if they are issued by the same clearing agency or cleared and guaranteed by the same derivatives clearing organization, have identical specifications, and would offset each other at the clearing level.

	<u>Description of Offset</u>	<u>Security Underlying the Security Future</u>	<u>Initial Margin Requirement</u>	<u>Maintenance Margin Requirement</u>
(17)	<u>Long (short) a basket of security futures that together tracks a narrow-based index and short (long) a narrow-based index future.</u>	<u>Individual stock and narrow-based security index.</u>	<u>The greater of: (1) 5 percent of the current market value of the long security future(s); or (2) 5 percent of the current market value of the short security future(s).</u>	<u>The greater of: (1) 5 percent of the current market value of the long security future(s); or (2) 5 percent of the current market value of the short security future(s).</u>

(C) Definitions. For the purposes of paragraph (f)(11) of this Rule and the offset table noted above, with respect to the term “security futures contracts,” the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

(i) The term “security futures contract” means a “security future” as defined in Section 3(a)(55) of the Act.

(ii) The term “current market value” has the same meaning as defined in Rule 401(a)(4) under the Act and Rule 41.43(a)(4) under the CEA.

(iii) The term “underlying security” means, in the case of physically settled security futures contracts, the security that is delivered upon expiration of the contract, and, in the case of cash settled security futures contracts, the security or securities index the price or level of which determines the final settlement price for the security futures contract upon its expiration.

(iv) The term “underlying basket” means, in the case of a securities index, a group of security futures contracts where the underlying securities as defined in subparagraph (iii) above include each of the component securities of the applicable index and that meets the following conditions: (1) the quantity of each underlying security is proportional to its representation in the index, (2) the total market value of the underlying securities is equal to the aggregate value of the applicable index, (3) the basket cannot be used to offset more than the number of contracts or warrants represented by its total market value, and (4) the security futures contracts shall be unavailable to support any other contract or warrant transaction in the account.

(v) The term “underlying stock basket” means a group of securities that includes each of the component securities of the applicable index and that meets the following conditions: (1) the quantity of each stock in the basket is proportional to its representation in the index, (2) the total market value of the basket is equal to the underlying index value of the index options or warrants to be covered, (3) the securities in the basket cannot be used to cover more than the number of index options or warrants represented by that value, and (4) the securities in the basket shall be unavailable to support any other option or warrant transaction in the account.

(vi) The term “variation settlement” has the same meaning as defined in Rule 401(a) under the Act and Rule 41.43(a)(32) under the CEA.

(D) Security Futures Dealers’ Accounts

(i) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph (f)(11), a member may carry and clear the market maker permitted offset positions (as defined below) of one or more security futures dealers in an account that is limited to market maker transactions, upon a “Good Faith” margin basis that is satisfactory to the concerned parties, provided the “Good Faith” margin requirement is not less than the Net Capital haircut deduction of the member carrying the transaction pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 under the Act. In lieu of collecting the “Good Faith” margin requirement, a carrying member may elect to deduct in computing its Net Capital the amount of any deficiency between the equity maintained in the account and the “Good Faith” margin required.

For the purpose of this paragraph (f)(11)(D), the term “security futures dealer” means (1) a member or member organization of a national securities exchange or a national securities association registered pursuant to Section 15A(a) of the Act; (2) is registered with such exchange or association as a security futures dealer pursuant to rules that are effective in accordance with Section 19(b)(2) of the Act and, as applicable Section 5c(c) of the CEA, that: (a) requires such member or member organization to be registered as a floor trader or a floor broker with the CFTC under

Section 4f(a)(1) of the CEA, or as a dealer with the Commission under Section 15(b) of the Act; (b) requires such member or member organization to maintain records sufficient to prove compliance with the rules of the exchange or association of which it is a member; (c) requires such member or member organization to hold itself out as being willing to buy and sell security futures for its own account on a regular and continuous basis; and (d) provides for disciplinary action, including revocation of such member's or member organization's registration as a security futures dealer, for such member's or member organization's failure to comply with Rule 400 through 406 of the Act and Rules 41.42 through 41.49 of the CEA or the rules of the exchange or association of which the security futures dealer is a member or member organization.

(ii) For purposes of this paragraph (f)(11)(D), a permitted offset position means in the case of a security futures contract in which a security futures dealer makes a market, a position in the underlying asset or other related assets, or positions in options overlying the asset or related assets. Accordingly, a security futures dealer may establish a long or short position in the assets underlying the security futures contracts in which the security futures dealer makes a market, and may purchase or write options overlying those assets if the account holds the following permitted offset positions:

a. A long position in the security futures contract or underlying asset offset by a short option position that is “in or at the money;”

b. A short position in the security futures contract or underlying asset offset by a long option position that is “in or at the money;”

c. A position in the underlying asset resulting from the assignment of a market-maker short option position or making delivery in respect of a short security futures contract;

d. A position in the underlying asset resulting from the assignment of a market-maker long option position or taking delivery in respect of a long security futures contract;

e. A net long position in a security futures contract in which a security futures dealer makes a market or the underlying asset;

f. A net short position in a security futures contract in which a security futures dealer makes a market or the underlying asset; or

g. An offset position as defined in Rule 15c3-1 under the Act, including its appendices, or any applicable SEC staff interpretation or no-action position.

(E) Approved Options Specialists' or Market Maker Accounts

(i) Notwithstanding the other provisions of (f)(11) and (f)(2)(J), a member may carry and clear the market maker permitted offset positions (as defined below) of one or more approved options specialists or market makers in an account that is limited to approved options specialist or market maker transactions, upon a "Good Faith" margin basis that is satisfactory to the concerned parties, provided the "Good Faith" margin requirement is not less than the Net Capital haircut deduction of the member carrying the transaction pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 under the Act. In lieu of collecting the "Good Faith" margin requirement, a carrying member may elect to deduct in computing its Net Capital the amount of any deficiency between the equity maintained in the account and the "Good Faith" margin required. For the purpose of this paragraph (f)(11)(E), the term "approved options specialist or market maker" means a specialist, market maker, or registered trader in options as referenced in paragraph (f)(2)(J) of this Rule, who is deemed a specialist for all purposes under the Act and who is registered pursuant to the rules of a national securities exchange.

(ii) For purposes of this paragraph (f)(11)(E), a permitted offset position means a position in the underlying asset or other related assets. Accordingly, a specialist or market maker may establish a long or short position in the assets underlying the options in which the specialist or

market maker makes a market, or a security futures contract thereon, if the account holds the following permitted offset positions:

a. A long position in the underlying instrument or security futures contract offset by a short option position that is “in or at the money;”

b. A short position in the underlying instrument or security futures contract offset by a long option position that is “in or at the money;”

c. A stock position resulting from the assignment of a market-maker short option position or delivery in respect of a short security futures contract;

d. A stock position resulting from the exercise of a market maker long option position or taking delivery in respect of a long security futures contract;

e. A net long position in a security (other than an option) in which the market maker makes a market;

f. A net short position in a security (other than an option) in which the market maker makes a market; or

g. An offset position as defined in Rule 15c3-1 under the Act, including its appendices, or any applicable SEC staff interpretation or no-action position.

(iii) For purposes of paragraphs (f)(11)(D) and (E), the term “in or at the money” means that the current market price of the underlying

security is not more than two standard exercise intervals below (with respect to a call option) or above (with respect to a put option) the exercise price of the option; the term “in the money” means that the current market price of the underlying asset or index is not below (with respect to a call option) or above (with respect to a put option) the exercise price of the option; the term “overlying option” means a put option purchased or a call option written against a long position in an underlying asset; or a call option purchased, or a put option written against a short position in an underlying asset.

(iv) Securities, including options and security futures contracts, in such accounts shall be valued conservatively in light of current market prices and the amount that might be realized upon liquidation. Substantial additional margin must be required or excess Net Capital maintained in all cases where the securities carried: (a) are subject to unusually rapid or violent changes in value including volatility in the expiration months of options or security futures contracts, (b) do not have an active market, or (c) in one or more or all accounts, including proprietary accounts combined, are such that they cannot be liquidated promptly or represent undue concentration of risk in view of the carrying member’s Net Capital and its overall exposure to material loss.

(F) Approved Specialists’ Accounts—others

(i) Notwithstanding the other provisions of (f)(11) and (f)(2)(J), a member may carry the account of an “approved specialist,” which account

is limited to specialist transactions including hedge transactions with security futures contracts upon a margin basis that is satisfactory to both parties. The amount of any deficiency between the equity in the account and haircut requirement pursuant to Rule 15c3-1 shall be charged against the member's net capital when computing net capital under SEC Rule 15c3-1.

(ii) For purposes of this paragraph (f)(11)(F), the term "approved specialist" means a specialist who is deemed a specialist for all purposes under the Act and who is registered pursuant to the rules of a national securities exchange.

(G) Additional Requirements

(i) Money market mutual funds, as defined in Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, can be used for satisfying margin requirements under this paragraph (f)(11), provided that the requirements of Rule 404(b) under the Act and Rule 46(b)(2) under the CEA are satisfied.

(ii) Day trading of security futures is subject to the minimum requirements of this Rule. If deemed a pattern day-trader, the customer must maintain equity of \$25,000. The 20 percent requirement, for security futures contracts, should be calculated based on the greater of the initial or closing transaction and any amount exceeding NASD excess must be collected. The creation of a customer call subjects the account to all the restrictions contained in Rule 2520(f)(8)(B).

(iii) The use of the “time and tick” method is based on the member’s ability to substantiate the validity of the system used. Lacking this ability dictates the use of the aggregate method.

(iv) Security futures contracts transacted or held in a futures account shall not be subject to any provision of this Rule.