

Commodity Futures Trading Commission

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defined in section 1 of the International Banking Act;

(2) The sum of the commodity-dependent values of the commodity-dependent components is less than the commodity-independent value of the commodity-independent component;

(3) Provided that:

(i) An issuer must receive full payment of the hybrid instrument's purchase price, and a purchaser or holder of a hybrid instrument may not be required to make additional out-of-pocket payments to the issuer during the life of the instrument or at maturity; and

(ii) The instrument is not marketed as a futures contract or a commodity option, or, except to the extent necessary to describe the functioning of the instrument or to comply with applicable disclosure requirements, as having the characteristics of a futures contract or a commodity option; and

(iii) The instrument does not provide for settlement in the form of a delivery instrument that is specified as such in the rules of a designed contract market;

(4) The instrument is initially issued or sold subject to applicable federal or state securities or banking laws to persons permitted thereunder to purchase or enter into the hybrid instrument.

PART 35—EXEMPTION OF SWAP AGREEMENTS

Sec.

35.1 Definitions.

35.2 Exemption.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 2, 6, 6c, and 12a.

SOURCE: 58 FR 5594, Jan. 22, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 35.1 Definitions.

(a) *Scope.* The provisions of this part shall apply to any swap agreement which may be subject to the Act, and which has been entered into on or after October 23, 1974.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this part:

(1) *Swap agreement* means:

(i) An agreement (including terms and conditions incorporated by reference therein) which is a rate swap agreement, basis swap, forward rate agreement, commodity swap, interest rate option, forward foreign exchange

agreement, rate cap agreement, rate floor agreement, rate collar agreement, currency swap agreement, cross-currency rate swap agreement, currency option, any other similar agreement (including any option to enter into any of the foregoing);

(ii) Any combination of the foregoing; or

(iii) A master agreement for any of the foregoing together with all supplements thereto.

(2) *Eligible swap participant* means, and shall be limited to the following persons or classes of persons:

(i) A bank or trust company (acting on its own behalf or on behalf of another eligible swap participant);

(ii) A savings association or credit union;

(iii) An insurance company;

(iv) An investment company subject to regulation under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) or a foreign person performing a similar role or function subject as such to foreign regulation, *Provided* That such investment company or foreign person is not formed solely for the specific purpose of constituting an eligible swap participant;

(v) A commodity pool formed and operated by a person subject to regulation under the Act or a foreign person performing a similar role or function subject as such to foreign regulation, *provided* that such commodity pool or foreign person is not formed solely for the specific purpose of constituting an eligible swap participant and has total assets exceeding \$5,000,000;

(vi) A corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organization, trust, or other entity not formed solely for the specific purpose of constituting an eligible swap participant (A) which has total assets exceeding \$10,000,000, or (B) the obligations of which under the swap agreement are guaranteed or otherwise supported by a letter of credit or keepwell, support, or other agreement by any such entity referenced in this paragraph (b)(2)(vi)(A) of this section or by an entity referred to in paragraph (b)(2) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) or (viii) of this section; or (C) which has a net worth of \$1,000,000 and enters into the swap agreement in connection with the conduct of its business; or which

has a net worth of \$1,000,000 and enters into the swap agreement to manage the risk of an asset or liability owned or incurred in the conduct of its business or reasonably likely to be owned or incurred in the conduct of its business;

(vii) An employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or a foreign person performing a similar role or function subject as such to foreign regulation with total assets exceeding \$5,000,000, or whose investment decisions are made by a bank, trust company, insurance company, investment adviser subject to regulation under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*), or a commodity trading adviser subject to regulation under the Act;

(viii) Any governmental entity (including the United States, any state, or any foreign government) or political subdivision thereof, or any multinational or supranational entity or any instrumentality, agency, or department of any of the foregoing;

(ix) A broker-dealer subject to regulation under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) or a foreign person performing a similar role or function subject as such to foreign regulation, acting on its own behalf or on behalf of another eligible swap participant: *Provided, however*, That if such broker-dealer is a natural person or proprietorship, the broker-dealer must also meet the requirements of either paragraph (b)(2) (vi) or (xi) of this section;

(x) A futures commission merchant, floor broker, or floor trader subject to regulation under the Act or a foreign person performing a similar role or function subject as such to foreign regulation, acting on its own behalf or on behalf of another eligible swap participant: *Provided, however*, that if such futures commission merchant, floor broker, or floor trader is a natural person or proprietorship, the futures commission merchant, floor broker, or floor trader must also meet the requirements of paragraph (b)(2) (vi) or (xi) of this section; or

(xi) Any natural person with total assets exceeding at least \$10,000,000.

§ 35.2 Exemption.

A swap agreement is exempt from all provisions of the Act and any person or class of persons offering, entering into, rendering advice, or rendering other services with respect to such agreement, is exempt for such activity from all provisions of the Act (except in each case the provisions of sections 2(a)(1)(B), 4b, and 4o of the Act and § 32.9 of this chapter as adopted under section 4c(b) of the Act, and the provisions of sections 6(c) and 9(a)(2) of the Act to the extent these provisions prohibit manipulation of the market price of any commodity in interstate commerce or for future delivery on or subject to the rules of any contract market), provided the following terms and conditions are met:

(a) The swap agreement is entered into solely between eligible swap participants at the time such persons enter into the swap agreement;

(b) The swap agreement is not part of a fungible class of agreements that are standardized as to their material economic terms;

(c) The creditworthiness of any party having an actual or potential obligation under the swap agreement would be a material consideration in entering into or determining the terms of the swap agreement, including pricing, cost, or credit enhancement terms of the swap agreement; and

(d) The swap agreement is not entered into and traded on or through a multilateral transaction execution facility;

Provided, however, That paragraphs (b) and (d) of Rule 35.2 shall not be deemed to preclude arrangements or facilities between parties to swap agreements, that provide for netting of payment obligations resulting from such swap agreements nor shall these subsections be deemed to preclude arrangements or facilities among parties to swap agreements, that provide for netting of payments resulting from such swap agreements; *Provided further*, That any person may apply to the Commission for exemption from any of the provisions of the Act (except 2(a)(1)(B)) for other arrangements or facilities, on such terms and conditions as the Commission deems appropriate, including but

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not limited thereto, the applicability of other regulatory regimes.

PART 36—EXEMPT MARKETS

Sec.

36.1 Scope.

36.2 Exempt boards of trade.

36.3 Exempt commercial markets.

APPENDIX A TO PART 36—GUIDANCE ON SIGNIFICANT PRICE DISCOVERY CONTRACTS

APPENDIX B TO PART 36—GUIDANCE ON, AND ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES IN, COMPLIANCE WITH CORE PRINCIPLES

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 2, 2(h)(7), 6, 6c and 12a, as amended by Title XIII of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246, 122 Stat. 1624 (June 18, 2008).

SOURCE: 66 FR 42270, Aug. 10, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§ 36.1 Scope.

The provisions of this part apply to any board of trade or electronic trading facility eligible for exemption under sections 5d and 2(h)(3) through (5) of the Act, respectively.

§ 36.2 Exempt boards of trade.

(a) *Eligible commodities.* Commodities eligible under section 5d(b)(1) of the Act to be traded by an exempt board of trade are:

(1) Commodities having—

(i) A nearly inexhaustible deliverable supply;

(ii) A deliverable supply that is sufficiently large, and a cash market sufficiently liquid, to render any contract traded on the commodity highly unlikely to be susceptible to the threat of manipulation; or

(iii) No cash market.

(2) The commodities that meet the criteria of paragraph (a)(1) of this section are:

(i) The commodities defined in section 1a(13) of the Act as “excluded commodities” (other than a security, including any group or index thereof or any interest in, or based on the value of, any security or group or index of securities); and

(ii) Such other commodity or commodities as the Commission may determine by rule, regulation or order.

(b) *Notification.* Boards of trade operating under Section 5d of the Act as exempt boards of trade shall so notify the

Commission. This notification shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission at its Washington, DC headquarters, in electronic form, shall be labeled as “Notification of Operation as an Exempt Board of Trade,” and shall include:

(1) The name and address of the exempt board of trade; and

(2) The name and telephone number of a contact person.

(c) *Additional requirements—*(1) *Prohibited representation.* A board of trade notifying the Commission that it meets the criteria of Section 5d of the Act and elects to operate as an exempt board of trade shall not represent to any person that it is registered with, designated, recognized, licensed or approved by the Commission.

(2) *Market data dissemination.* (i) *Criteria for price discovery determination.* An exempt board of trade operating a market in reliance on the exemption in Section 5d of the Act performs a significant price discovery function for transactions in the cash market for a commodity underlying any agreement, contract, or transaction executed or traded on the facility when:

(A) Cash market bids, offers or transactions are directly based on, or quoted at a differential to, the prices generated on the market on a more than occasional basis; or

(B) The market’s prices are routinely disseminated in a widely distributed industry publication and are routinely consulted by industry participants in pricing cash market transactions.

(ii) *Notification.* An exempt board of trade operating a market in reliance on the exemption in Section 5d of the Act shall notify the Commission when:

(A) It has reason to believe that cash market bids, offers or transactions are directly based on, or quoted at a differential to, the prices generated on the market on a more than occasional basis;

(B) It has reason to believe that the market’s prices are routinely disseminated in a widely distributed industry publication and are routinely consulted by industry participants in pricing cash market transactions; or