

Commodity Futures Trading Commission

§ 5.9

the United States Department of Justice commencing the first month-end after the date the application for registration is filed.

§ 5.8 Aggregate retail forex assets.

(a) Each retail foreign exchange dealer and futures commission merchant offering or engaging in retail forex transactions shall calculate its total retail forex obligation and shall at all times hold assets solely of the type permissible under § 1.25 of this chapter equal to or in excess of the total retail forex obligation at one or more qualifying institutions in the United States or money center countries as defined in § 1.49 of this chapter.

(b) For assets held in the United States, a qualifying institution is:

(1) A bank or trust company regulated by a United States banking regulator;

(2) A broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority; or

(3) A futures commission merchant registered with the Commission and a member of the National Futures Association.

(c) For assets held in a money center country, a qualifying institution is:

(1) A bank or trust company regulated in a money center country, *Provided* that the bank or trust company has regulatory capital in excess of \$1 billion;

(2) An entity regulated in a money center country as an equivalent of a broker-dealer or futures commission merchant as determined by the retail foreign exchange dealer's or futures commission merchant's designated self-regulatory organization, *Provided* that the entity maintains regulatory capital in excess of \$100 million; or

(3) A futures commission merchant registered with the Commission and a member of the National Futures Association.

(d) Assets held in a money center country are not eligible to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section unless the retail foreign exchange dealer or futures commission merchant has entered into an agreement that is acceptable to the firm's designated self-regulatory organization and that

authorizes the qualifying institution to provide account information to the Commission and the firm's designated self-regulatory organization.

(e) In computing its adjusted net capital pursuant to § 5.7 of this part, a retail foreign exchange dealer or futures commission merchant may not include aggregate retail forex assets as current assets or otherwise record any property received from retail forex customers as an asset without recording a corresponding liability to the retail forex customers.

§ 5.9 Security deposits for retail forex transactions.

(a) Each futures commission merchant engaging, or offering to engage, in retail forex transactions and each retail foreign exchange dealer must collect from each retail forex customer a minimum security deposit for each retail forex transaction equal to the applicable percentage as set by the registered futures association of which they are a member; *Provided*, that the registered futures association's security deposit requirement cannot be less than:

(1) 2% of the notional value of the retail forex transaction for major currency pairs and 5% of the notional value of the retail forex transaction for all other currency pairs;

(2) For short options, 2% for major currency pairs and 5% for all other currency pairs of the notional value of the retail forex transaction, plus the premium received by the retail forex customer; or

(3) For long options, the full premium charged and received by the futures commission merchant or retail foreign exchange dealer from the retail forex customer.

(b) Security deposits must be made in the form of cash or other financial instruments that comply with the requirements specified in § 1.25 of this chapter.

(c) A futures commission merchant or retail foreign exchange dealer is required to collect additional security deposits from a retail forex customer, or liquidate the retail forex customer's positions, if the amount of the retail forex customer's security deposits

maintained with the futures commission merchant or retail foreign exchange dealer are not sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

(d) A major currency pair security deposit percentage is only applicable when both sides of a retail over-the-counter foreign exchange transaction involve major currencies.

(e) Any registered futures association whose members serve as counterparties to retail forex transaction shall designate which currencies are “major currencies”, and shall review, no less frequently than annually, major currency designations and security deposit requirements, and shall adjust the designations and requirements as necessary.

§5.10 Risk assessment recordkeeping requirements for retail foreign exchange dealers.

(a) *Requirement to maintain and preserve information.* (1) Each retail foreign exchange dealer registered with the Commission pursuant to section 2(c)(2)(B)(i)(II)(ff) of the Act shall prepare, maintain and preserve the following information:

(i) An organizational chart which includes the retail foreign exchange dealer and each of its affiliated persons. Included in the organizational chart shall be a designation of which affiliated persons are “Material Affiliated Persons” as that term is used in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, which Material Affiliated Persons file routine financial or risk exposure reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, a federal banking agency, an insurance commissioner or other similar official or agency of a state, or a foreign regulatory authority, and which Material Affiliated Persons are dealers in financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk and, if a Material Affiliated Person is such a dealer, whether it is also an end-user of such instruments;

(ii) Written policies, procedures, or systems concerning the retail foreign exchange dealer’s:

(A) Method(s) for monitoring and controlling financial and operational risks to it resulting from the activities of any of its affiliated persons;

(B) Financing and capital adequacy, including information regarding

sources of funding, together with a narrative discussion by management of the liquidity of the material assets of the retail foreign exchange dealer, the structure of debt capital, and sources of alternative funding;

(C) Establishing and maintaining internal controls with respect to market risk, credit risk, and other risks created by the retail foreign exchange dealer’s trading activities, including systems and policies for supervising, monitoring, reporting and reviewing trading activities in forex transactions, securities, futures contracts, commodity options, forward contracts and financial instruments; policies for hedging or managing risks created by trading activities or supervising accounts carried for affiliates, including a description of the types of reviews conducted to monitor positions; and policies relating to restrictions or limitations on trading activities: *Provided, however,* that if the retail foreign exchange dealer has no such written policies, procedures or systems, it must so state in writing;

(iii) Fiscal year-end consolidated and consolidating balance sheets for the highest level Material Affiliated Person within the retail foreign exchange dealer’s organizational structure, which shall include the retail foreign exchange dealer and its other Material Affiliated Persons, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which consolidated balance sheets shall be audited by an independent certified public accountant if an annual audit is performed in the ordinary course of business, but which otherwise may be unaudited, and which shall include appropriate explanatory notes. The consolidating balance sheets may be those prepared by the retail foreign exchange dealer’s highest level Material Affiliated Person as part of its internal financial reporting process. Any additional information required to be filed under §5.11(a)(2)(iii) of this part shall also be maintained and preserved; and

(iv) Fiscal year-end consolidated and consolidating income statements and consolidated cash flow statements for the highest level Material Affiliated