

Securities and Exchange Commission

§ 240.11Ac1-4

(b) *Exemptions.* The Commission, upon request or upon its own motion, may exempt by rule or by order, any broker or dealer or any class of brokers or dealers, security or class of securities from the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section with respect to any transaction or class of transactions, either unconditionally or on specified terms and conditions, if the Commission determines that such exemption is consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors.

[59 FR 55012, Nov. 2, 1994]

§ 240.11Ac1-4 Display of customer limit orders.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) The term *association* shall mean any association of brokers and dealers registered pursuant to Section 15A of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-3).

(2) The terms *best bid* and *best offer* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Ac1-1(a)(3).

(3) The terms *bid* and *offer* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Ac1-1(a)(4).

(4) The term *block size* shall mean any order:

(i) Of at least 10,000 shares; or

(ii) For a quantity of stock having a market value of at least \$200,000.

(5) The term *covered security* shall mean any “reported security” and any other security for which a transaction report, last sale data or quotation information is disseminated through an automated quotation system as described in section 3(a)(51)(A)(ii) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(51)(A)(ii)).

(6) The term *customer limit order* shall mean an order to buy or sell a covered security at a specified price that is not for the account of either a broker or dealer; *provided, however,* That the term customer limit order shall include an order transmitted by a broker or dealer on behalf of a customer.

(7) The term *electronic communications network* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Ac1-1(a)(8).

(8) The term *exchange-traded security* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Ac1-1(a)(10).

(9) The term *OTC market maker* shall mean any dealer who holds itself out as

being willing to buy from and sell to its customers, or otherwise, a covered security for its own account on a regular or continuous basis otherwise than on a national securities exchange in amounts of less than block size.

(10) The term *reported security* means any security or class of securities for which transaction reports are collected, processed, and made available pursuant to an effective transaction reporting plan.

(b) *Specialists and OTC market makers.* For all covered securities:

(1) Each member of an exchange that is registered by that exchange as a specialist, or is authorized by that exchange to perform functions substantially similar to that of a specialist, shall publish immediately a bid or offer that reflects:

(i) The price and the full size of each customer limit order held by the specialist that is at a price that would improve the bid or offer of such specialist in such security; and

(ii) The full size of each customer limit order held by the specialist that:

(A) Is priced equal to the bid or offer of such specialist for such security;

(B) Is priced equal to the national best bid or offer; and

(C) Represents more than a *de minimis* change in relation to the size associated with the specialist's bid or offer.

(2) Each registered broker or dealer that acts as an OTC market maker shall publish immediately a bid or offer that reflects:

(i) The price and the full size of each customer limit order held by the OTC market maker that is at a price that would improve the bid or offer of such OTC market maker in such security; and

(ii) The full size of each customer limit order held by the OTC market maker that:

(A) Is priced equal to the bid or offer of such OTC market maker for such security;

(B) Is priced equal to the national best bid or offer; and

(C) Represents more than a *de minimis* change in relation to the size associated with the OTC market maker's bid or offer.

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(c) *Exceptions.* The requirements in paragraph (b) of this section shall not apply to any customer limit order:

(1) That is executed upon receipt of the order.

(2) That is placed by a customer who expressly requests, either at the time that the order is placed or prior thereto pursuant to an individually negotiated agreement with respect to such customer's orders, that the order not be displayed.

(3) That is an odd-lot order.

(4) That is a block size order, unless a customer placing such order requests that the order be displayed.

(5) That is delivered immediately upon receipt to an exchange or association-sponsored system, or an electronic communications network that complies with the requirements of § 240.11Ac1-1(c)(5)(ii) with respect to that order.

(6) That is delivered immediately upon receipt to another exchange member or OTC market maker that complies with the requirements of this section with respect to that order.

(7) That is an "all or none" order.

(d) *Exemptions.* The Commission may exempt from the provisions of this section, either unconditionally or on specified terms and conditions, any responsible broker or dealer, electronic communications network, exchange, or association if the Commission determines that such exemption is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors and the removal of impediments to and perfection of the mechanism of a national market system.

[61 FR 48331, Sept. 12, 1996, as amended at 65 FR 75462, Dec. 1, 2000]

§ 240.11Ac1-5 Disclosure of order execution information.

Preliminary Note: Section 240.11Ac1-5 requires market centers to make available standardized, monthly reports of statistical information concerning their order executions. This information is presented in accordance with uniform standards that are based on broad assumptions about order execution and routing practices. The information will provide a starting point to promote visibility and competition on the part of market centers and broker-

dealers, particularly on the factors of execution price and speed. The disclosures required by this section do not encompass all of the factors that may be important to investors in evaluating the order routing services of a broker-dealer. In addition, any particular market center's statistics will encompass varying types of orders routed by different broker-dealers on behalf of customers with a wide range of objectives. Accordingly, the statistical information required by this Section alone does not create a reliable basis to address whether any particular broker-dealer failed to obtain the most favorable terms reasonably available under the circumstances for customer orders.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term *alternative trading system* shall have the meaning provided in § 242.300(c) of this chapter.

(2) The term *average effective spread* shall mean the share-weighted average of effective spreads for order executions calculated, for buy orders, as double the amount of difference between the execution price and the midpoint of the consolidated best bid and offer at the time of order receipt and, for sell orders, as double the amount of difference between the midpoint of the consolidated best bid and offer at the time of order receipt and the execution price.

(3) The term *average realized spread* shall mean the share-weighted average of realized spreads for order executions calculated, for buy orders, as double the amount of difference between the execution price and the midpoint of the consolidated best bid and offer five minutes after the time of order execution and, for sell orders, as double the amount of difference between the midpoint of the consolidated best bid and offer five minutes after the time of order execution and the execution price; provided, however, that the midpoint of the final consolidated best bid and offer disseminated for regular trading hours shall be used to calculate a realized spread if it is disseminated less than five minutes after the time of order execution.

(4) The term *categorized by order size* shall mean dividing orders into separate categories for sizes from 100 to 499