ICE FUTURES EUROPE

CIRCULAR

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Category:

Trading

Attachments:

None

Summary of content:

Exchange Messaging Policy

For more information please contact:

Sean Wareham
+44 (0) 20 7382 8200
sean.wareham@theice.com

Revised Exchange Messaging Policy

Circular 10/095 dated 23 December 2010 advised Members of the Exchange Messaging Policy (“the Policy”) that would be implemented from 3 January 2011.

The purpose of this circular is to clarify certain aspects of the Policy whereby the relevant revisions are highlighted in bold. This policy supersedes that issued on 23 December 2010 and is the binding version of the Policy with immediate effect.

Exchange Messaging Policy

The level of computer-generated order-flow on the Exchange has progressively increased since the Exchange’s business became fully electronic in 2005. In some circumstances, inefficient and excessive messaging can slow the performance of the ICE Platform and increase bandwidth and other operational requirements for Members.

The Exchange Messaging Policy (“the Policy”) is designed to discourage inefficient and excessive messaging without compromising market liquidity and sets out certain messaging thresholds which it expects market participants not to exceed. Most market participants’ trading activity operates well within the thresholds set out in this Circular. The Exchange will levy charges on those Members whose system usage per Firm as configured on the ICE Platform (whether the Firm is the Member itself or a client of the Member) exceeds certain thresholds.

Scope of policy

This Policy applies to such exchange contracts as shall be designated from time-to-time (‘the Designated Contracts’). The initial Designated Contracts are ICE Brent Futures, ICE Gas Oil Futures and ICE WTI Futures. The Policy will apply to those firms who enter more than (i) 100,000 messages in ICE Gas Oil Futures; or (ii) 250,000 messages in aggregate in ICE Brent Futures and ICE WTI Futures (including the ICE Brent/WTI spread market) on any trading day. For the purposes of the Policy, each order submission, revision, hold, cancel/replace and/or consummation constitutes a message.

Weighted Volume Ratio

The Weighted Volume Ratio (“WVR”) is defined as the total number of messages sent to the ICE Platform multiplied by a price-based weighting scale divided by the total number of lots traded. The result is a figure for weighted messages per executed contract.

Each message is weighted as set out below.

ICE Futures Europe, a Recognised Investment Exchange
under the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000

Registered in England & Wales with Registered Office at
Milton Gate, 60 Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4SA
Company Registration No. 1528617

	Price-based weighting multiplier		
Price difference from best bid or offer	**Outrights**	**Spreads**	**Description**
None (best bid or offer)	0	0	If the price is the best bid or offer, it will not be counted.
At market bid or offer	0	0	If the price equals the best bid or best offer, it will not be counted.
1 tick off market	0.5	0.25	If the price is within one minimum price fluctuation ("tick") of the best bid or best offer **it will count as one half of a message in an outright market and one quarter of a message in a spread market.**
2 ticks off market	1.0	0.5	If the price is within two (2) ticks of the best bid or best offer **it will count as one (1) message in an outright market and half (0.5) a message in a spread market.**
3 to 5 ticks off market	2.0	1.0	If the price is between three (3) and five (5) ticks from the best bid or best offer **it will count as two (2) messages in an outright market and one (1) message in a spread market.**
More than 5 ticks off market	3.0	2.0	If the price is more than five (5) ticks from the best bid or best offer **it will count as three (3) messages in an outright market and two (2) messages in a spread market.**

WVR Thresholds

Firms who exceed a WVR of 100:1 in a Designated Contract on a particular trading day will receive an electronic notification.

Firms who equal or exceed a WVR of 100:1 in any Exchange contract or spread market for seven (7) or more trading days in any calendar month will be subject to a one thousand dollar ($1,000) charge for that calendar month.

Firms who equal or exceed a WVR of 500:1 in any Exchange contract or spread market on any trading day will be subject to a two thousand dollar ($2,000) surcharge per day for every day that the WVR of 500:1 has been exceeded.

Firms with direct access may obtain information regarding their messaging at the ICE website, www.theice.com.

Effective date

The policy is effective immediately but all charges will be waived until Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Restriction or suspension of access

In addition to the introduction of the charges, the Exchange retains the right to restrict or suspend access to Exchange markets listed on the ICE platform should the Exchange determine that the message usage associated with any Firm becomes capable of impairing the orderly conduct of business. Such determination will be made by the Exchange in its absolute discretion and may be made at any time and, of necessary, any consequent restriction or suspension may be implemented immediately and without notice.

Review

The Exchange will keep this policy under review and welcomes feedback from Members on its operation. Members with any queries or feedback should contact Market Supervision on +44 (0)20 7382 8200 or by email to: marketsupervision-europe@theice.com

Similar policies are being introduced by other Exchanges who use the ICE Platform.

Please ensure that the appropriate staff and clients who submit messages to the ICE Platform are advised of the content of this Circular.

Signed:

Patrick Davis
Company Secretary