

4613. Market Maker Obligations

A member registered as a Market Maker shall engage in a course of dealings for its own account to assist in the maintenance, insofar as reasonably practicable, of fair and orderly markets in accordance with this Rule.

(a) Quotation Requirements and Obligations

(1) Two-Sided Quote Obligation. For each security in which a member is registered as a Market Maker, the member shall be willing to buy and sell such security for its own account on a continuous basis during regular market hours and shall enter and maintain a two-sided trading interest ("Two-Sided Obligation") that is identified to the Exchange as the interest meeting the obligation and is displayed in the Exchange's quotation montage at all times. Interest eligible to be considered as part of a Market Maker's Two-Sided Obligation shall have a displayed quotation size of at least one normal unit of trading (or a larger multiple thereof); provided, however, that a Market Maker may augment its Two-Sided Obligation size to display limit orders priced at the same price as the Two-Sided Obligation. Unless otherwise designated, a "normal unit of trading" shall be 100 shares. After an execution against its Two-Sided Obligation, a Market Maker must ensure that additional trading interest exists in the Exchange to satisfy its Two-Sided Obligation either by immediately entering new interest to comply with this obligation to maintain continuous two-sided quotations or by identifying existing interest on the Exchange book that will satisfy this obligation.

(2) Pricing Obligations. For NMS stocks (as defined in Rule 600 under Regulation NMS) a Market Maker shall adhere to the pricing obligations established by this Rule during Regular Trading Hours; provided, however, that such pricing obligations (i) shall not commence during any trading day until after the first regular way transaction on the primary listing market in the security, as reported by the responsible single plan processor, and (ii) shall be suspended during a trading halt, suspension, or pause, and shall not re-commence until after the first regular way transaction on the primary listing market in the security following such halt, suspension, or pause, as reported by the responsible single plan processor

(A) Bid Quotations. At the time of entry of bid interest satisfying the Two-Sided Obligation, the price of the bid interest shall be not more than the Designated Percentage away from the then current National Best Bid, or if no National Best Bid, not more than the Designated Percentage away from the last reported sale from the responsible single plan processor. In the event that the National Best Bid (or if no National Best Bid, the last reported sale) increases to a level that would cause the bid interest of the Two-Sided Obligation to be more than the Defined Limit away from the National Best Bid (or if no National Best Bid, the last reported sale), or if the bid is executed or cancelled, the Market Maker shall enter new bid interest at a price not more than the Designated Percentage away from the then current National Best Bid (or if no National Best Bid, the last reported sale), or identify to the Exchange current resting interest that satisfies the Two-Sided Obligation.

(B) Offer Quotations. At the time of entry of offer interest satisfying the Two-Sided Obligation, the price of the offer interest shall be not more than the Designated Percentage away from the then current National Best Offer, or if no National Best Offer, not more than the Designated Percentage away from the last reported sale received from the responsible single plan processor. In the event that the National Best

Offer (or if no National Best Offer, the last reported sale) decreases to a level that would cause the offer interest of the Two-Sided Obligation to be more than the Defined Limit away from the National Best Offer (or if no National Best Offer, the last reported sale), or if the offer is executed or cancelled, the Market Maker shall enter new offer interest at a price not more than the Designated Percentage away from the then current National Best Offer (or if no National Best Offer, the last reported sale), or identify to the Exchange current resting interest that satisfies the Two-Sided Obligation.

(C) The National Best Bid and Offer shall be determined by the Exchange in accordance with its procedures for determining protected quotations under Rule 600 under Regulation NMS.

(D) For purposes of this Rule, the "Designated Percentage" shall be 8% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(A), 28% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(B), and 30% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(C), except that between 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. and between 3:35 p.m. and the close of trading, when Rule 4120(a)(11) is not in effect, the Designated Percentage shall be 20% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(A), 28% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(B), and 30% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(C). The Designated Percentage for rights and warrants shall be 30%.

(E) For purposes of this Rule, the "Defined Limit" shall be 9.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(A), 29.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(B), and 31.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(C), except that between 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. and between 3:35 p.m. and the close of trading, when Rule 4120(a)(11) is not in effect, the Defined Limit shall be 21.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(A), 29.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(B), and 31.5% for securities subject to Rule 4120(a)(11)(C).

(F) Reserved.

(G) Reserved.

(H) Nothing in this Rule shall preclude a Market Maker from quoting at price levels that are closer to the National Best Bid and Offer than the levels required by this Rule.

(I) The minimum quotation increment for quotations of \$1.00 or above in all System Securities shall be \$0.01. The minimum quotation increment in the System for quotations below \$1.00 in System Securities shall be \$0.0001.

(J) The individual Market Participant Identifier ("MPID") assigned to a member to meet its Two-Sided Obligation pursuant to subparagraph (a) (1) of this Rule, or Rule 4623, shall be referred to as the member's "Primary MPID." Market Makers and ECNs may request the use of additional MPIDs that shall be referred to as "Supplemental MPIDs." A Market Maker may request the use of Supplemental MPIDs for displaying Attributable Quotes/Orders in the Nasdaq Quotation Montage for any security in which it is registered and meets the obligations set forth in subparagraph (1) of this rule. An ECN may request the use of Supplemental MPIDs for displaying Attributable Quotes/Orders in the Nasdaq Quotation Montage for any security in which it meets the obligations set forth in Rule 4623. A Market Maker or ECN that ceases to meet the obligations appurtenant to its Primary MPID in any security shall not be permitted to use a Supplemental MPID for any purpose in that security.

(K) Market Makers and ECNs that are permitted the use of Supplemental MPIDs for displaying Attributable Quotes/Orders pursuant to subparagraph (2) of this rule are subject to the same rules applicable to the members' first quotation, with two exceptions: (a) the continuous two-sided quote requirement and excused withdrawal procedures described in subparagraph (1) above do not apply to Market Makers' Supplemental MPIDs; and (b) Supplemental MPIDs may not be used by Market Makers to engage in passive market making or to enter stabilizing bids pursuant to Nasdaq Rules 4614 and 4619.

(b) Firm Quotations

(1) All quotations and orders to buy and sell entered into the System by Nasdaq Market Makers, Nasdaq ECNs, and Nasdaq Order Entry firms are firm and automatically executable for their displayed and non-displayed size in the System.

(c) Impaired Ability to Enter or Update Quotations

In the event that a Nasdaq Market Maker's ability to enter or update quotations is impaired, the market maker shall immediately contact Nasdaq Market Operations to request the withdrawal of its quotations.

In the event that a Nasdaq Market Maker's ability to enter or update quotations is impaired and the market maker elects to remain in Nasdaq, the Nasdaq Market Maker shall execute an offer to buy or sell received from another member at its quotations as disseminated through the Nasdaq Market Center.

(d) Reserved

(e) Locked and Crossed Markets

(1) Locked and Cross Markets within the System: Any quotes or orders that are entered into the System that would lock or cross another order in the System will be executed by the System. This processing, set forth in Rule 4757, ensures that no locked or crossed markets can exist within the System and that price improvement is allocated fairly.

(2) Inter-market Locked and Crossed Markets. Beginning March 5, 2007, the provisions of this subsection (e)(2) shall apply to the trading of securities governed by Regulation NMS.

(A) Definitions. For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

- (i) The terms automated quotation, effective national market system plan, intermarket sweep order, manual quotation, NMS stock, protected quotation, regular trading hours, and trading center shall have the meanings set forth in Rule 600(b) of Regulation NMS under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- (ii) The term crossing quotation shall mean the display of a bid for an NMS stock during regular trading hours at a price that is higher than the price of an offer for such NMS stock previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan, or the display of an offer for an NMS stock during regular trading hours at a price that is lower than the price of a bid for such NMS stock previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan.
- (iii) The term locking quotation shall mean the display of a bid for an NMS stock during regular trading hours at a price that equals the price of an offer for such NMS stock previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan, or the display of an offer

for an NMS stock during regular trading hours at a price that equals the price of a bid for such NMS stock previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan.

(B) Prohibition. Except for quotations that fall within the provisions of paragraph (D) of this Rule, Nasdaq members shall reasonably avoid displaying, and shall not engage in a pattern or practice of displaying any quotations that lock or cross a protected quotation, and any manual quotations that lock or cross a quotation previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan.

(C) Manual quotations. If a member of the Exchange displays a manual quotation that locks or crosses a quotation previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan, such member of the Exchange shall promptly either withdraw the manual quotation or route an intermarket sweep order to execute against the full displayed size of the locked or crossed quotation.

(D) Exceptions.

- (i) The locking or crossing quotation was displayed at a time when the trading center displaying the locked or crossed quotation was experiencing a failure, material delay, or malfunction of its systems or equipment.
- (ii) The locking or crossing quotation was displayed at a time when a protected bid was higher than a protected offer in the NMS stock.
- (iii) The locking or crossing quotation was an automated quotation, and the Nasdaq member displaying such automated quotation simultaneously routed an intermarket sweep order to execute against the full displayed size of any locked or crossed protected quotation.
- (iv) The locking or crossing quotation was a manual quotation that locked or crossed another manual quotation, and the member of the Exchange displaying the locking or crossing manual quotation simultaneously routed an intermarket sweep order to execute against the full displayed size of the locked or crossed manual quotation.

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