



**Rules Regarding Closeout  
or Completion of Open  
Contractual Commitments**

17 C.F.R. §§300.300-300.307  
As Amended Through April 1997

**SECURITIES INVESTOR  
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# SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

## Series 300 Rules

### Rules Regarding Closeout or Completion of Open Contractual Commitments

#### Rule 300—Definitions

For the purpose of these rules, adopted pursuant to section 8(e) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”):

(a) The term “failed to receive” shall mean a contractual commitment of the debtor made in the ordinary course of business to pay to another broker or dealer the contract price in cash upon receipt from such broker or dealer of securities purchased, provided that the respective obligations of the parties remained outstanding until the close of business on the filing date as defined in section 16(7) of the Act (hereinafter referred to as the “filing date”).

(b) The term “failed to deliver” shall mean a contractual commitment of the debtor, made in the ordinary course of business, to deliver securities to another broker or dealer against receipt from such broker or dealer of the contract price in cash, provided that the respective obligations of the parties remained outstanding until the close of business on the filing date.

(c) The term “open contractual commitment” shall mean a failed to receive or a failed to deliver which had a settlement date prior to the filing date and the respective obligations of the parties remained outstanding on the filing date or had a settlement date which occurs on or within three business days subsequent to the filing date: Provided, however, that the term “open contractual commitment” shall not include any contractual commitment for which the security which is the subject of the trade has not been issued by the issuer as of the trade date.

(d) The term “customer” shall mean a person (other than a broker or dealer) in whose behalf a broker or dealer has executed a transaction out of which arose an open contractual commitment with the debtor, but shall not include any person to the extent that such person at the filing date (1) had a claim for property which by contract, agreement or understanding, or by operation of law, was a part of the capital of the broker or dealer who executed such transaction or was subordinated to the claims of creditors of such broker or dealer, or (2) had a relationship with the debtor which is specified in section 9(a)(4) of the Act.

### **Rule 301—Contracts To Be Closed Out or Completed**

An open contractual commitment shall be closed out or completed if:

(a) The open contractual commitment:

(1) Arises from an transaction in which customer (as defined in Rule 300) of the other broker or dealer had an interest. For the purposes of this rule a customer is deemed to have an interest in a transaction if (i) the other broker was acting as agent for the customer or (ii) the other dealer was not a market maker in the security involved, to the extent such other dealer held a firm order from the customer and in connection therewith: In the case of a buy order, prior to executing such customer’s order purchased as principal the same number of shares or purchased shares to accumulate the number of shares necessary to complete the order; or in the case of a sell order, prior to executing such customer’s order sold the same number of shares or a portion thereof; and

(2)(i) Had a settlement date on or within 30 calendar days prior to the filing date and the respective obligations of the parties remained outstanding on the filing date or had a settlement date which occurs on or within three business days subsequent to the filing date; and

(ii) Had a trade date on or within three business days prior to such settlement date and

(b) The other broker or dealer can establish to the satisfaction of the trustee through appropriate documentation that:

(1) In the case of a broker or dealer who maintains his records on a specific identification basis:

(i) The open contractual commitment arose out of a transaction in which his customer had such an interest; and

(ii) In the case of a failed to deliver of the debtor, as of the filing date such broker's or dealer's customer's interest had not been sold to such broker or dealer; or

(2) In the case of a broker or dealer who maintains his records other than on a specific identification basis, he has determined that a customer had such an interest in a manner consistent with that used by such broker or dealer prior to the filing date to allocate fails to receive and fails to deliver in computing the special reserve bank account requirement pursuant to the provisions of Rule 15c3-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR§240.15c3-3); or

(3) In the case of a broker or dealer not described in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this Rule, he has made the determination in a manner which the trustee finds to be fair and equitable.

### **Rule 302—Mechanics of Closeout or Completion**

(a) The closeout or completion of an open contractual commitment meeting the requirements of Rule 301 shall be effected only:

(1) By the buy-in or sell-out of the commitment by the other broker or dealer in accordance with the usual trade practices initiated by the other broker or dealer within or promptly upon the expiration of a period of 30 calendar days after settlement date; or

(2) At the option of the trustee by the delivery of securities against receipt of the contract price or payment of the contract price against the receipt of the securities at any time within 30 calendar days after settlement date unless the commitment previously has been bought-in or sold-out in

accordance with paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule; or

(3) In the event of the refusal of the other broker or dealer to accept completion of an open contractual commitment in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this Rule, or the failure of the other broker or dealer to promptly buy-in or sell-out a commitment in accordance with paragraph (a)(1) of the Rule, or in the event of the failure of the broker or dealer to provide the trustee with appropriate documentation as required by Rule 303, by delivery of securities against receipt of the contract price or payment of the contract price against receipt of securities, or the buy-in or sell-out of the commitment or cancellation of the commitment or otherwise, as may be appropriate, as the trustee in his discretion believes will most benefit the estate of the debtor.

(b) In the event of a closeout of an open contractual commitment pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule, the money difference resulting from such closeout shall be payable by the other broker or dealer to the trustee or by the trustee to the other broker or dealer, whichever would be entitled to receive such difference under the usual trade practices: Provided, however, (1) that prior to the payment of any such money difference by the trustee to such other broker or dealer with respect to transactions executed by such other broker or dealer for any separate customer account, all open contractual commitments with respect to such account which meet the requirements of Rule 301 must have been completed by delivery of securities against receipt of the contract price or by payment of the contract price against receipt of the securities in conformity with paragraph (a)(2) of this Rule, or by buy-in or sell-out in conformity with paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and (2) that the net amount so payable by the trustee to the other broker or dealer shall not exceed \$40,000 with respect to any separate customer account.

## **Rule 303—Report to Trustee**

Promptly upon expiration of 30 calendar days after the filing date, or if by the expiration of such 30-day period notice pursuant to section 8(a) of the Act of the commencement of proceedings has not been published, then as soon as practicable after publication of such notice, a broker or dealer who had executed transactions in securities out of which arose open contractual commitments with the debtor shall furnish to the trustee such information with respect to the buy-in, sell-out or other status of open contractual commitments as called for by Forms 300-A, B and C, including appropriate supporting documentation and schedules.

## **Rule 304—Retained Rights of Brokers or Dealers**

(a) Nothing stated in these rules shall be construed to prejudice the right of a broker or dealer to any claim against the debtor's estate, or the right of the trustee to make any claim against a broker or dealer, with respect to a commitment of the debtor which was outstanding on the filing date, but (1) which is not described in Rule 300(c), or (2) which, although described in Rule 300(c), does not meet the requirements specified in Rule 301 or was not closed out or completed in accordance with Rule 302 or was not reported to the trustee in conformity with Rule 303 or was not supported by appropriate documentation.

(b) Nothing stated in these rules shall be construed to prejudice the right of a broker or dealer to a claim against the debtor's estate for the amount by which the money difference due the broker or dealer upon a buy-in or sell-out may exceed the amount paid by the trustee to such broker or dealer.

## **Rule 305—Excluded Contracts**

Notwithstanding the fact that an open contractual commitment described in Rule 300(c) meets the requirements of Rule 301 and the other requirements of these rules, a court shall not be precluded from canceling such commitment, awarding damages, or granting such other remedy as it shall deem fair and equitable if, on application of the trustee or SIPC, it determines that such commitment was not entered into in the ordinary course of business or was entered into by the debtor, or the broker or the dealer or his customer, for the purposes of creating a commitment in contemplation of a liquidation proceeding under the Act. Such a determination shall be made after notice and opportunity for hearing by the debtor, such broker or dealer, or such customer, and may be made before or after the delivery of securities or payment of the contract price or before or after any buy-in or sell-out of the open contractual commitment, or otherwise.

## **Rule 306—Completion or Closeout Pursuant to SIPC Direction**

In its discretion SIPC may, in order to prevent a substantial detrimental impact upon the financial condition of one or more brokers or dealers, direct the closeout or completion of an open contractual commitment, irrespective of whether it is described in Rule 300(c) or meets the requirements of Rule 301 or has been reported in conformity with Rule 303 or is supported by appropriate documentation. SIPC shall consult with the Securities and Exchange Commission before SIPC makes any determinations under this Rule.

## **Rule 307—Completion with Cash or Securities of Customer**

The trustee may, if authorized by the court, complete an open contractual commitment of the

debtor, regardless of whether it is described in Rule 300(c) or meets the requirements of Rule 301 or has been reported to the trustee in conformity with Rule 303, to the extent that such commitment is completed with customer name securities of the customer of the debtor for whose account the commitment was made, or with cash or securities paid or delivered by or for the account of such customer to the debtor or trustee after the filing date.