

# STRAITS FINANCIAL LLC

## FCM DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Dated September 23, 2021

**Pursuant to Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Rule 1.55(k), each futures commission merchant (FCM) must provide the information contained within this document to a customer prior to the time the customer first enters into an account agreement with the FCM or deposits money or securities with the FCM. Unless otherwise noted below, the information provided herein is as of the date listed above. Straits Financial LLC (Straits) will update this information annually or as necessary based upon material changes to its business operations, financial condition, or other factors Straits believes may be material to a customer's decision to enter into a business relationship with Straits. Future versions of this document may be viewed at <http://straitfinancial.com/us/en>. You may request a hard copy of this document by sending a request to [info@straitfinancial.com](mailto:info@straitfinancial.com). Straits' business activities and financial information are not static and will experience non-material changes on an on-going basis.**

## **Firm Overview**

Straits is a Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) licensed registered Futures Commission Merchant (FCM), Swaps Firm, Forex Firm, and member of the National Futures Association (NFA) as well as a full clearing member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the Commodity Exchange (COMEX), the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC), the CBOE Futures Exchange (CFE), and the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). All of Straits assets and capital are devoted to its FCM operations which includes execution, brokerage, and clearing of futures contracts and options thereon. The Designated Self-Regulatory Organization of Straits is the CME Group Inc.

Straits is owned by US-based holding company, Straits (USA) Inc., a subsidiary of Straits Financial Group Pte. Ltd. which is the brokering division of CWT International Limited, a publicly traded company located in Hong Kong. More information about CWT International Limited including facts and financial information may be found at [www.hnaholdinghk.com](http://www.hnaholdinghk.com).

## **Principals of the Firm**

### **Paul Fry, Chief Operating Officer**

In his role as Chief Operating Officer, Paul Fry assumes the role of driving the business development of Straits execution, clearing and broker services as well as overseeing the day-today operational functions of the firm. Mr. Fry serves as a member of the firm's Executive Committee, the governing body of the FCM.

Mr. Fry has been in the futures industry for the last 25 years and held senior positions at several FCMs including Cadent Financial Services LLC, Refco LLC, and Lind Waldo.

He travels frequently to meet with customers, gathering market intelligence and trends, and attends industry events to keep a robust perspective.

### **Gene Orr, President and Chief Executive Officer**

As President and CEO, Mr. Orr is responsible for developing new business opportunities globally and building bridges between the US and other continents such as Asia. Additionally, as principal of Straits Financial LLC, he serves as a member of the FCM's executive committee. Mr. Orr has been in the financial industry for the last 25 years and has held senior positions at leading global financial institutions such as Citigroup Global Markets, HSBC, and Jefferies. He started his career as a commodity sales broker at an investment bank in Seoul and London dealing with metals and energy products before moving on to senior positions in the futures industry with Refco Group, LLC and Cargill Investor Services, both of which are located in Chicago. Prior to joining Straits Group, he served as the CEO of AQQ Capital Management, now known as KB Asset Management, in Singapore. Mr. Orr read for his Ph.D in Finance from the University of Birmingham in U.K and holds an MA from Bond University in Australia.

### **James Gordon, Chief Compliance Officer**

In his duties as Chief Compliance Officer, Jim Gordon is responsible for all CFTC, NFA, and exchange-related Compliance. Jim also assists Guaranteed Introducing Brokers of Straits with their regulatory requirements. Mr. Gordon has been in the finance industry for over 20 years. He began as a clerk on the CME floor, moved on to become a market-maker on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and later an Analyst in market regulation at the National Association of Securities Dealers (currently known as FINRA). Since 2005, Jim has been in Compliance, first at Wachovia Securities and later serving as CCO at Advance Trading. Jim attends various industry-related events such as FIA L&C and Chicago Kent's Conference on Futures and Derivatives to keep abreast of Compliance trends.

### **Olamide Aremu, Chief Financial Officer**

As Chief Financial Officer, Olamide Aremu is responsible for planning, implementing, managing and controlling all financial-related activities for the company. With over 14 years of experience in the futures industry, Ms. Aremu brings a broad range of experience to the CFO position. She started her career as a staff accountant at Rosenthal Collins Group, now known as Marex, before becoming a Controller in 2013. During her 9 year tenure at RCG, she implemented policies and procedures required by the new enhanced customer protection rules. Additionally, she gained experience in financial reporting, staff training, internal controls and financial analysis. For the past 5 years, she has served at Straits Financial LLC as Controller where she was responsible for assisting the CFO in all accounting and finance initiatives, including supervision over the treasury management staff, documentation of policies and procedures, monitoring and enhancement of internal controls, financial reporting, working with regulatory and outside auditors and monitoring and reviewing customer transactions.

## **Straits' Customer Business**

### ***Types of Customers***

Straits offers its services to a variety of different types of customers including retail, institutional, commercial, proprietary trading firms, exchange members, and omnibus account customers. Straits maintains both US and non-US customers who are both hedgers and speculators.

### ***Markets Traded***

Including, but not limited to the following:

- Energy—Crude, Heating Oil and Natural Gas.
- Agriculture Commodities—Grains and Oilseeds, Livestock and Meats.
- Foreign Exchange Futures—Currencies.

- Soft Commodities—Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar and Orange Juice • Foreign Commodities – Robusta Coffee, MATIF Grains.
- Financial Futures—Indices and Interest Rates. (US and Euro)
- Metals—Base and Precious Metals
- Dairy—Milk, Butter, and Cheese
- Exchange regulated Bitcoin futures

### ***International Businesses***

Although Straits offers access to non-US exchanges through its exchange registrations and carrying broker relationships, it does not maintain office locations outside of the US, nor does it operate any material lines of business outside of the US.

### ***Clearing Organizations***

As mentioned above, Straits is a member of several exchanges. Straits also conducts business with the following Clearing Organizations on a non-member basis:

- ASX Clear
- Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange
- Canadian Derivatives Clearing Corp
- Eurex Clearing
- HKFE Clearing Corporation LTD
- ICE Clear Canada
- ICE Clear US
- ICE Clear Europe
- Japan Commodity Clearing House Corporation LTD
- Japan Securities Clearing Corporation
- LCH Clearnet LTD
- LCH Clearnet SA
- Minneapolis Grain Exchange Clearing House
- New Zealand Clearing and Depository Corporation
- Options Clearing Corporation
- Singapore Exchange Derivatives Clearing
- London Metals Exchange

### ***Carrying Brokers***

Straits maintains several carrying broker relationships to offer customers access to numerous global exchanges and products. Straits maintains relationships with the following carrying brokers: CGS-CIMB Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd; CGS-CIMB Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd, CIMB Futures SDN BHD; StoneX Financial Inc. (previously INTL FCStone Financial Inc.); StoneX Financial Ltd. (previously INTL FCStone Ltd.); Nissan Century Securities Co. Ltd.; R.J. O'Brien & Associates LLC; and UOB Bullion and Futures Limited.

### ***Permitted Depositories and Counterparties***

Straits maintains policies and procedures concerning its choice of bank depositories, custodians, and counterparties to permitted transactions under CFTC Regulation 1.25, Investment of Customer Funds. Specifically, Straits has a documented process for the evaluation of such parties which includes criteria each must meet and may include all or some of the following criteria: capitalization, creditworthiness, operational reliability, and access to liquidity. The criteria also considers concentration, the availability of deposit insurance, and the extent of the regulation and supervision of the depository. Further, it is Straits goal to only permit transactions that take a conservative investment approach and as such, as discussed in detail below, only invest customer funds in cash, cash deposits and US Government Treasuries.

### ***Risk Program, Practices, and Controls***

Straits employs a Risk Management Unit (RMU) that follows a Global Risk Management Program. The program monitors and addresses the following risks across multiple time zones: market, operational, credit, treasury, capital, and liquidity. The RMU administers the firm's risk management program and procedures that includes (but is not limited to) controls set to limit the aforementioned areas of risk to the firm's tolerance limit, internal controls in regard to the handling of customer funds, approval process for transfers to affiliates, procedures for the evaluation of depositories and investment vehicles utilized, and a process for calculating the firm's targeted residual interest in customer segregated and secured funds. The RMU has procedures and controls in place to monitor and detect various risk tolerance levels. The RMU has escalation procedures to follow when any breaches in firm risk tolerance levels are detected. The program also includes annual training on various areas of customer funds, including proper handling of customer funds. The Risk Management Unit is required to file a Risk Exposure Report with the CFTC on a quarterly basis.

### **Material Risks**

The largest risk for customers depositing funds with an FCM is that it could potentially result in the loss of funds.

### ***Nature of Investments***

Straits only invests both proprietary funds of the firm and customer funds in cash, interest bearing demand deposit cash accounts and US Government Treasuries.

### ***Straits Credit Overview***

The material risks of an FCM generally are segregation, operational, market, capital, credit and liquidity, and technological failure risk. Straits has a Risk Management Program ("RMP") designed to have written procedures in place to monitor and manage risks associated with our activities, to protect customer funds and firm capital, and ensure compliance with CFTC Rule 1.11 - Risk Management Program for Futures Commission Merchants. As previously stated, 100% of the firm's capital is devoted to its FCM operations, and it has no other material lines of business.

The firm monitors its liquidity daily and has no material liabilities other than to its customers. The firm's creditworthiness can be viewed by obtaining a credit report from one of the various reporting agencies, such as D&B Credibility Corp.

The firm measures its leverage in accordance with the following formula: (i.e., total balance sheet assets, less any instruments guaranteed by the U.S. government and held as an asset or to collateralize an asset (e.g., a reverse repo) divided by total capital (the sum of stockholder's equity and subordinated debt)), all computed in accordance with U.S. GAAP. As of October 31, 2020, the firm's leverage ratio was 1.13.

### ***Risks Posed by Affiliates***

All of Straits current affiliates are separate legal entities whose business operations do not materially affect that of the FCM.

### ***Significant Liabilities***

Straits has no significant liabilities, contingent or otherwise, nor any material commitments.

### ***Material Complaints or Actions***

There have been no material administrative, civil or criminal actions brought, pending or concluded against Straits or its principals in the past three years.

## **Overview of FCMs, Customer Funds Segregation, FCM Collateral Management and Investments**

### ***FCMs***

FCMs, or Futures Commission Merchants, are individuals, associations, partnerships, corporations, and trusts that solicit or accept orders for the purchase or sale of any commodity for future delivery on or subject to the rules of any exchange and that accept payment from or extend credit to those whose orders are accepted. FCMs are required to be registered with the CFTC and a Member of NFA. FCMs must maintain a minimum amount of capital that is determined by the CFTC or a Derivatives Clearing Organization for which it is a member. Straits is required by its DSRO to maintain minimum capital of the greater of \$5MM or 8% of its customer risk maintenance margin requirement. FCMs are required to provide semi-monthly and monthly financial reports to the CFTC and are also required to hold customer funds in the specific types of accounts as outlined in CFTC Regulation 1.25. Furthermore, the CFTC has been granted view only access to all of Straits' accounts holding customer funds, and Straits' DSRO receives end of day balance information for these same accounts.

## ***Customer Accounts***

FCMs may maintain up to two different types of accounts for customers, depending on the products a customer trades:

- (i) a **Customer Segregated Account** for customers that trade futures and options on futures listed on US futures exchanges; and
- (ii) a **Customer Secured Account** for customers that trade futures and options on futures listed on foreign boards of trade

The requirement to maintain these separate accounts reflects the different risks posed by the different products. Cash, securities and other collateral (collectively, Customer Funds) required to be held in one type of account, *e.g.*, the Customer Segregated Account, may not be commingled with funds required to be held in another type of account, *e.g.*, the 30.7 Account, except as the CFTC may permit by order.

### ***Customer Segregated Account***

Funds that customers deposit with an FCM, or that are otherwise required to be held for the benefit of customers to margin futures and options on futures contracts traded on futures exchanges located in the US are considered segregated funds. Customer Segregated Funds held in the Customer Segregated Account may not be used to meet the obligations of the FCM or any other person, including another customer.

All Customer Segregated Funds may be commingled in a single account, called a customer omnibus account, and held with: (i) a bank or trust company located in the US; (ii) a bank or trust company located outside of the US that has in excess of \$1 billion of regulatory capital; (iii) an FCM; or (iv) a Derivatives Clearing Organization. Such commingled account must be properly titled to make clear that the funds belong to, and are being held for the benefit of, the FCM's customers. Unless a customer provides instructions to the contrary, an FCM may hold Customer Segregated Funds only: (i) in the US; (ii) in a money center country;<sup>1</sup> or (iii) in the country of origin of the currency.

An FCM must hold sufficient US dollars in the US to meet all US dollar obligations and sufficient funds in each other currency to meet obligations in such currency. Notwithstanding the foregoing, assets denominated in a currency may be held to meet obligations denominated in another currency (other than the US dollar) as follows: (i) US dollars may be held in the US or in money center countries to meet obligations denominated in any other currency; and (ii) funds in money center currencies<sup>2</sup> may be held in the US or in money center countries to meet obligations denominated in currencies other than the US dollar.

---

<sup>1</sup> Money center countries means Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> Money center currencies mean the currency of any money center country and the Euro.

### ***Customer Secured Account***

Funds that customers deposit with an FCM, or that are otherwise required to be held for the benefit of customers to margin futures and options on futures contracts traded on foreign boards of trade, *i.e.*, Secured or 30.7 Customer Funds, are held in a Secured or 30.7 Account.

Funds required to be held in the 30.7 Account for or on behalf of 30.7 Customers may be commingled in an omnibus account and held with: (i) a bank or trust company located in the US; (ii) a bank or trust company located outside the US that has in excess of \$1 billion in regulatory capital; (iii) an FCM; (iv) a Derivative Clearing Organization; (v) the clearing organization of any foreign board of trade; (vi) a foreign broker; or (vii) such clearing organization's or foreign broker's designated depositories. Such commingled account must be properly titled to make clear that the funds belong to, and are being held for the benefit of, the FCM's 30.7 Customers. As explained below, Commission Rule 30.7 restricts the amount of such funds that may be held outside of the US.

Customers trading on foreign markets assume additional risks. Laws or regulations will vary depending on the foreign jurisdiction in which the transaction occurs, and funds held in a 30.7 Account outside of the US may not receive the same level of protection as Customer Segregated Funds. If the foreign broker carrying 30.7 Customer positions fails, the broker will be liquidated in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which it is organized, which laws may differ significantly from the US Bankruptcy Code. Return of 30.7 Customer Funds to the US will be delayed and likely will be subject to the costs of administration of the failed foreign broker in accordance with the law of the applicable jurisdiction, as well as possible other intervening foreign brokers, if multiple foreign brokers were used to process the US customers' transactions on foreign markets.

If the foreign broker does not fail but the 30.7 Customers' US FCM fails, the foreign broker may want to assure that appropriate authorization has been obtained before returning the 30.7 Customer Funds to the FCM's trustee, which may delay their return. If both the foreign broker and the US FCM were to fail, potential differences between the trustee for the US FCM and the administrator for the foreign broker, each with independent fiduciary obligations under applicable law, may result in significant delays and additional administrative expenses. Use of other intervening foreign brokers by the US FCM to process the trades of 30.7 Customers on foreign markets may cause additional delays and administrative expenses.

To reduce the potential risk to 30.7 Customer Funds held outside of the US, CFTC Rule 30.7 generally provides that an FCM may not deposit or hold 30.7 Customer Funds in permitted accounts outside of the US except as necessary to meet margin requirements, including prefunding margin requirements, established by rule, regulation, or order of the relevant foreign boards of trade or foreign clearing organizations, or to meet margin calls issued by foreign brokers carrying the 30.7 Customers' positions. The rule further provides, however, that, in order to avoid the daily transfer of funds from accounts in the US, an FCM may maintain in accounts located outside of the US an additional amount of up to 20 percent of the total amount

of funds necessary to meet margin and prefunding margin requirements to avoid daily transfers of funds.

### ***Investment of Customer Funds***

Section 4d(a)(2) of the Act authorizes FCMs to invest Customer Segregated Funds in obligations of the United States, in general obligations of any State or of any political subdivision thereof, and in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States. An FCM may also engage in repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions with non-affiliated registered brokerdealers, provided such transactions are made on a delivery versus payment basis and involve only permitted investments.

Additionally, CFTC Rule 1.25 authorizes FCMs to invest Customer Segregated Funds and 30.7 Customer Funds in instruments of a similar nature. However, as previously stated, Straits does not currently invest in these types of permitted investments and instead holds all customer funds in either cash, cash deposits or US Government Treasuries.

For additional information on the protection of customer funds, please see the Futures Industry Association's "Protection of Customer Funds Frequently Asked Questions" located at [http://www.futuresindustry.org/downloads/PCF\\_questions.pdf](http://www.futuresindustry.org/downloads/PCF_questions.pdf).

### **Straits Financial Data**

The following information is as of July 31, 2021:

• Total Equity or Net Worth	\$35,458,012
• Minimum Net Capital Required	\$10,493,103
• Adjusted Net Capital	\$25,988,985
• Excess Net Capital	\$15,495,882

Straits' annual audited financial statements may be found at the following website address: <http://www.straitsfinancial.com/us/en>.

Additional financial information on all FCMs is also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.cftc.gov/MarketReports/FinancialDataforFCMs/index.htm>.

Customers should be aware that the National Futures Association (NFA) publishes on its website certain financial information with respect to each FCM. The FCM Capital Report provides each FCM's most recent month-end adjusted net capital, required net capital, and excess net capital. (Information for a twelve-month period is available.) In addition, NFA publishes twice-monthly a Customer Segregated Funds report, which shows for each FCM: (i) total funds held in Customer Segregated Accounts; (ii) total funds required to be held in Customer Segregated Accounts; and (iii) excess segregated funds, *i.e.*, the FCM's Residual Interest. This report also shows the

percentage of Customer Segregated Funds that are held in cash and each of the permitted investments under Commission Rule 1.25. Finally, the report indicates whether the FCM held any Customer Segregated Funds during that month at a depository that is an affiliate of the FCM.

The report shows the most recent semi-monthly information, but the public will also have the ability to see information for the most recent twelve-month period. A 30.7 Customer Funds report and a Customer Cleared Swaps Collateral report provides the same information with respect to the 30.7 Account and the Cleared Swaps Customer Account.

The above financial information reports can be found by conducting a search for a specific FCM in NFA's BASIC system (<http://www.nfa.futures.org/basicnet/>) and then clicking on "View Financial Information" on the FCM's BASIC Details page.

### **Straits Customer Data**

- The firm has recorded as a loss on its uncollectible customer receivables balances of less than 1% of its current balance of funds held in segregated and secured customer accounts during the past twelve months.
- 1 account comprised approximately 50% of Straits Customer Segregated Funds.
- 1 account comprised approximately 50% of Straits Customer Secured Funds.

### **Other Straits Financial Data**

Aggregate Notional Value of OTC Transactions	469,579
Amount of Committed Unsecured Lines of Credit	None
Aggregate Amount of Financing Straits Provides for Customer Transactions Involving Illiquid Products	None

### **Customer Complaints**

Straits strives to provide and deliver products, tools, and customer service that meets its clients' needs. If you are unsatisfied with any of these items, we encourage you to contact Straits Compliance Department via phone at (312) 846-5656 or email at [compliance@straitsfinancial.com](mailto:compliance@straitsfinancial.com).

In addition, customers may obtain information regarding filing a complaint to the CFTC at <https://forms.cftc.gov/fp/complaintform.aspx> or CME Group Inc. at <http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/file-complaint.html>.