

Rule 345A. Continuing Education For Registered Persons

(a) Regulatory Element.—No member or member organization shall permit any registered person to continue to, and no registered person shall continue to, perform duties as a registered person, unless such person has complied with the continuing education requirements of Section (a) of this Rule.

(1) Each registered person shall complete the Regulatory Element of the continuing education program on the occurrence of their second registration anniversary date and every three years thereafter or as otherwise prescribed by the Exchange. On each occasion, the Regulatory Element must be completed within one hundred twenty days after the person's registration anniversary date. A person's initial registration date, also known as the "base date", shall establish the cycle of anniversary dates for purposes of this Rule. The content of the Regulatory Element of the program shall be determined by the Exchange for each registration category of persons subject to the rule.

(2) Failure to complete.—Unless otherwise determined by the Exchange, any registered persons who have not completed the Regulatory Element of the program within the prescribed time frames will have their registration deemed inactive until such time as the requirements of the program have been satisfied. Any person whose registration has been deemed inactive under this Rule shall cease all activities as a registered person and is prohibited from performing any duties and functioning in any capacity requiring registration. The Exchange may, upon application and a showing of good cause, allow for additional time for a registered person to satisfy the program requirements.

(3) Disciplinary Actions.—Unless otherwise determined by the Exchange, a registered person will be required to re-take the Regulatory Element of the program and satisfy the program's requirements in their entirety in the event such person:

(i) becomes subject to any statutory disqualification as defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

(ii) becomes subject to suspension or to the imposition of a fine of \$5,000 or more for violation of any provision of any securities law or regulation, or any agreement with or rule or standard of conduct of any securities governmental agency, securities self-regulatory organization, or as imposed by any such regulatory or self-regulatory organization in connection with a disciplinary proceeding; or

(iii) is ordered pursuant to a disciplinary proceeding to re-take the Regulatory Element by any securities governmental agency or securities self-regulatory organization.

A re-taking of the Regulatory Element shall commence with participation within one hundred twenty days of the registered person becoming subject to the statutory disqualification, in the case of (i) above, or the completion of the sanction or the disciplinary action becoming final, in the case of (ii) and (iii) above. The date that the disciplinary action becomes final will be deemed the person's new base date for purposes of this Rule.

(b) Firm Element

(1) Persons Subject to the Firm Element.—The requirements of Section (b) of this Rule shall apply to any registered person who has direct contact with customers in the conduct of the member's or member organization's securities sales, trading or investment banking activities, and to the immediate supervisors of such persons, and to registered persons who function as supervisory analysts, and research analysts as defined in Rule 344 (collectively, "covered registered persons").

(2) Standards

(i) Each member and member organization must maintain a continuing and current education program for its covered registered persons to enhance their securities knowledge, skills and professionalism. At a minimum, each member and member organization shall at least annually evaluate and prioritize its training needs and develop a written training plan. The plan must take into consideration the member's or member organization's size, organizational structure, and scope of business activities, as well as regulatory developments and the performance of covered registered persons in the Regulatory Element. If a member's or member organization's analysis determines a need for supervisory training for persons with supervisory responsibilities, such training must be included in the member's or member organizations' training plan.

(ii) Minimum Standards for Training Programs.—Programs used to implement a member's or member organization's training plan must be appropriate for the business of the member or member organization and, at a minimum, must cover the following matters concerning securities products, services and strategies offered by the member or member organization:

- a. General investment features and associated risk factors;
- b. Suitability and sales practice considerations; and
- c. Applicable regulatory requirements.

(iii) Administration of Continuing Education Program.—Each member and member organization must administer its continuing education program in accordance with its annual evaluation and written plan and must maintain records documenting the content of the programs and completion of the programs by covered registered persons.

(3) Participation in the Firm Element.—Covered registered persons included in a member's or member organization's plan must take all appropriate and reasonable steps to participate in continuing education programs as required by the member or member organization.

(4) Specific Training Requirements.—The Exchange may require a member or member organization, either individually or as part of a larger group, to provide specific training to its covered registered persons in such areas the Exchange deems appropriate. Such a requirement may stipulate the class of covered registered persons for which it is applicable, the time period in which the requirement must be satisfied and, where appropriate, the actual training content.

Amendments. March 3, 1998; July 29, 2003 (NYSE-2002-49); September 16, 2004 (SR-NYSE-2004-33); July 1, 2013 (NYSE-2013-02).

••• **Supplementary Material:** -----

.10 For purposes of this Rule, the term "registered person" means any member, principal executive, registered representative, or other person registered or required to be registered under Exchange rules, but does not include any such person whose activities are limited solely to the transaction of business on the Floor with members or registered broker-dealers.

Amendment. September 15, 2008 (NYSE-2008-80).

.20 For purposes of this Rule, the term "customer" means any natural person or any organization, other than a registered broker or dealer, executing transactions in securities or other similar instruments with or through, or receiving investment banking services from, a member or member organization.

.30 Any registered person who has terminated association with a registered broker or dealer and who has, within two years of the date of termination, become reassociated in a registered capacity with a registered broker or dealer shall participate in the Regulatory Element of the continuing education program at such intervals that apply (second registration anniversary and every three years thereafter) based on the initial registration anniversary date, rather than based on the date of reassociation in a registered capacity.

Any former registered person who becomes reassociated in a registered capacity with a registered broker or dealer more than two years after termination as such will be required to satisfy the program's requirements in their entirety (second registration anniversary and every three years thereafter), based on the most recent registration date.

Amendment. March 3, 1998.

.40 Any registration that is deemed inactive for a period of two calendar years pursuant to section (a)(2) of this Rule for failure of a registered person to complete the Regulatory Element, shall be terminated. A person whose registration is so terminated may become registered only by reapplying for registration and satisfying applicable registration and qualification requirements of Exchange rules (see Rule 345).

Adopted. January 30, 1995.

.50 Pursuant to Rule 345A(b)(1), all persons registered as research analysts and supervisory analysts pursuant to Rule 344 must participate in a Firm Element Continuing Education program that includes training in applicable rules and regulations, ethics, and professional responsibility.

Adopted. July 29, 2003 (NYSE-2002-49).