

Risk Disclosure Statements

The following risk disclosure statements are provided pursuant to the Code of Conduct for Persons Licensed by or Registered with the Securities and Futures Commission.

1. Risk of securities trading

The prices of securities fluctuate, sometimes dramatically. The price of a security may move up or down, and may become valueless. It is as likely that losses will be incurred rather than profit made as a result of buying and selling securities.

2. Risk of trading futures and options

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts or options is substantial. In some circumstances, you may sustain losses in excess of your initial margin funds. Placing contingent orders, such as "stop-loss" or "stop-limit" orders, will not necessarily avoid loss. Market conditions may make it impossible to execute such orders. You may be called upon at short notice to deposit additional margin funds. If the required funds are not provided within the prescribed time, your position may be liquidated. You will remain liable for any resulting deficit in your account. You should therefore study and understand futures contracts and options before you trade and carefully consider whether such trading is suitable in the light of your own financial position and investment objectives. If you trade options you should inform yourself of exercise and expiration procedures and your rights and obligations upon exercise or expiry.

3. Risk of trading in leveraged foreign exchange contracts

The risk of loss in leveraged foreign exchange trading can be substantial. You may sustain losses in excess of your initial margin funds. Placing contingent orders, such as "stop-loss" or "stop-limit" orders, will not necessarily limit losses to the intended amounts. Market conditions may make it impossible to execute such orders. You may be called upon at short notice to deposit additional margin funds. If the required funds are not provided within the prescribed time, your position may be liquidated. You will remain liable for any resulting deficit in your account. You should therefore carefully consider whether such trading is suitable in light of your own financial position and investment objectives.

4. Risk of trading Growth Enterprise Market stocks

Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) stocks involve a high investment risk. In particular, companies may list on GEM with neither a track record of profitability nor any obligation to forecast future profitability. GEM stocks may be very volatile and illiquid. You should make the decision to invest only after due and careful consideration. The greater risk profile and other characteristics of GEM mean that it is a market more suited to professional and other sophisticated investors. Current information on GEM stocks may only be found on the internet website operated by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. GEM Companies are usually not required to issue paid announcements in gazetted newspapers. You should seek independent professional advice if you are uncertain of or have not understood any aspect of this risk disclosure statement or the nature and risks involved in trading of GEM stocks.

5. Risk of Investment in Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds

The Client appreciates that (1) the value of any unit trust or mutual fund and the income from it can fluctuate (including, without limitation, as a result of exchange rate changes) and is not guaranteed in full or at all, (2) past performance of a unit trust or mutual fund is not necessarily a guide to future performance and (3) the amount invested in any unit trust or mutual fund may not be recovered in full or at all.

Certain private funds involved specific risks. The purpose of capital contributions in private funds is usually to provide such funds with capital in order to finance projects or investments that are expected to generate higher returns involving higher risks. The capital contributions are either made by a single payment or in other cases by several payments over a certain period of time, which is generally known as "capital calls". Private funds are less liquid than other securities and in certain cases, fund holdings cannot be sold or transferred freely. An investment in private funds will involve significant risks due, among other things, to the nature of the fund's investments. You should have the financial ability and willingness to accept the risks and lack of liquidity that are characteristic of the investments. No assurance can be given that the private fund's investment objective will be achieved or that you will receive a return of your capital. There can be no guarantee that any appreciation in the value of the private fund's investments will occur and you may not get back the full value, indeed any, of your investments.

6. Risks of Trading Exchange-traded funds ("ETFs")

Market risk

ETFs are typically designed to track the performance of certain indices, market sectors, or groups of assets such as stocks, bonds, or commodities. ETF managers may use different strategies to achieve this goal, but in general they do not have the discretion to take defensive positions in declining markets. Investors must be prepared to bear the risk of loss and volatility associated with the underlying index/assets.

Tracking errors

Tracking errors refer to the disparity in performance between an ETF and its underlying index/assets. Tracking errors can arise due to factors such as the impact of transaction fees and expenses incurred to the ETF, changes in composition of the underlying index/assets, and the ETF manager's replication strategy. (The common replication strategies include full replication/representative sampling and synthetic replication which are discussed in more detail below.)

Trading at discount or premium

An ETF may be traded at a discount or premium to its Net Asset Value ("NAV"). This price discrepancy is caused by supply and demand factors, and may be particularly likely to emerge during periods of high market volatility and uncertainty. This phenomenon may also be observed for ETFs tracking specific markets or sectors that are subject to direct investment restrictions.

Foreign exchange risk

Investors trading ETFs with underlying assets not denominated in Hong Kong dollars are also exposed to exchange rate risk. Currency rate fluctuations can adversely affect the underlying asset value, also affecting the ETF price.

Liquidity risk

Securities Market Makers ("SMMs") are exchange participants that provide liquidity to facilitate trading in ETFs. Although most ETFs are supported by one or more SMMs, there is no assurance that active trading will be maintained. In the event that the SMMs default or cease to fulfill their role, investors may not be able to buy or sell the product.

Counterparty risk involved in ETFs with different replication strategies

(a) Full replication and representative sampling strategies

An ETF using a full replication strategy generally aims to invest in all constituent stocks/assets in the same weightings as its benchmark. ETFs adopting a representative sampling strategy will invest in some, but not all of the relevant constituent stocks/assets. For ETFs that invest directly in the underlying assets rather than through synthetic instruments issued by third parties, counterparty risk tends to be less of concern.

(b) Synthetic replication strategies

ETFs utilising a synthetic replication strategy use swaps or other derivative instruments to gain exposure to a benchmark. Currently, synthetic replication ETFs can be further categorized into two forms:

(i) Swap-based ETFs

Total return swaps allow ETF managers to replicate the benchmark performance of ETFs without purchasing the underlying assets.

Swap-based ETFs are exposed to counterparty risk of the swap dealers and may suffer losses if such dealers default or fail to honor their contractual commitments.

(ii) Derivative embedded ETFs

ETF managers may also use other derivative instruments to synthetically replicate the economic benefit of the relevant benchmark. The derivative instruments may be issued by one or multiple issuers.

Derivative embedded ETFs are subject to counterparty risk of the derivative instruments' issuers and may suffer losses if such issuers default or fail to honour their contractual commitments.

Even where collateral is obtained by an ETF, it is subject to the collateral provider fulfilling its obligations. There is a further risk that when the right against the collateral is exercised, the market value of the collateral could be substantially less than the amount secured resulting in significant loss to the ETF. It is important that investors understand and critically assess the implications arising due to different ETF structures and characteristics.

7. Risks Relating to Leveraged & Inverse Products ("L&I Products")

Investment Risks

L&I Products are derivatives. Trading L&I Products involves investment risk and are not intended for all investors. There is no guarantee of repaying the principal amount.

Volatility Risks

Prices of L&I Products may be more volatile than conventional ETFs because of using leverage and the rebalancing activities.

Unlike conventional ETFs

L&I Products are different from conventional ETFs. They do not share the same characteristics and risks as conventional ETFs.

Long-term Holding Risks

L&I Products are not intended for holding longer than the rebalancing interval, typically one day. Daily rebalancing and the compounding effect will make the L&I Product's performance over a period longer than one day deviate in amount and possibly direction from the leveraged/inverse performance of the underlying index over the same period. The deviation becomes more pronounced in a volatile market.

As a result of daily rebalancing, the underlying index's volatility and the effects of compounding of each day's return over time, it is possible that the leveraged product will lose money over time while the underlying index increases or is flat. Likewise, it is possible that the inverse product will lose money over time while the underlying index decreases or is flat.

Risks of Rebalancing Activities

There is no assurance that L&I Products can rebalance their portfolios on a daily basis to achieve their investment objectives. Market disruption, regulatory restrictions or extreme market volatility may adversely affect the rebalancing activities.

Liquidity Risks

Rebalancing typically takes place near the end of a trading day (shortly before the close of the underlying market) to minimize tracking difference. The short interval of rebalancing may expose L&I Products more to market volatility and higher liquidity risk.

Intraday Investment Risks

Leverage factor of L&I Products may change during a trading day when the market moves but it will not be rebalanced until day end. The L&I Product's return during a trading day may be greater or less than the leveraged/opposite return of the underlying index.

Portfolio Turnover Risks

Daily rebalancing causes a higher level of portfolio transaction when compared to conventional ETFs, and thus increases brokerage and other transaction costs.

Correlation Risks

Fees, expenses, transactions cost as well as costs of using financial derivatives may reduce the correlation between the performance of the L&I Product and the leveraged/inverse performance of the underlying index on a daily basis.

Termination Risks

L&I Products must be terminated when all the market makers resign. Termination of the L&I Product should take place at about the same time when the resignation of the last market maker becomes effective.

Leverage Risks (for leveraged products only)

The use of leverage will magnify both gains and losses of leveraged products resulting from changes in the underlying index or, where the underlying index is denominated in a currency other than the leveraged product's base currency, from fluctuations in exchange rates.

Unconventional Return Pattern (for inverse products only)

Inverse products aim to deliver the opposite of the daily return of the underlying index. If the value of the underlying index increases for extended periods, or where the exchange rate of the underlying index denominated in a currency other than the inverse product's base currency rises for an extended period, inverse products can lose most or all of their value.

Inverse Products vs Short Selling (for inverse products only)

Investing in inverse products is different from taking a short position. Because of rebalancing, the performance of inverse products may deviate from a short position in particular in a volatile market with frequent directional swings.

8. Risks involved in Trading Callable Bull/Bear Contracts ("CBBC")

Mandatory call

CBBC are not suitable for all types of investors and investors should consider their risk appetite prior to trading. In any case, one should not trade in CBBC unless he/she understands the nature of the product and is prepared to lose the total amount invested since a CBBC will be called by the issuer when the price of the underlying asset hits the call price and trading in that CBBC will expire early. Payoff for category N CBBC will be zero when they expire early. When category R CBBC expire early the holder may receive a small amount of residual value payment, but there may be no residual value payment in adverse situations. Brokers may charge their clients a service fee for the collection of the Residual Value payment from the respective issuers.

In general, the larger the buffer between the call price and the spot price of the underlying asset, the lower the probability of the CBBC being called since the underlying asset of that CBBC would have to experience a larger movement in the price before the CBBC will be called. However, at the same time, the larger the buffer, the lower the leverage effect will be. Once the CBBC is called, even though the underlying asset may bounce back in the right direction, the CBBC which has been called will not be revived and investors will not be able to profit from the bounce-back. Besides, the mandatory call event ("MCE") of a CBBC with overseas assets as underlying may be triggered outside the SEHK's trading hours.

Gearing effects

Since a CBBC is a leveraged product, the percentage change in the price of a CBBC is greater compared with that of the underlying asset. Investors may suffer higher losses in percentage terms if they expect the price of the underlying asset to move one way but it moves in the opposite direction.

Limited life

A CBBC has a limited life, as denoted by the fixed expiry date, with a lifespan of three (3) months to five (5) years. The life of a CBBC may be shorter if called before the fixed expiry date. The price of a CBBC fluctuates with the changes in the price of the underlying asset from time to time and may become worthless after expiry and in certain cases, even before the normal expiry if the CBBC has been called early.

Movement with underlying asset

Although the price of a CBBC tends to follow closely the price of its underlying asset, but in some situations it may not (i.e. delta may not always be close to one). Prices of CBBC are affected by a number of factors, including its own demand and supply, funding costs and time to expiry. Moreover, the delta for a particular CBBC may not always be close to one, in particular when the price of the underlying asset is close to the call price.

Liquidity

Although CBBC have liquidity providers, there is no guarantee that investors will be able to buy/sell CBBC at their target prices any time they wish.

Funding costs

The issue price of a CBBC includes funding costs and issuers will specify the formula for calculating the funding costs of their CBBC at launch in the listing documents. Since the funding costs for each CBBC issue may be different as it includes the issuer's financing /stock borrowing costs after adjustment for expected ordinary dividend of the stock (if the underlying is a Hong Kong stock since the CBBC will not be adjusted for ordinary dividend) plus the issuer's profit margin, investors are advised to compare the funding costs of different issuers for CBBC with similar underlying assets and terms. The funding costs will gradually be reduced over time along with the CBBC in the secondary market as the CBBC moves towards expiry.

In general, the longer the duration of the CBBC, the higher the total funding costs will be since it is similar to investors borrowing for a longer tenure to trade in the underlying asset. When a CBBC is called, the CBBC holders (investors) will lose the funding cost for the full period since the funding cost is built into the CBBC price upfront at launch even though with the MCE, the actual period of funding for the CBBC turns out to be shorter.

In any case, investors should note that the funding costs of a CBBC after launch may vary during its life and the Liquidity Provider is not obliged to provide a quote for the CBBC based on the theoretical calculation of the funding costs for that CBBC at launch.

Trading of CBBC close to Call Price

When the underlying asset is trading close to the Call Price, the price of a CBBC may be more volatile with wider spreads and uncertain liquidity. CBBC may be called at any time and trading will terminate as a result. However, the trade inputted by the investor may still be executed and confirmed by the investors after the MCE since there may be some time lapse between the MCE time and suspension of the CBBC trading. Any trades executed after the MCE (i.e. Post MCE Trades) will not be recognized and will be cancelled. Therefore, investors should be aware of the risk and ought to apply special caution when the CBBC is trading close to the Call Price. Issuers will announce the exact call time within 1 hour after the trigger of MCE, and SEHK will also send the list of Post MCE Trades to the relevant exchange participants (brokers) who in turn will inform their clients accordingly. For avoidance of doubt on whether their trades have been cancelled (i.e. whether they are Post MCE Trades), the investors may check with their brokers.

CBBC with overseas underlying assets

Investors trading CBBC with overseas underlying assets are exposed to an exchange rate risk as the price and cash settlement amount of the CBBC are converted from a foreign currency into Hong Kong dollars. Exchange rates between currencies are determined by forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets which are affected by various factors. Besides, CBBC issued on overseas underlying assets may be called outside the SEHK's trading hours. In such case, the CBBC will be terminated from trading on the SEHK in the next trading session or soon after the issuer has notified the SEHK about the occurrence of the MCE. There will be no automatic suspension of the CBBC by AMS/3. For Category R CBBC, valuation of the residual value will be determined on the valuation day according to the terms in the listing documents.

9. Risks involved in trading Derivative Warrants

Derivative warrant trading involves high risks and is not suitable for every investor. Investors should understand and consider the following risks before trading in derivative warrants.

Issuer Risk

Derivative warrant holders are unsecured creditors of an issuer and have no preferential claim to any assets an issuer may hold. Therefore, investors are exposed to credit risk in respect of the issuer.

Gearing Risk

Although derivative warrants may cost a fraction of the price of the underlying assets, a derivative warrant may change in value more or less rapidly than the underlying asset. In the worst case the value of the derivative warrants falls to zero and holders lose their entire purchase price.

Limited Life

Unlike stocks, derivative warrants have an expiry date and therefore a limited life. Unless the derivative warrants are in-the-money, they become worthless at expiration.

Time Decay

One should be aware that other factors being equal the value of derivative warrants will decrease over time. Therefore, derivative warrants should never be viewed as products that are bought and held as long term investments.

Volatility

Other factors being equal an increase in the volatility of the underlying asset should lead to a higher warrant price and a decrease in volatility lead to a lower derivative warrant price.

Market Forces

In addition to the basic factors that determine the theoretical price of a derivative warrant, derivative warrant prices are also affected by all other prevailing market forces including the demand for and supply of the derivative warrants. Supply and demand forces may be greatest when a derivative warrant issue is almost sold out and when issuers make further issues of an existing derivative warrant issue.

10. Risks of client assets received or held outside Hong Kong

Client assets received or held by the licensed or registered person outside Hong Kong are subject to the applicable laws and regulations of the relevant overseas jurisdiction which may be different from the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571) and the rules made thereunder. Consequently, such client assets may not enjoy the same protection as that conferred on client assets received or held in Hong Kong.

11. Risk of providing an authority to repledge your securities collateral etc

There is risk if you provide the licensed or registered person with an authority that allows it to apply your securities or securities collateral pursuant to a securities borrowing and lending agreement, repledge your securities collateral for financial accommodation or deposit your securities collateral as collateral for the discharge and satisfaction of its settlement obligations and liabilities. If your securities or securities collateral are received or held by the licensed or registered person in Hong Kong, the above arrangement is allowed only if you consent in writing. Moreover, unless you are a professional investor, your authority must specify the period for which it is current and be limited to not more than 12 months. If you are a professional investor, these restrictions do not apply. Additionally, your authority may be deemed to be renewed (i.e. without your written consent) if the licensed or registered person issues you a reminder at least 14 days prior to the expiry of the authority, and you do not object to such deemed renewal before the expiry date of your then existing authority. You are not required by any law to sign these authorities. But an authority may be required by licensed or registered persons, for example, to facilitate margin lending to you or to allow your securities or securities collateral to be lent to or deposited as collateral with third parties. The licensed or registered person should explain to you the purposes for which one of these authorities is to be used. If you sign one of these authorities and your securities or securities collateral are lent to or deposited with third parties, those third parties will have a lien or charge on your securities or securities collateral. Although the licensed or registered person is responsible to you for securities or securities collateral lent or deposited under your authority, a default by it could result in the loss of your securities or securities collateral. A cash account not involving securities borrowing and lending is available from most licensed or registered persons. If you do not require margin facilities or do not wish your securities or securities collateral to be lent or pledged, do not sign the above authorities and ask to open this type of cash account.

12. Risk of providing an authority to hold mail or to direct mail to third parties

If you provide the licensed or registered person with an authority to hold mail or to direct mail to third parties, it is important for you to promptly collect in person all contract notes and statements of your account and review them in detail to ensure that any anomalies or mistakes can be detected in a timely fashion.

13. Risk of margin trading

The risk of loss in financing a transaction by deposit of collateral is significant. You may sustain losses in excess of your cash and any other assets deposited as collateral with the licensed or registered person. Market conditions may make it impossible to execute contingent orders, such as "stop-loss" or "stop-limit" orders. You may be called upon at short notice to make additional margin deposits or interest payments. If the required margin deposits or interest payments are not made within the prescribed time, your collateral may be liquidated without your consent. Moreover, you will remain liable for any resulting deficit in your account and interest charged on your account. You should therefore carefully consider whether such a financing arrangement is suitable in light of your own financial position and investment objectives.

14. Risk of trading Nasdaq-Amex securities at The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

The securities under the Nasdaq-Amex Pilot Program ("PP") are aimed at sophisticated investors. You should consult the licensed or registered person and become familiarized with the PP before trading in the PP securities. You should be aware that the PP securities are not regulated as a primary or secondary listing on the Main Board or the Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

15. Additional risk disclosure for futures and options trading

This brief statement does not disclose all of the risks and other significant aspects of trading in futures and options. In light of the risks, you should undertake such transactions only if you understand the nature of the contracts (and contractual relationships) into which you are entering and the extent of your exposure to risk. Trading in futures and options is not suitable for many members of the public. You should carefully consider whether trading is appropriate for you in light of your experience, objectives, financial resources and other relevant circumstances.

Futures

Effect of "Leverage" or "Gearing" Transactions in futures carry a high degree of risk. The amount of initial margin is small relative to the value of the futures contract so that transactions are "leveraged" or "geared". A relatively small market movement will have a proportionately larger impact on the funds you have deposited or will have to deposit: this may work against you as well as for you. You may sustain a total loss of initial margin funds and any additional funds deposited with the firm to maintain your position. If the market moves against your position or margin levels are increased, you may be called upon to pay substantial additional funds on short notice to maintain your position. If you fail to comply with a request for additional funds within the time prescribed, your position may be liquidated at a loss and you will be liable for any resulting deficit.

Risk-reducing orders or strategies

The placing of certain orders (e.g. "stop-loss" orders, or "stop limit" orders) which are intended to limit losses to certain amounts may not be effective because market conditions may make it impossible to execute such orders. Strategies using combinations of positions, such as "spread" and "straddle" positions may be as risky as taking simple "long" or "short" positions.

Options

Variable degree of risk

Transactions in options carry a high degree of risk. Purchasers and sellers of options should familiarize themselves with the type of option (i.e. put or call) which they contemplate trading and the associated risks. You should calculate the extent to which the value of the options must increase for your position to become profitable, taking into account the premium and all transaction costs. The purchaser of options may offset or exercise the options or allow the options to expire. The exercise of an option results either in a cash settlement or in the purchaser acquiring or delivering the underlying interest. If the option is on a futures contract, the purchaser will acquire a futures position with associated liabilities for margin (see the section on Futures above). If the purchased options expire worthless, you will suffer a total loss of your investment which will consist of the option premium plus transaction costs. If you are contemplating purchasing deep-out-of-the-money options, you should be aware that the chance of such options becoming profitable ordinarily is remote. Selling ("writing" or "granting") an option generally entails considerably greater risk than purchasing options. Although the premium received by the seller is fixed, the seller may sustain a loss well in excess of that amount. The seller will be liable for additional margin to maintain the position if the market moves unfavorably. The seller will also be exposed to the risk of the purchaser exercising the option and the seller will be obligated to either settle the option in cash or to acquire or deliver the underlying interest. If the option is on a futures contract, the seller will acquire a position in a futures contract with associated liabilities for margin (see the section on Futures above). If the option is "covered" by the seller holding a corresponding position in the underlying interest or a futures contract or another option, the risk may be reduced. If the option is not covered, the risk of loss can be unlimited. Certain exchanges in some jurisdictions permit deferred payment of the option premium, exposing the purchaser to liability for margin payments not exceeding the amount of the premium. The purchaser is still subject to the risk of losing the premium and transaction costs. When the option is exercised or expires, the purchaser is responsible for any unpaid premium outstanding at that time.

16. Additional risks common to futures and options

You should ask the firm with which you deal about the terms and conditions of the specific futures or options which you are trading and associated obligations (e.g. the circumstances under which you may become obliged to make or take delivery of the underlying interest of a futures contract and, in respect of options, expiration dates and restrictions on the time for exercise). Under certain circumstances the specifications of outstanding contracts (including the exercise price of an option) may be modified by the exchange or clearing house to reflect changes in the underlying interest.

Suspension or restriction of trading and pricing relationships

Market conditions (e.g. illiquidity) and/or the operation of the rules of certain markets (e.g. the suspension of trading in any contract or contract month because of price limits or "circuit breakers") may increase the risk of loss by making it difficult or impossible to effect transactions or liquidate/offset positions. If you have sold options, this may increase the risk of loss. Further, normal pricing relationships between the underlying interest and the futures, and the underlying interest and the option may not exist. This can occur when, for example, the futures contract underlying the option is subject to price limits while the option is not. The absence of an underlying reference price may make it difficult to judge "fair value".

Deposited cash and property

You should familiarize yourself with the protections given to money or other property you deposit for domestic and foreign transactions, particularly in the event of a firm insolvency or bankruptcy. The extent to which you may recover your money or property may be governed by specific legislation or local rules. In some jurisdictions, property which had been specifically identifiable as your own will be pro-rated in the same manner as cash for purposes of distribution in the event of a shortfall.

Commission and other charges

Before you begin to trade, you should obtain a clear explanation of all commission, fees and other charges for which you will be liable. These charges will affect your net profit (if any) or increase your loss.

Transactions in other jurisdictions

Transactions on markets in other jurisdictions, including markets formally linked to a domestic market, may expose you to additional risk. Such markets may be subject to regulation which may offer different or diminished investor protection. Before you trade you should enquire about any rules relevant to your particular transactions. Your local regulatory authority will be unable to compel the enforcement of the rules of regulatory authorities or markets in other jurisdictions where your transactions have been effected. You should ask the firm with which you deal for details about the types of redress available in both your home jurisdiction and other relevant jurisdictions before you start to trade.

Currency risks

The profit or loss in transactions in foreign currency denominated contracts (whether they are traded in your own or another jurisdiction) will be affected by fluctuations in currency rates where there is a need to convert from the currency denomination of the contract to another currency.

Trading facilities

Electronic trading facilities are supported by computer-based component systems for the order-routing, execution, matching, registration or clearing of trades. As with all facilities and systems, they are vulnerable to temporary disruption or failure. Your ability to recover certain losses may be subject to limits on liability imposed by the system provider, the market, the clearing house and/or participant firms. Such limits may vary: you should ask the firm with which you deal for details in this respect.

Electronic trading

Trading on an electronic trading system may differ from trading on other electronic trading systems. If you undertake transactions on an electronic trading system, you will be exposed to risks associated with the system including the failure of hardware and software. The result of any system failure may be that your order is either not executed according to your instructions or is not executed at all.

Off-exchange transactions

In some jurisdictions, and only then in restricted circumstances, firms are permitted to effect off-exchange transactions. The firm with which you deal may be acting as your counterparty to the transaction. It may be difficult or impossible to liquidate an existing position, to assess the value, to determine a fair price or to assess the exposure to risk. For these reasons, these transactions may involve increased risks. Off-exchange transactions may be less regulated or subject to a separate regulatory regime. Before you undertake such transactions, you should familiarize yourself with applicable rules and attendant risks.

Every Exchange Contract shall be subject to the charge of a Investor Compensation Fund levy and a levy pursuant to the SFO, the cost of both of which shall be borne by the client.

If the client suffers pecuniary loss by reason of the licensed or registered person's default, the liability of the Investor Compensation Fund will be restricted to valid claims as provided for in the SFO and the relevant subsidiary legislation and will be subject to the monetary limits specified in the Securities and Futures (Investor Compensation – Compensation Limits) Rules and accordingly there can be no assurance that any pecuniary loss sustained by reason of such a default will necessarily be recouped from the Investor Compensation Fund in full, in part or at all;

Transactions related to exchange traded futures and options contracts shall be subject to the rules of the relevant markets and exchanges. A statement that the licensed or registered person is required, upon the request of HKFE (in the case where the licensed or registered person is an exchange participant of HKFE) or the Commission, to disclose the name, beneficial identity and such other information concerning the client as the Exchange or the Commission may require and that the client agrees to provide such information concerning the client as the licensed or registered person may require in order for the licensed or registered person to comply with this requirement;

The client may have varying level and type of protection in relation to transactions on different markets and exchanges;

The licensed or registered person may, subject to the provisions of the SFO and any applicable law, take the opposite position to the client's order in relation to any exchange traded futures and options contracts, whether on the licensed or registered person's own account or for the account of its associated company or other clients of the licensed or registered person, provided that such trade is executed competitively on or through the facilities of HKFE in accordance with its rules or the facilities of any other commodity, futures or options exchange in accordance with the rules and regulations of such other exchange;

The client acknowledges that the Clearing House may do all things necessary to transfer any open positions held by the licensed or registered person on the client's behalf and any money and security standing to the credit of its account with the licensed or registered person to another exchange participant in the event the rights of the licensed or registered person as an exchange participant are suspended or revoked;

All monies, securities and other property received by the licensed or registered person from the client or from any other person (including a clearing house) for the account of the client shall be held by the licensed or registered person as trustee and segregated from the licensed or registered person's own assets. These assets so held by the licensed or registered person shall not form part of the assets of the licensed or registered person for insolvency or winding up purposes but shall be returned to the client promptly upon the appointment of a provisional liquidator, liquidator or similar officer over all or any part of the licensed or registered person's business or assets;

Any monies, approved debt securities or approved securities received by the licensed or registered person from the client or from any other person (including the Clearing House) are held and the client authorizes the licensed or registered person to apply any such monies, approved debt securities or approved securities. In particular, the licensed or registered person may apply such monies, approved debt securities or approved securities in or towards meeting the licensed or registered person's obligations to any party insofar as such obligations arise in connection with or incidental to F.O. Business transacted on that client's behalf;

The client acknowledges that in respect of any account of the licensed or registered person maintained with the Clearing House, whether or not such account is maintained wholly or partly in respect of F.O. Business transacted on behalf of that client and whether or not monies, approved debt securities or approved securities paid or deposited by that client has been paid to or deposited with the Clearing House, as between the licensed or registered person and the Clearing House, the licensed or registered person deals as principal and accordingly no such account is impressed with any trust or other equitable interest in favour of the client and monies, approved debt securities and approved securities paid to or deposited with the Clearing House are thereby freed from the trust.

The period within which margin calls and demands for variation adjustments must be met, the licensed or registered person may be required to report to HKFE and the Commission particulars of all open positions in respect of which two successive margin calls and demands for variation adjustments are not met within the period specified by the licensed or registered person and the licensed or registered person may require more margin or variation adjustments than that specified by the Exchange and/or the Clearing House and may close out open positions in respect of which any margin calls and demands for variation adjustments are not met within the period specified by the licensed or registered person or at the time of making such call(s) or demand(s);

The client acknowledges that the licensed or registered person is bound by Rules of Hong Kong Futures Exchange Ltd ("HKFE Rules") which permit HKFE to take steps to limit the positions or require the closing out of contracts on behalf of such clients who in the opinion of the Exchange are accumulating positions which are or may be detrimental to any particular Market or Markets, or which are or may be capable of adversely affecting the fair and orderly operation of any Market or Markets as the case may be; and

The licensed person is subject to the sole business requirement and it can only provide financial accommodation to facilitate the acquisition of listed securities and, where applicable, for the continued holding of those securities. The client will not be able to withdraw funds under the facility unless they are for such purposes; and the licensed person cannot effect dealing in securities for or on behalf of clients, except for the liquidation of their securities collateral in order to collect margin calls or outstanding debts.

17. SPECIFIC RISKS RELATING TO SECURITIES TRADING THROUGH SHANGHAI-HONG KONG STOCK CONNECT

Not protected by Investor Compensation Fund

The Client should note that any Northbound or Southbound trading under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect will not be covered by Hong Kong's Investor Compensation Fund. As far as Hong Kong investors participating in Northbound trading are concerned, since they are carrying out Northbound trading through securities brokers in Hong Kong and these brokers are not Mainland brokers, they are not protected by China Securities Investor Protection Fund on the Mainland.

Quotas used up

When the respective aggregate quota balance for Northbound and Southbound trading is less than the daily quota, the corresponding buy orders will be suspended on the next trading day (sell orders will still be accepted) until the aggregate quota balance returns to the daily quota level. Once the daily quota is used up, acceptance of the corresponding buy orders will also be immediately suspended and no further buy orders will be accepted for the remainder of the day. Buy orders which have been accepted will not be affected by the using up of the daily quota, while sell orders will be continued to be accepted. Depending on the situation of aggregate quota balance, buying transactions will be resumed on the following trading day.

Difference in trading day and trading hours

The Client should note that, due to differences in public holidays between Hong Kong and Mainland China or other reasons such as bad weather conditions, there may be differences in trading days and trading hours in the two markets. Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect will only operate on days when both markets are open for trading and when banks in both markets are open on the corresponding settlement days. Therefore it is possible that there are occasions when it is a normal trading day for the Mainland market but Hong Kong investors cannot trade A-shares. The Client should take note of the days and the hours which Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect is open for business and decide according to his own risk tolerance capability whether or not to take on the risk of price fluctuations in A-shares during the time when Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect is not trading.

Restrictions on selling imposed by front-end monitoring

For the Client who deposits his A-shares with securities companies other than Sino-Rich, if he wishes to sell certain A-shares he holds, he must transfer such A-shares to his account with SINO-RICH before the day of selling (T day). If he fails to meet this deadline, he will not be able to sell such A-shares on T day.

The recalling of eligible stocks and trading restrictions

A stock which is on the list of eligible stocks for trading via Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect may be recalled from the list for various reasons and, in such event, the stock can only be sold but cannot be bought. This may affect the investment portfolio or strategies of the Client. The Client should therefore pay close attention to the list of eligible stocks as provided and updated from time to time by Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE") and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("HKEx").

Under the following circumstances, purchase of A shares via Northbound trading will be suspended temporarily (but sale is permitted): (i) the A-shares cease to be constituent stocks of the relevant indices; (ii) the A-shares are put under "risk alert"; and/or (iii) the corresponding H shares of the A-shares cease to be traded on SEHK. The Client should also note that such A-shares may be subject to the restriction of price fluctuation limits.

Transaction costs

In addition to paying trading fees and stamp duties in connection with trading of A-shares, the Client carrying out Northbound trading via Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect should also take note of any new portfolio fees, dividend tax and tax concerned with income arising from stock transfers, which may be levied by the relevant authorities.

Mainland China's laws and regulations, foreign shareholding restrictions and disclosure obligations

Under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, A-share listed companies and trading thereof are subject to the laws and regulations and disclosure obligations of the A-share market. Any changes in relevant laws or regulations may affect share prices. The Client should also take note of the foreign shareholding restrictions and disclosure obligations applicable to A-shares. The Client may be subject to restrictions on trading and retention of proceeds as a result of his interests and shareholdings in A-shares. The Client himself is responsible for compliance with the requirements of all relevant notifications, reports and disclosure of interests.

Under the current Mainland rules, when an investor holds up to 5% of the shares of a company listed on SSE, the investor is required to disclose his interest within three working days during which he cannot trade the shares of that company. The investor is also required to disclose any change in his shareholding and comply with related trading restrictions in accordance with the Mainland laws.

According to existing Mainland practices, Hong Kong and overseas investors as beneficial owners of A-shares traded via Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect cannot appoint proxies to attend shareholders' meetings on their behalf.

18. Risk of odd lot trading

Under certain situation (for example, right shares issue, share split, shares allocation from master account), investors may be holding odd lot shares. Odd lot shares are usually trade at a discount price.

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