



Technical Notice

10-005

TO: BOX Participants

FROM: Participant Connectivity Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Option Symbology Initiative – Symbol Consolidation Weekend Schedule**

DATE: **March 5, 2010**

This notice describes the various Option Symbology consolidation events, including the schedule, changes, and impact to BOX Participants.

Consolidation Weekends

There are six key events remaining in the Options Symbology Initiative that will take place between March 5, 2010 and May 14, 2010.

Dates	Event
March 05, 2010	Half Point Strike Consolidation
March 12, 2010	Symbol Consolidation
April 09, 2010	Symbol Consolidation
April 23, 2010	Symbol Consolidation
May 07, 2010	Symbol Consolidation
May 14, 2010	Symbol Consolidation

Half Point Consolidation

Currently, there are specific products held at OCC with a strike price that is overstated by a value of 10. A strike price multiplier of 0.1 is used to align the strike price at OCC with the product's quoted and traded price. The trade price is not impacted. The Half Point Strike Consolidation event does not change any symbols; it changes the strike prices to the true decimal format and the strike price multiplier to 1.0. The Half Point Strike Consolidation event will take place on Friday, March 5, 2010, effective for market open on Monday, March 8, 2010.

For the Half Point Consolidation, Participants do not have any changes that need to be made on BOX. BOX will be making internal changes for MNX but these changes will be transparent to the Participant.

Symbol Consolidations

The five Symbol Consolidation events are the final steps in consolidating option symbols that share the same underlying. In nearly all cases, the resulting symbol will be the same as the primary underlying deliverable. For example, all Microsoft LEAPS, wraps, and short dated symbols will be converted to MSFT. Furthermore, the standard MSQ series will also be converted to MSFT. Additional details on the specific symbols for each Consolidation event can be found on the [OCC Symbology website](#) under [implementation](#).

The Consolidation events will be executed as next day corporate actions. This means that the events and processes necessary to complete the consolidation will be executed on a designated date (Friday) effective for the next business date (Monday).

During each of the Consolidation events, the following changes will impact Participants:

- Root Symbols will change.
- Instrument Symbols will change.
- SAIL Instrument IDs will change.
- Open orders, being GTCs, GTDs, and any remaining day orders, will be cancelled.

The specifics of the root and instrument symbol changes for each Consolidation event can be found on the [OCC Symbology website](#) under [implementation](#). This information will be updated in final form on the Wednesday preceding each Consolidation event. With the BOX market pre-opening on the Monday following the Consolidation event, any Participant using the older, non-consolidated symbols will receive *unknown instrument* errors and their orders will not be processed by BOX.

For SAIL protocol users, it is important to note that the SAIL instrument IDs will be changing for all instruments of a consolidated symbol. SAIL users need to ensure that the new SAIL instrument dictionary is downloaded from HSVF prior to the start of the market open on each Monday following a Consolidation event. Failure to do so will result in *unknown instrument* errors and the quote or order message not being processed by BOX.

All open orders will be cancelled for any option undergoing symbol consolidation, even in the case where the actual option symbol does change. BOX is requesting that Participants cancel all open orders on the Friday of the Consolidation event.

Symbol Consolidation Event Timeline

The following timeline describes the events that will take place during each Consolidation event.

1. **Friday, 4:15 PM-5:15 PM EST:** Participants are asked to cancel all open orders (GTCs, GTDs, and remaining day orders) for the option symbols being consolidated.
2. **Friday, 5:15 PM EST:** BOX MOC will cancel all remaining open orders for the option symbols being consolidated. Participants that are still connected to BOX will receive an unsolicited cancel message for each open order.
3. **Friday, 6 PM EST:** The BOX trading system will be brought down and be unavailable until Monday morning.
4. **Monday, 1 AM EST:** The BOX gateways, SAIL and HSVF, will be available for Participant connection.
5. **Monday, 4 AM EST:** SAIL Participants should download the new SAIL instrument dictionary using HSVF.
6. **Monday, 7 AM EST:** The BOX FIX gateways will be available for Participant connection.
7. **Monday, 7 AM EST:** BOX Market Pre-Opening. Participants can re-enter orders.
8. **Monday, 9:30 AM EST:** BOX Market Opening.

Contacts

Please contact the Market Operations Center at (866) 768-8845 or by e-mail at BOXMOC@bostonoptions.com if you require additional information.

Thank you,

BOX Participant Connectivity Coordinator