

HOLDING FUTURES TRADING ACCOUNTS HOW-TO GUIDE

PROCESSING CHECKLIST FOR FUTURES TRADING ACCOUNTS

The following information must be sent to Equity Trust Company d.b.a. Sterling Trust ("Sterling Trust" or "Sterling") in order to process your futures trading account investment. Incomplete or incorrect paperwork may result in the delay of funding your investment.

1. Completed and signed **Investment Direction Authorization for Futures Trading Accounts** (attached). Please be sure to include both the name of the Futures Commission Merchant ("FCM") and your Broker.
 - If you are making a new or additional investment, complete Sections 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.
 - If you are only changing the Broker on an existing account, complete only Sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7.
 - If you are only adding an additional Broker to an existing FCM account, complete only Sections 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
2. Completed and signed FCM account application. This application should reflect account name of "Equity Trust Company, d.b.a. Sterling Trust, Custodian FBO: Accountholder Name, Account # _____ and Tax ID #05-0552743."
3. Completed and signed Broker agreement (Advisory Agreement, Trading Authorization, etc.)

The Broker is any Commodity Trading Advisor, Introducing Broker, Associated Person or other third-party that you authorize to trade the futures account on your behalf. If you will be trading futures in your account without the use of a Broker, please contact Sterling before establishing your account in order to verify whether your FCM of choice has signed Sterling's FCM Representation Letter. Otherwise, the processing of your investment may be delayed until Sterling receives the signed Representation Letter from the FCM.

Important Points to Know

- Investment decisions in Sterling's self-directed accounts are made solely by you and/or your authorized representative (if you have appointed one). You are responsible for the selection, management and retention/disposition of the investments held within your Sterling account. Please refer to **Sterling's Fee Schedule** for the applicable fees associated with establishing and maintaining your account as well as any applicable processing fees for the investment.
- Sterling is not affiliated with any investment sponsor, nor with any individual that may have sold or recommended an investment to you. In addition, Sterling does not provide investment advice or sell investments.
- Sterling has not performed any due diligence review of any investment. Sterling processes investments at your direction and Sterling's actions should not be construed as any endorsement of the investment or any determination as to whether the investment complies with the laws and regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Labor or any other federal or state regulatory agency.

If you have any questions, please contact our IRA Client Services Department at 800.955.3434, ext. 5396, or if you have a Qualified Plan, ext. 5395.

Additional Resources

The following web sites provide helpful information and resources for investor education. Each site provides guidance and tips that may assist you with your investment decisions within your self-directed account.

- Securities and Exchange Commission: www.sec.gov/investor.shtml
- National Futures Association: www.nfa.futures.org/investor/investorLearningCenter.asp
- North American Securities Administrators Association: www.nasaa.org/investor_education/
- Internal Revenue Service (for Publications 560 and 590): www.irs.gov
- California Department of Corporations: www.corp.ca.gov/outreach/outreach_resources.htm

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CONTACT US

P.O. Box 2526
Waco, TX 76702-2526

800.955.3434
254.751.1505
Option 2, IRA Services
Option 5, Sales

STERLING
TRUST



INVESTMENT DIRECTION AUTHORIZATION FOR FUTURES TRADING ACCOUNTS

Sterling Trust
P.O. Box 2526, Waco, TX 76702
7901 Fish Pond Rd., Waco, TX 76710
Phone: 800.955.3434 or 254.399.5200
Fax: 254.751.0872
IRAServices@SterlingTrustCompany.com
www.SterlingTrustCompany.com

Important! Read before completing this form:

You may use this form if you wish to instruct Equity Trust Company, d.b.a. Sterling Trust ("Sterling Trust" or "Sterling") to process a new purchase, additional purchase or Broker change within your Sterling account. The Broker is any Commodity Trading Advisor, Introducing Broker, Associated Person or other third-party that you authorize to trade the futures account on your behalf. Please include the appropriate Futures Commission Merchant ("FCM") account applications and Broker agreements that have been completed and signed by you. By signing this form, you consent to all terms and provisions shown on both pages of this form.

Please do not use this form to authorize investment transactions in private stocks, private limited partnerships, LLCs, promissory notes, trust deeds, real estate contracts, real estate or other privately-offered or nonstandard assets.

Instructions: Please list the full name of the Futures Commission Merchant ("FCM") and Broker—do not abbreviate. Please complete the appropriate sections as specified on the Processing Checklist for Futures Trading Accounts.

1. Accountholder Name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Account Number <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
2. New or Additional Purchase:	
Broker <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	FCM <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<i>(If the account will be self-traded, please write "N/A")</i>	
Amount to be sent to the FCM <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
3. Brokerage Change	
Change from: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	To: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
4. Add a Broker to the existing FCM account (no funds will be sent to the FCM)	
Broker <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	FCM <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
5. If Investment is a new or additional purchase, I authorize and direct Sterling Trust to fund this investment purchase in the following manner: <i>(choose only one option)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Make purchase check payable and send check/applications to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire funds to the following:
Payee Name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Bank Name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Mailing Address <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Bank Phone <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
City, State, Zip <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	ABA Routing Number <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Phone Number <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	For Credit To: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
	Account Number <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
	<i>(An additional wire fee will be charged if a wire is rejected due to incorrect or incomplete information provided to Sterling.)</i>
** Funds will be sent via check in accordance to the FCM account application if no other option is chosen. **	
6. Delivery Instructions: <i>(select only one)</i>	
I authorize Sterling Trust to send the FCM and Broker paperwork (and purchase check, if applicable) to the Investment issuer/sponsor via:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Delivery (Bill charges to my Sterling Account)	<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Delivery Bill charges to: ___ FedEx ___ UPS Billing Account # _____
If overnight delivery has been selected, paperwork will be sent via overnight delivery to both the FCM and Broker unless you specify otherwise:	
<input style="width: 95%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
** Delivery will be made via First Class mail if no other option is chosen. **	

INVESTMENT DIRECTION AUTHORIZATION FOR FUTURES TRADING ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

1. I have read and understand all offering information pertaining to the purchase of this Investment(s), and I meet any and all suitability requirements of the offering. I understand that Sterling does not assume any duties or responsibilities, nor does Sterling make any determination with respect to whether I meet any or all suitability requirements of the offering. Furthermore, I understand that Sterling has no duty to question or conduct any suitability analysis on my behalf.
2. I acknowledge that my Account is self directed, and I am solely responsible for the selection, management, and retention of all investments held within my Account. I understand and acknowledge that Sterling will exercise no discretion with respect to the funds in my Account, will not under any circumstances provide investment advice or recommendations, and will in all events invest all of the funds in my Account solely and exclusively at my direction. I further understand that I have not entered into a "trust" agreement with Sterling, but rather I have entered into a "custodial" agreement under which Sterling has no duties or responsibilities with respect to the investment of the funds in my Account. **Finally, I understand and intend that Sterling shall not assume the responsibilities of a trustee, a "fiduciary", or a person entitled to exercise any discretionary authority with respect to the funds in my Account, as those terms and concepts are defined in the Internal Revenue Code, ERISA, or other applicable federal, state, or local laws.**
3. I understand that certain transactions are prohibited for tax-exempt retirement arrangements under Internal Revenue Code Section 4975. I further understand that the determination of whether the transaction directed hereby is a prohibited transaction depends on the facts and circumstances that surround this transaction, and I understand that Sterling makes no determination as to whether this transaction is a prohibited transaction. I warrant and represent that I have consulted with such advisors as I deem necessary and appropriate, and that I have determined among other things, that this Investment does not constitute a prohibited transaction as defined in IRC Section 4975. I represent that neither the offering entity or any affiliate thereof, are a "disqualified person" as defined in IRC Section 4975(e)(2), nor a "party in interest" as defined in ERISA Section 3(14). I understand that, should my Account engage in a prohibited transaction, a taxable distribution equal to the fair market value of my Account will result and certain penalties may be incurred. I further understand that if such a deemed distribution takes place prior to my attaining age 59½, an additional premature distribution excise tax may be imposed.
4. My Sterling Account has sufficient liquid funds to make the initial purchase. If the Investment(s) contain a provision for future contractual payments or assessments, including margin calls, I acknowledge that such payments or assessments shall be borne solely by my Account to the extent such payment is authorized by me or my Designated Representative, and may reduce or exhaust the value of my Account. I further agree to indemnify Sterling for any and all payments or assessments which may result from holding the Investment(s) within my Account, and I understand that Sterling shall be under no obligation whatsoever to extend credit to my Account or otherwise disburse payment beyond the cash balance of my Account for any payment or assessment related to the Investment(s).
5. To ensure funds are available in the event of margin calls, deficit balances, or other obligations arising from the futures account, I acknowledge and guarantee that sufficient liquid assets will remain available in my Account or other qualified plan accounts to meet such obligations without being committed for the purpose of trading futures and/or commodities. I further understand and acknowledge that margin calls, deficit balances, or other obligations must be sent from my Sterling account, and I may not fund such obligations out of pocket.
6. I understand that by directing an investment into a futures trading account, my Sterling account will be charged an additional commodity trading account holding fee annually in conjunction with my annual renewal fee. In addition, I understand that my account will be charged a processing fee for each Broker change or addition that I submit. If funds for the Broker change or addition fee are not available in my Sterling money market account, I authorize Sterling to redeem the fee from my FCM account.
7. I acknowledge that if this purchase is contingent upon funds received from another trustee, custodian, or qualified employer plan, that various market conditions may result in a cash transfer of funds that is either less than or greater than the investment amount on this Investment Authorization or the Investment account application. I understand that if the transfer amount received by Sterling is less than the amount on this Investment Authorization, Sterling will utilize the amount received (less any account establishment or account renewal fees) for the Investment purchase. If the transfer amount is greater than the amount on this Investment Authorization, Sterling will utilize the amount on this Investment Authorization for the Investment purchase unless otherwise directed by me.
8. I understand that I am the only authorized person to make changes or corrections to this Investor Authorization form. If any changes or corrections to this form are required to process this Investment, I understand that I may provide Sterling with a corrected and initialed copy of this form, or I may give verbal instructions to Sterling to change or correct the form. I agree that any verbal instructions will be given by me to Sterling over a recorded line.
9. **I understand that Sterling Trust has not rendered any investment advice nor commented on the prudence, viability, suitability, or merits of any investment. I further agree to indemnify and hold Sterling Trust harmless for any and all costs, obligations, losses, claims, damages and expenses resulting from this authorization. I understand that, except to the extent of the cash (if any) which is invested in an FDIC insured financial institution or directed into other FDIC-insured bank products, investments held within my Sterling Account are not FDIC-insured, nor are any investments guaranteed by Sterling, and that such investments may lose value.**

7. Accountholder Signature/Date (*this form must be signed and dated*):

Signature

Date