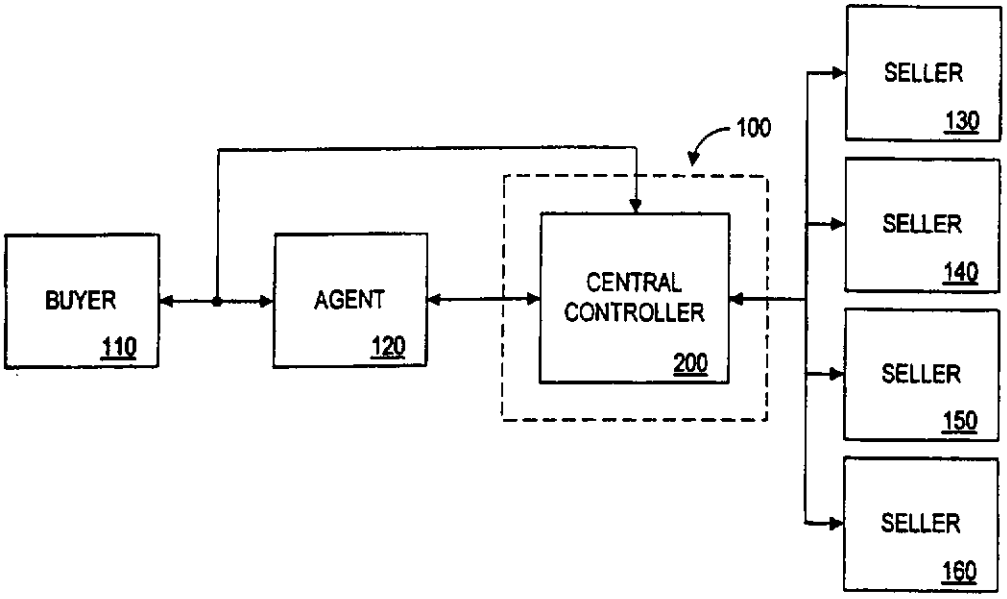

100
BUYER
110
AGENT
120
CENTRAL
CONTROLLER
200
SELLER
130
SELLER
140
SELLER
150
SELLER
160

FIG. 1

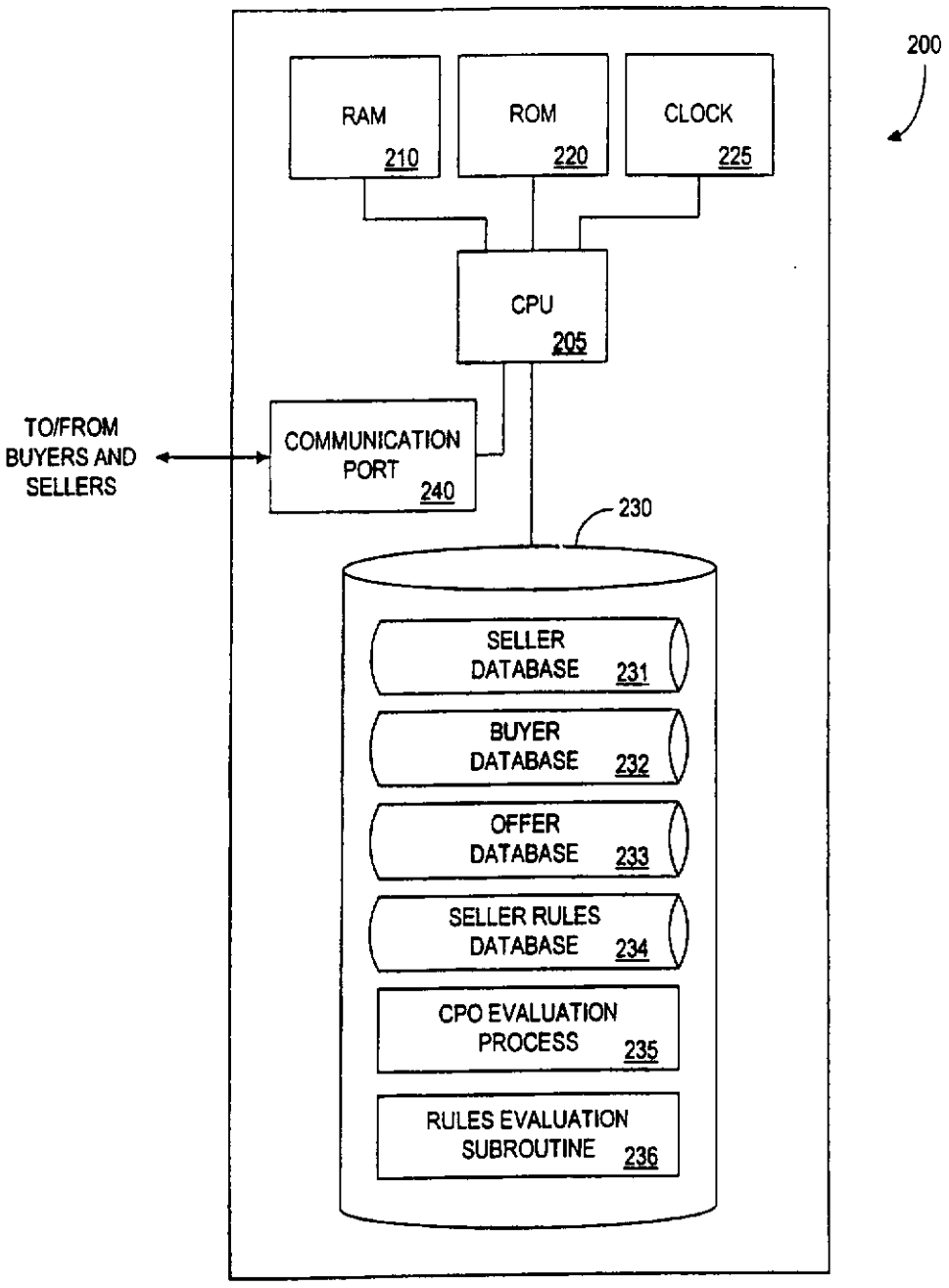

200
RAM
210
ROM
220
CLOCK
225
CPU
205
TO/FROM
BUYERS AND
SELLERS
COMMUNICATION
PORT
240
230
SELLER
DATABASE
231
BUYER
DATABASE
232
OFFER
DATABASE
233
SELLER RULES
DATABASE
234
CPO EVALUATION
PROCESS
235
RULES EVALUATION
SUBROUTINE
236

FIG. 2

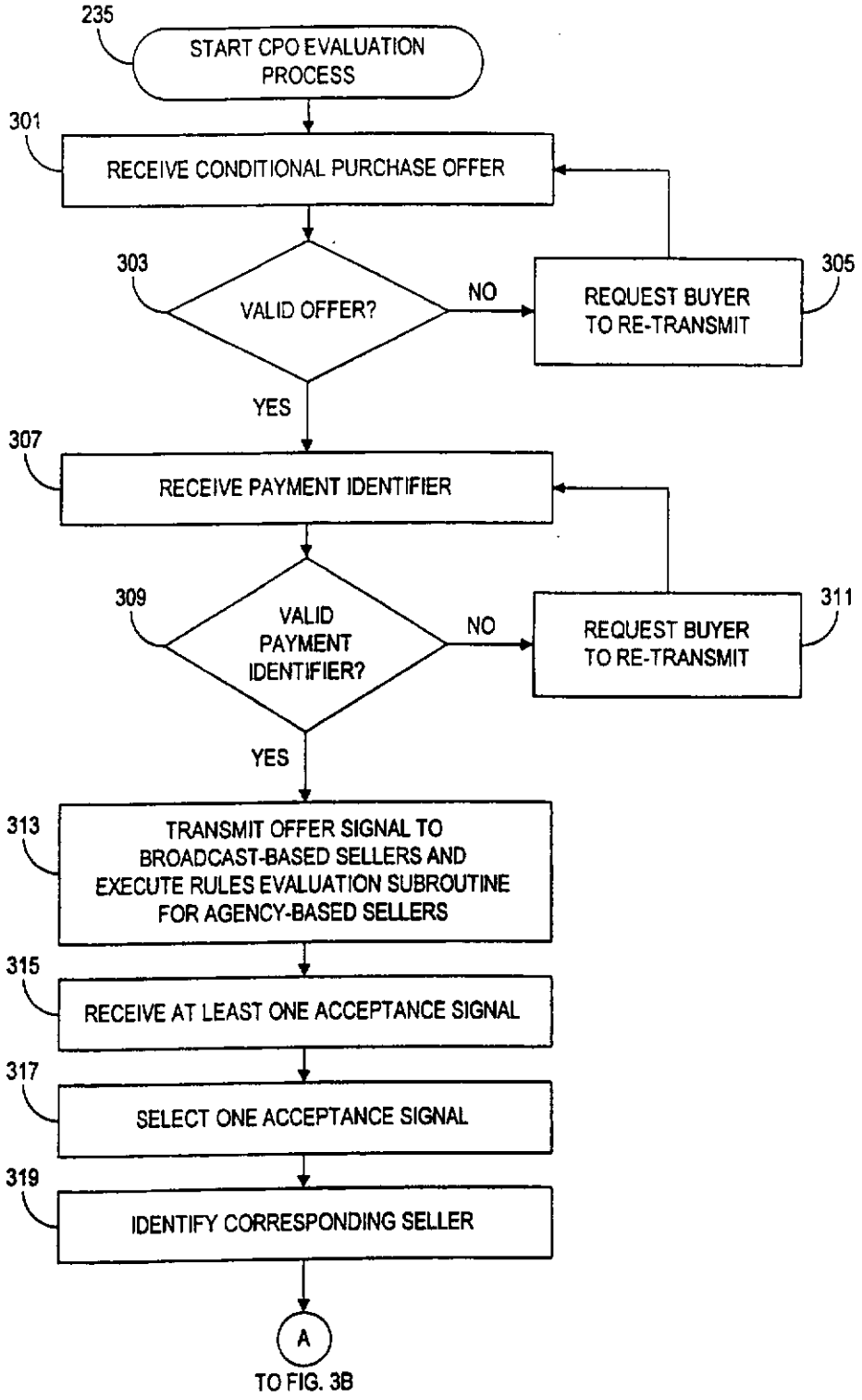

235
START CPO EVALUATION PROCESS
301
RECEIVE CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OFFER
303
VALID OFFER?
NO
305
REQUEST BUYER TO RE-TRANSMIT
YES
307
RECEIVE PAYMENT IDENTIFIER
309
VALID PAYMENT IDENTIFIER?
NO
311
REQUEST BUYER TO RE-TRANSMIT
YES
313
TRANSMIT OFFER SIGNAL TO BROADCAST-BASED SELLERS AND EXECUTE RULES EVALUATION SUBROUTINE FOR AGENCY-BASED SELLERS
315
RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE ACCEPTANCE SIGNAL
317
SELECT ONE ACCEPTANCE SIGNAL
319
IDENTIFY CORRESPONDING SELLER
A
TO FIG. 3B

FIG. 3A

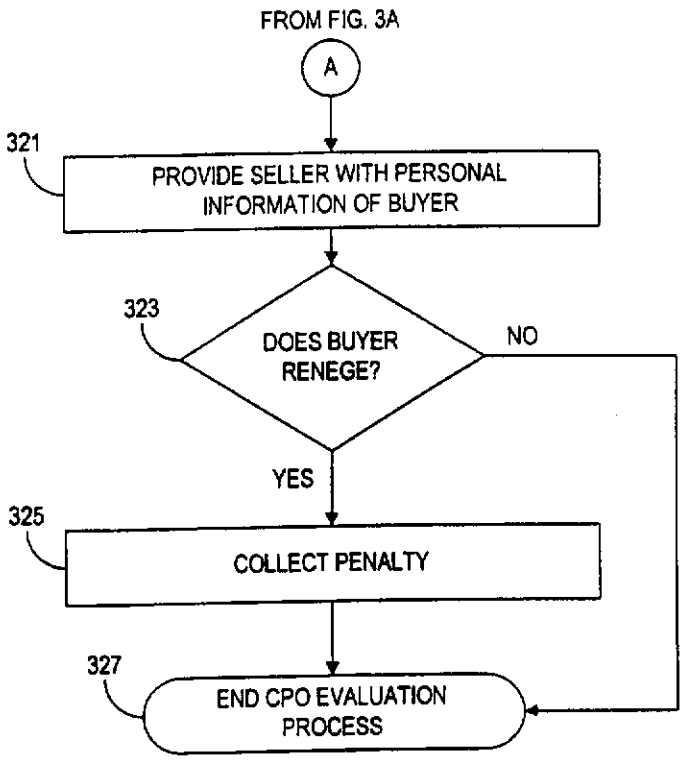

FROM FIG. 3A
A
321
PROVIDE SELLER WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION OF BUYER
323
DOES BUYER RENEGE?
NO
YES
325
COLLECT PENALTY
327
END CPO EVALUATION PROCESS

FIG. 3B

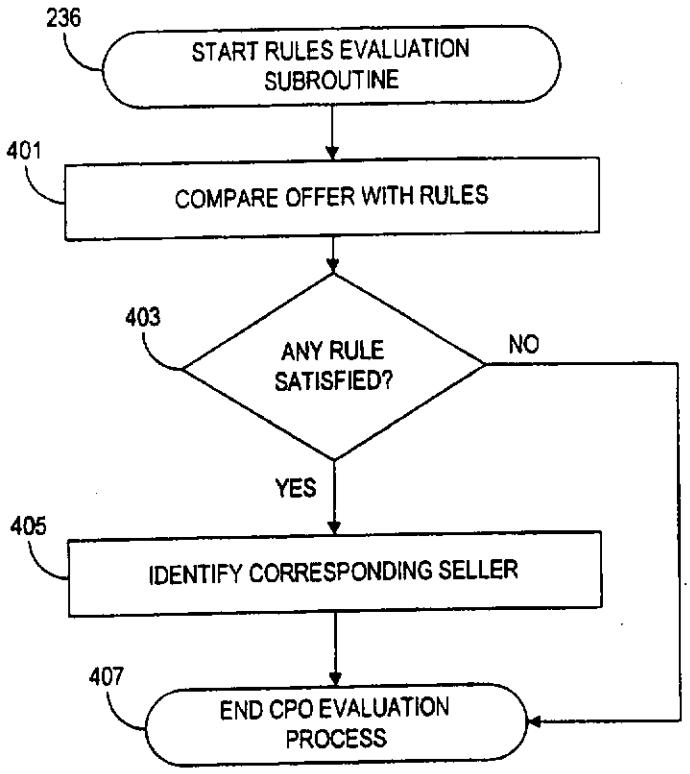

236
START RULES EVALUATION SUBROUTINE
401
COMPARE OFFER WITH RULES
403
ANY RULE SATISFIED?
NO
YES
405
IDENTIFY CORRESPONDING SELLER
407
END CPO EVALUATION PROCESS

FIG. 4

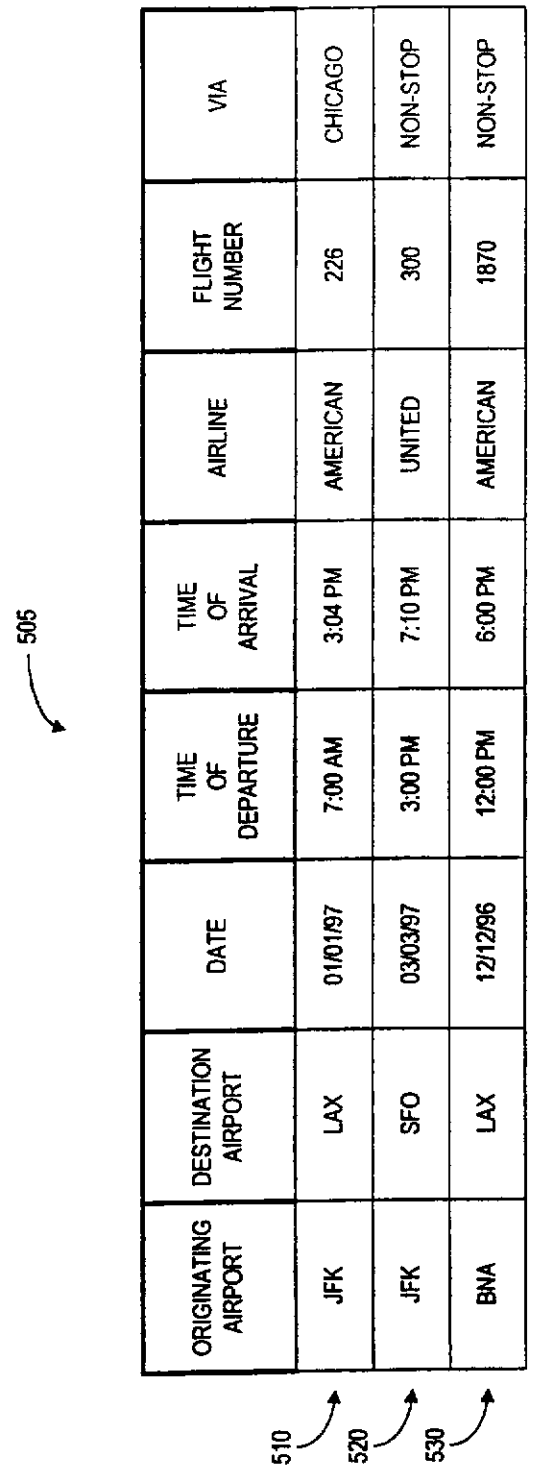

505
ORIGINATING AIRPORT
DESTINATION AIRPORT
DATE
TIME OF DEPARTURE
TIME OF ARRIVAL
AIRLINE
FLIGHT NUMBER
VIA
JFK
LAX
01/01/97
7:00 AM
3:04 PM
AMERICAN
226
CHICAGO
JFK
SFO
03/03/97
3:00 PM
7:10 PM
UNITED
300
NON-STOP
BNA
LAX
12/12/96
12:00 PM
6:00 PM
AMERICAN
1870
NON-STOP
510
520
530

FIG. 5

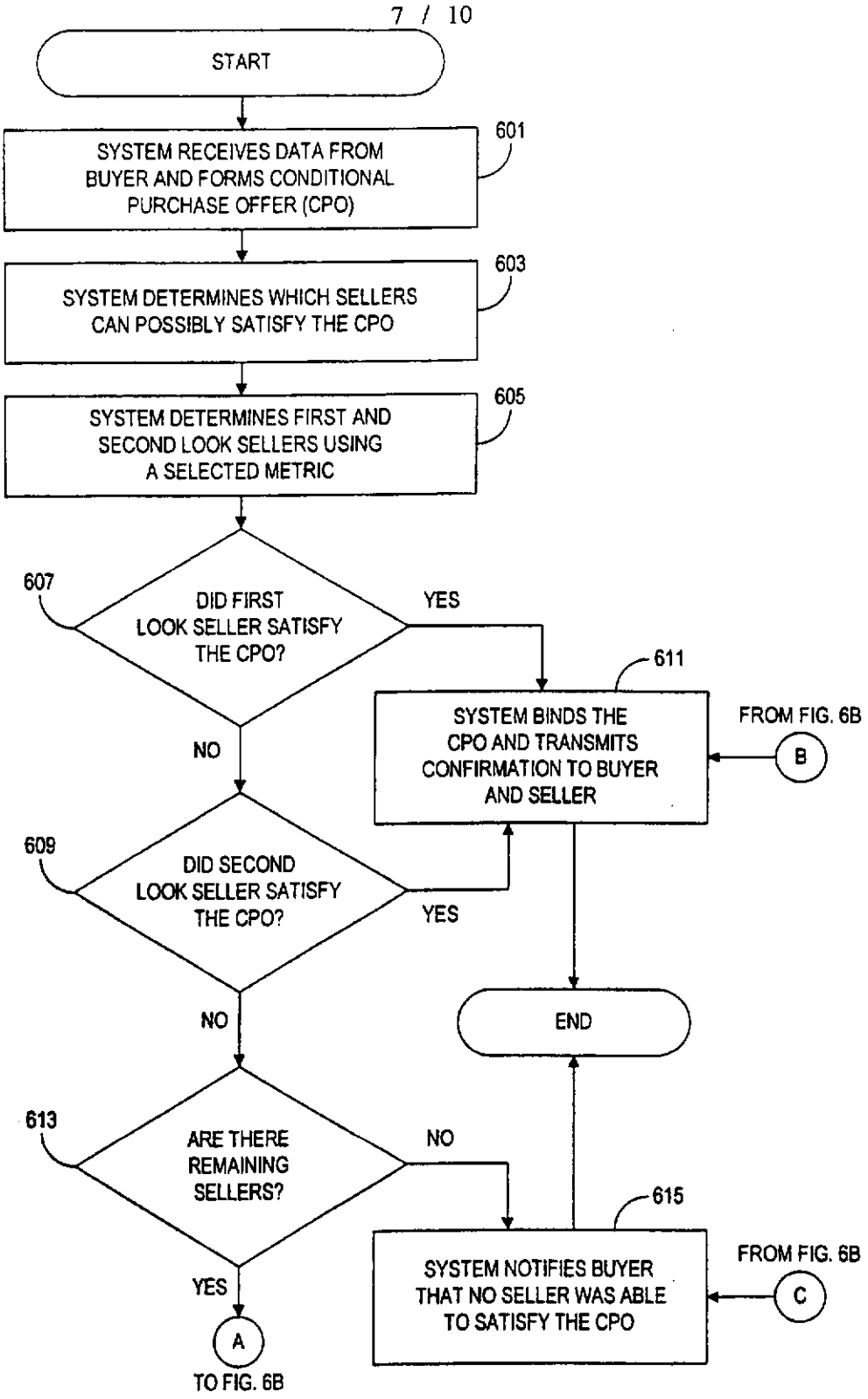

START
SYSTEM RECEIVES DATA FROM BUYER AND FORMS CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OFFER (CPO)
601
SYSTEM DETERMINES WHICH SELLERS CAN POSSIBLY SATISFY THE CPO
603
SYSTEM DETERMINES FIRST AND SECOND LOOK SELLERS USING A SELECTED METRIC
605
607
DID FIRST LOOK SELLER SATISFY THE CPO?
YES
NO
611
SYSTEM BINDS THE CPO AND TRANSMITS CONFIRMATION TO BUYER AND SELLER
FROM FIG. 6B
B
609
DID SECOND LOOK SELLER SATISFY THE CPO?
YES
NO
END
613
ARE THERE REMAINING SELLERS?
NO
YES
615
SYSTEM NOTIFIES BUYER THAT NO SELLER WAS ABLE TO SATISFY THE CPO
FROM FIG. 6B
C
A
TO FIG. 6B

FIG. 6A

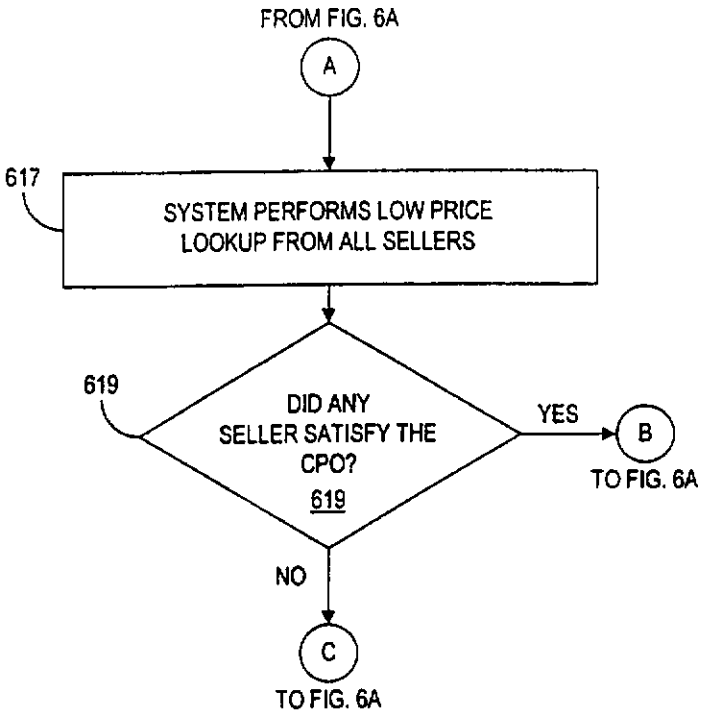

FROM FIG. 6A
A
617
SYSTEM PERFORMS LOW PRICE LOOKUP FROM ALL SELLERS
619
DID ANY SELLER SATISFY THE CPO?
619
YES
B
TO FIG. 6A
NO
C
TO FIG. 6A

FIG. 6B

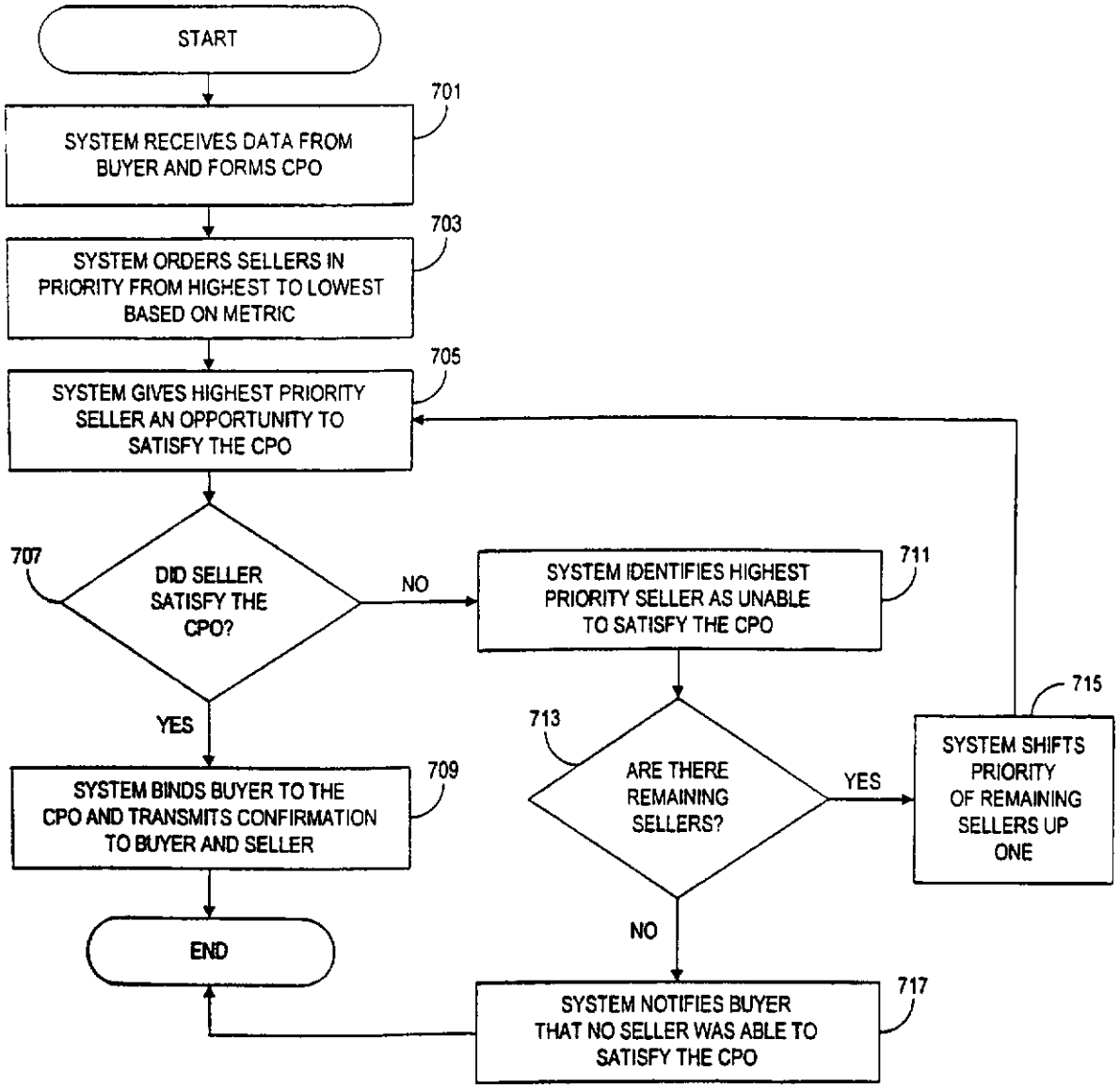

START
701
SYSTEM RECEIVES DATA FROM BUYER AND FORMS CPO
703
SYSTEM ORDERS SELLERS IN PRIORITY FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST BASED ON METRIC
705
SYSTEM GIVES HIGHEST PRIORITY SELLER AN OPPORTUNITY TO SATISFY THE CPO
707
DID SELLER SATISFY THE CPO?
NO
711
SYSTEM IDENTIFIES HIGHEST PRIORITY SELLER AS UNABLE TO SATISFY THE CPO
YES
709
SYSTEM BINDS BUYER TO THE CPO AND TRANSMITS CONFIRMATION TO BUYER AND SELLER
END
713
ARE THERE REMAINING SELLERS?
YES
715
SYSTEM SHIFTS PRIORITY OF REMAINING SELLERS UP ONE
NO
717
SYSTEM NOTIFIES BUYER THAT NO SELLER WAS ABLE TO SATISFY THE CPO

FIG. 7

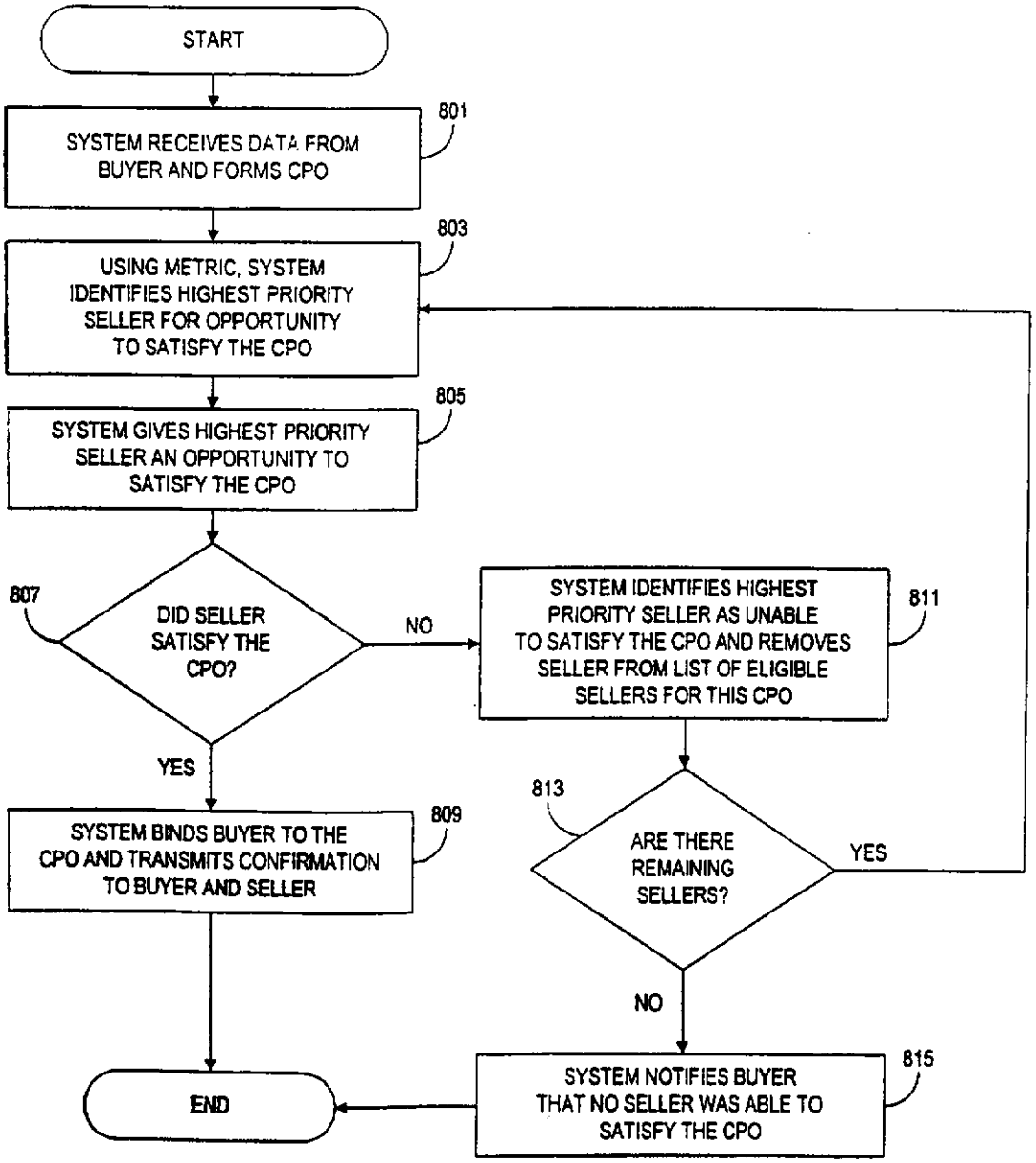

START
SYSTEM RECEIVES DATA FROM BUYER AND FORMS CPO
801
USING METRIC, SYSTEM IDENTIFIES HIGHEST PRIORITY SELLER FOR OPPORTUNITY TO SATISFY THE CPO
803
SYSTEM GIVES HIGHEST PRIORITY SELLER AN OPPORTUNITY TO SATISFY THE CPO
805
DID SELLER SATISFY THE CPO?
807
NO
SYSTEM IDENTIFIES HIGHEST PRIORITY SELLER AS UNABLE TO SATISFY THE CPO AND REMOVES SELLER FROM LIST OF ELIGIBLE SELLERS FOR THIS CPO
811
YES
SYSTEM BINDS BUYER TO THE CPO AND TRANSMITS CONFIRMATION TO BUYER AND SELLER
809
ARE THERE REMAINING SELLERS?
813
YES
NO
SYSTEM NOTIFIES BUYER THAT NO SELLER WAS ABLE TO SATISFY THE CPO
815
END

FIG. 8