ADVISORY THRESHOLDS AND ALERTS FOR MANAGING POSITION CONCENTRATION RISK

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This Application claims priority to US Provisional Patent Application No. 61/048,989, entitled "Clearing Member Large Position Alert System," filed on April 30, 2008, the contents of which are incorporated herein in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The disclosure is generally related to managing position concentration risk and to establishing thresholds and generating alerts related to levels of position concentration risk.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Clearing firms supervise the risk of accounts of which they manage, administer, and otherwise oversee, but the clearing firms may be unaware of the overall concentration risk of the total account position for one or more of their account customers. Position concentration risk of an account that clears multiple clearing firms may pose problems and uncertainties for one or more of the clearing firms individually because each clearing firm lacks information related to the aggregate risk of the account across the multiple clearing firms. An advisory alert or indication to advise of or provide an update related to the overall concentration risk of each total account position is thus desired by clearing firms and/or other entities. A further desirable aspect includes providing clearing firms, account customers, and/or other authorized entities with the ability and flexibility to request information and updates related to the overall concentration risk of each total account position based upon established parameters.

SUMMARY

[0004] A method of managing a position concentration risk of an account includes the establishment of a threshold level for an aggregate trader position. The aggregate trader position may be associated with one or more customer accounts that are managed by one or more clearing firms. An actual parameter value associated with each of the customer accounts is aggregated to determine an aggregate parameter value, which is compared against the established threshold value. If, based on the comparison between the aggregate parameter value and the established threshold value, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value meets or exceeds the established threshold value, an advisory alert is automatically generated. The advisory alert is then communicated or otherwise provided to one or more authorized entities.

[0005] A system of managing a position concentration risk of an account includes a server, on which a position concentration risk software application is stored. One or more user third party terminals are coupled to the server for access thereto. Various modules comprise the position concentration risk software application and include computer-readable instructions for performing the operations. The instructions are stored by a memory component and executed by a processor.

[0006] In another aspect, a method of managing a position concentration risk of an account includes establishing a threshold level for a trader position, where the trader position is associated with a customer account and includes one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity. The method further includes comparing an actual parameter value associated with the trader position against the threshold level and automatically generating an advisory alert if it is determined that the actual parameter value meets or exceeds the threshold level. The advisory alert is communicated to an authorized entity.

[0007] In yet another aspect, a method of managing a position concentration risk of an account includes establishing a threshold level for a trader position that is associated with a customer account. The trader position includes one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity. An actual parameter value associated with the trader position is determined and an actual parameter value associated with the trader position is compared against the threshold level. The method includes determining, based on the comparing step, whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the trader position's actual parameter value.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The foregoing summary and the following detailed description are better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. Exemplary embodiments are shown in the drawings, however, it is understood that the embodiments are not limited to the specific methods and instrumentalities depicted herein. In the drawings:

[0009] FIG. 1 is a flowchart illustrating a method of managing a position concentration risk of an account according to an exemplary embodiment.

[0010] FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a system for managing a position concentration risk of an account according to an exemplary embodiment.

[0011] FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a method of managing a position concentration risk of an account according to an additional exemplary embodiment.

[0012] FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a method of managing a position concentration risk of an account according to yet another exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] A clearing firm may manage, administer, and otherwise oversee the accounts of its traders, e.g., account customers of the clearing firm, and may also track traders with reportable positions. A reportable position may be defined as the number or overall value of contracts held by a trader. A large-trader may be defined as a trader that has positions that exceed a threshold of a reportable limit. Hence, traders with large positions are known as large-traders.

[0014] A large-trader account may be defined as an account that incorporates each of the multiple clearing accounts used by a large-trader for trading, such as accounts for various exchanges, products, asset classes, and the like. Rather than reporting each individual account of a large-trader, a large-trader account collectively tracks and manages all positions of the large-trader.

[0015] A large position alert system and method may manage a position concentration risk of an account and may be utilized to establish thresholds, such as open interest thresholds, by contract for a large-trader account. Upon the establishment of the thresholds, large-trader data may be utilized to determine if the open interest threshold has been exceeded. If the threshold is exceeded, a message, i.e. an advisory alert, may be generated to inform the clearing firm customer and/or any other authorized entity.

[0016] With reference to FIG. 1, a method 100 of managing a position concentration risk of an account, according to an exemplary embodiment, is illustrated.

[0017] At 110, a threshold level for an aggregate trader position is established. The aggregate trader position may be associated with one or more customer accounts that may be managed by one or more clearing firms.

[0018] In an embodiment, the aggregate trader position may comprise two or more contracts

having correlated risk profiles, in which case the contracts having the correlated risk profiles may be associated with the aggregate trader position. In another embodiment, the aggregate trader position may comprise two or more contracts having opposed risk profiles, in which case the contracts having the opposed risk profiles may be associated with the aggregate trader position. In yet another embodiment, the aggregate trader position may include a combination of long and short contracts associated with a particular commodity. The trader position and contracts are not limited to financial instruments, such as futures, options on futures, and the like, but rather may also include cleared, physically delivered commodities, such as over-the-counter (OTC) and various asset class positions, for example.

[0019] At 110, each of the one or more clearing firms may establish one or more threshold levels particular to it. For example, the aggregate trader position may be associated with a first account managed by a first clearing firm and a second account managed by a second clearing firm. In this situation, the first clearing firm may desire, and accordingly establish, a particular threshold level relative to the aggregate trader position, while the second clearing firm desires and accordingly establishes a different threshold level.

[0020] The method 100 is not limited to clearing firms as the only entity capable of establishing a threshold level for an aggregate trader position. According to an embodiment, an owner of the aggregate trader position may establish the threshold level for the position as, for example, a range of a predetermined level. Other entities and individuals may also establish the threshold level. Moreover, the establishing, as well as modifying or canceling, of the threshold level may be implemented remotely via an Internet accessible interface. Upon any modifications or canceling of the threshold level, a notification may be sent to any authorized entities, such as the one or more clearing firms or the owner of the aggregate trader position.

[0021] Each threshold level may be a percentage of a predetermined value, a percentage of a particular clearing firm's obligations, a combination thereof or any other desirable parameter. For example, the threshold level may be a percentage of a speculative position limit, a percentage of a hedge position limit, or an accountability level. Additionally, the threshold level may be valid for one processing cycle, after which a new threshold level is established.

[0022] The threshold level may be established at a value that renders the aggregate trader position reportable to regulatory authorities if exceeded. In an embodiment, the advisory alert may be generated prior to rendering the aggregate trader position reportable.

[0023] In an embodiment, when a threshold level is established, an indication is communicated to an owner of the aggregate trader position to inform the owner of the threshold level. The owner may either accept or reject the established threshold level and may communication either the acceptance or rejection, which may be further communicated to an authorized entity. The threshold level may be activated if accepted by the owner of the aggregate trader position. For example, if a clearing firm establishes a threshold level, an indication of such is communicated to the owner. In turn, the owner's acceptance or rejection is communicated to the clearing firm that established the threshold level, as well as to any other entities as authorized by, for example, the clearing firm or the owner.

[0024] According to an additional embodiment, an owner of the aggregate trader position and/or one or more clearing firms may be notified if the owner no longer has a trader position at a particular clearing firm. For example, if a clearing firm, at 110 of the method 100, establishes a threshold level for an aggregate trader position, that particular clearing firm, as well as the owner of the aggregate trader position, may be notified if the owner is no longer utilizing that particular clearing firm. In such a situation, the particular clearing firm may not be eligible to set

a threshold level for that aggregate trader position. Accordingly, the particular clearing firm may be excluded from receiving communications related to the aggregate trader position.

[0025] Returning to the flowchart of FIG. 1, at 120, actual parameter values that are associated with each of the customer accounts of the aggregate trader position are compiled and aggregated to determine an aggregate parameter value. The aggregate parameter value may include, for example, a total number of contracts of the aggregate trader position, a net value of the contracts, a risk value associated with the contracts, a combination thereof and/or any other desirable parameter.

[0026] At 130, the aggregate parameter value associated with the aggregate trader position, as determined at 120, is compared to the threshold level established at 110. The comparing step 130 may occur periodically, continually, on-demand, following a predefined event, randomly, at least once daily, or a combination thereof. In an embodiment, the comparing step 130 occurs once daily after processing all contracts associated with the aggregate trade position.

[0027] At 140, a determination is made as to whether the aggregate parameter value exceeds or meets the threshold level based on the comparing step at 130. If the aggregate parameter value neither meets nor exceeds the threshold level, the comparison and determination operations may continue to be performed, at 130 and 140, continuously, for a predetermined number of times, or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

[0028] At 150, if, based on the comparing step at 140, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value either meets or exceeds the threshold level, an advisory alert is automatically generated. The advisory alert may include, for example, predetermined account details relating to the one or more customer accounts of the aggregate trader position. In an embodiment, the advisory alert may be anonymous insofar as it does not reveal the identify of a clearing firm or

other authorized entity associated with the aggregate trader position.

[0029] At 160, the generated advisory alert is communicated to an authorized entity. The authorized entity be one or more of the clearing firms, a regulatory entity, a third party, an owner of the aggregate trader position, or a combination thereof. The advisory alert may be in the form of an email message, a text message, an instant message, or another form of communication.

[0030] According to an embodiment, the aggregate trader position may be a large-trader position that includes a plurality of contracts across a plurality of customer accounts. The customer accounts may be managed by a plurality of clearing firms. In this embodiment, each of the customer accounts and related positions may be associated with a single large-trader account. The communication of the advisory alert is accordingly communicated in connection with the large-trader account. Moreover, each of the clearing firms may be authorized to anonymously communicate or otherwise obtain notices and/or information relating to the large-trader position to and from one another. This authorization may be in the form of a contractual agreement, for example, entered into by one or more clearing firms and an owner of the large-trader position.

[0031] According to another exemplary embodiment of managing a position concentration risk of an account, two or more threshold levels associated with the aggregate trader position may be established. For example, one clearing firm may desire alerts of the aggregate trader position related to two or more thresholds. Upon the establishment of the multiple threshold levels, the aggregate parameter value is compared to each of the multiple threshold levels.

[0032] Another aspect allows for a determination of whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the actual parameter value associated with each of the customer accounts of the aggregate trader position. For example, if it is determined that the aggregate parameter value meets, exceeds, or is within a predetermined

range of at least one of the threshold levels, then one or more intervening measures may be imposed. Examples of intervening measures may include disabling or limiting certain trade registration access associated with the trader position, disabling or limiting access to a trading system, disabling or limiting access to a clearing system, freezing one or more customer accounts, and the like.

[0033] In addition to or instead of an advisory alert, an approaching alert function may also be implemented based on the result of the comparing step 130. If it is determined, based on the comparing step 130, that the aggregate parameter value is within a predetermined range of the threshold level, an approaching alert may be generated and communicated to one or more authorized entities. This may serve as a useful indication that the aggregate parameter value is close to the threshold level. The entity that establishes the threshold level may also establish the predetermined range for generating and receiving an approaching alert.

[0034] An exemplary system 200 for managing a position concentration risk of an account may include components for performing some or all portions of the above-described method 100. With reference to FIG. 2, the components may include, for example, a server 210 on which a position concentration risk software application 220 is stored. The system 200 may further include one or more user third party terminals 230 that are coupled to the server 210. The terminals 230 may be coupled to the server 210 through a wired or wireless network, such as, for example, the Internet.

[0035] Each third party terminal 230 may include, according to an embodiment, a data interface 235 for accessing the server 210 and the software application 220 stored on the server 210. Shown in FIG. 2 are four third party terminals 230, including two clearing firms 230a and 230b and two traders 230c and 230d, respectively including a data interface 235a, 235b, 235c,

and 235d. However, the system 200 is not limited to this arrangement, and more or fewer servers 210 and/or third party terminals 230 may be incorporated within the system 200. Moreover, the third party terminals 230 are not limited to clearing firms and traders, but may also include other users and entities. The third party terminals 230 may communicate with one another directly via a network, for example, or through the server 210.

[0036] The software application 220 may provide users with the functionality to manage a position concentration risk that is associated with one or more customer accounts. The software application 220 may include, but is not limited to, a threshold level module 221, an aggregator 222, a comparer 223, an advisory alert generator 224, and/or a communication module 225.

[0037] When the software application 220 is executed and accessed via the one or more third party terminals 230, the threshold level module 221 enables users of the third party terminals 230 to establish one or more threshold levels for an aggregate trader position. The aggregate trader position may be associated with the one or more customer accounts that are managed by one or more clearing firms, such as the clearing firms 230a and 230b.

[0038] The aggregator 222 operates to aggregate an actual parameter value associated with each of the customer accounts to determine an aggregate parameter value. The comparer 223 may operate to compare the aggregate parameter value with the threshold level.

[0039] If, based on the comparing step by the comparer 223, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value meets or exceeds the threshold level, the advisory alert generator 224 may create an advisory alert.

[0040] The advisory alert may be communicated to an authorized entity by the communication module 225.

[0041] It is noted that the various components described herein with respect to the system

200 may include one or more computing devices, hand-held communication devices, mobile computers and/or any other electronic communication means. The components may be described in the general context of comprising computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by a computer. Generally, program modules may include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, or the like that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types.

[0042] With reference to FIG. 3, a method 300 of managing a position concentration risk of an account, according to an exemplary additional embodiment, is illustrated.

[0043] At 310, a threshold level for a trader position associated with a customer account is established. The trader position includes one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity.

[0044] According to an embodiment, the trader position may be a combination of long and short contracts associated with a particular commodity, for example. The contracts may have correlated risk profiles, in which case the contracts with the correlated risk profiles are associated with the trader position. The contracts may have opposed risk profiles, in which case the contracts having the opposed risk profiles are associated with the trader position.

[0045] The threshold level may be a percentage of a speculative position limit, or the threshold level may be a percentage of a hedge position limit. The threshold level may be established at a value that renders the trader position reportable to a regulatory authority if exceeded. The threshold level may be established at a value that triggers an advisory alert prior to rendering the trader position reportable.

[0046] At 320, an actual parameter value that is associated with the trader position is compared with the threshold level that is established at 310. The actual parameter value may

include a total number of the contracts of the trader position, a net value of the contracts, a risk value associated with the contracts, a combination thereof and/or any other desirable parameter.

[0047] At 330, a determination is made based on the preceding comparison (320) as to whether the actual parameter value meets or exceeds the threshold level.

[0048] At 340, an advisory alert is automatically generated if, based on the preceding comparison and determination steps, it is determined that the actual parameter value meets or exceeds the threshold level. According to an embodiment, an advisory alert may be generated if, based on the preceding comparison, it is determined that the actual parameter value is within a predetermined range of the threshold level.

[0049] At 350, after the generation of the advisory alert, the advisory alert is communicated to one or more authorized entities. An authorized entity may be a clearing firm, a regulatory entity, a third party, and an owner of the trader position. The advisory alert may comprise predetermined account details relating to the customer account, for example. Other details and/or information may also be included in the advisory alert. Moreover, the advisory alert may be anonymous. The advisory alert may be communicated via electronic-mail means or other communication forms, such as a text or instant message.

[0050] The establishing of the threshold level, as well as later modifying or canceling the threshold level, may be performed remotely by a user of a third party terminal, for example, via an Internet accessible interface. Upon any modifications or canceling of the threshold level, a notification may be sent to any authorized entities, such as the one or more clearing firms or the owner of the trader position.

[0051] With reference to FIG. 4, a method 400 of managing a position concentration risk of an account, according to yet another exemplary embodiment, is illustrated.

[0052] At 410, the method 400 includes establishing a threshold level for a trader position associated with a customer account, where the trader position comprises one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity.

[0053] According to an embodiment, the trader position may be a combination of long and short contracts associated with a particular commodity, for example. The contracts may have correlated risk profiles, in which case the contracts with the correlated risk profiles are associated with the trader position. The contracts may have opposed risk profiles, in which case the contracts having the opposed risk profiles are associated with the trader position.

[0054] The threshold level may be a percentage of a speculative position limit, or the threshold level may be a percentage of a hedge position limit. The threshold level may be established at a value that renders the trader position reportable if exceeded. The threshold level may be established at a value that triggers an advisory alert prior to rendering the trader position reportable.

[0055] At 420, an actual parameter value associated with the trader position is determined. At 430, a comparison operation is performed in which the actual parameter value associated with the trader position is compared against the threshold level. The comparing operation 430 may occur periodically, continually, on-demand, following a predefined event, randomly, at least once daily, and/or daily after processing of all contracts associated with the trader position.

[0056] At 440, a determination is made based on the preceding comparison step 430 as to whether the actual parameter value meets or exceeds the established threshold level. If the actual parameter value neither meets nor exceeds the threshold level, the comparison and determination operations may continue to be performed, at 430 and 440, continuously, for a predetermined number of times, or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

[0057] At 450, one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the trader position's actual parameter value are imposed if it is determined (at 440) that the actual parameter value meets or exceeds the threshold value.

[0058] The determination of whether to impose one or more intervening measures may include several factors, such as determining if the actual parameter is within a predetermined range of the threshold level, if the actual parameter is equivalent to the threshold level, and if the actual parameter exceeds the threshold level.

[0059] An example of an intervening measure includes generating an advisory alert that serves to notify an authorized entity. An authorized entity may include a clearing firm, a regulatory entity, a third party, an owner of the trader position, and any combination thereof.

[0060] Other intervening measures may include disabling or limiting certain trade registration access associated with the trader position, disabling or limiting access to a trading system, disabling or limiting access to a clearing system, freezing one or more customer accounts, and the like. If an intervening measure is or will be imposed, a communication may be sent via an Internet accessible interface to one or more authorized entities.

[0061] In an embodiment, the trader position may be a large-trader position that includes a plurality of contracts across one or more customer accounts that are managed by one or more clearing firms. Each of the customer accounts and related positions may be associated with a single large-trader account. The threshold levels may thus be established for the large-trader position.

[0062] Each of the clearing firms associated with the large-trader position may be authorized to obtain information relating to the large-trader position from one another. An authorization process may include entering into an agreement between the one or more clearing firms and the

owner of the large-trader position. If the owner no longer has a trader-position at a particular clearing firm, an automatic notification may be generated and sent to the owner and the one or more clearing firms.

[0063] The foregoing examples are provided merely for the purpose of explanation and are in no way to be construed as limiting. While reference to various embodiments are shown, the words used herein are words of description and illustration, rather than words of limitation. Further, although reference to particular means, materials, and embodiments are shown, there is no limitation to the particulars disclosed herein. Rather, the embodiments extend to all functionally equivalent structures, methods, and uses, such as are within the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of managing a position concentration risk of an account, comprising:

providing at least one computing device comprising a memory for storing instructions and a processor for executing said instructions, and utilizing said at least one computing device to perform the steps of:

establishing a threshold level for an aggregate trader position that is associated with one or more customer accounts, said customer accounts being managed by one or more clearing firms;

aggregating an actual parameter value associated with each of said customer accounts to determine an aggregate parameter value;

comparing the aggregate parameter value with the threshold level;

automatically generating an advisory alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value has met or exceeded the threshold level; and

communicating the advisory alert to an authorized entity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the one or more clearing firms establishes a threshold level particular to it, the method further comprising comparing the aggregate parameter value with each of said threshold levels and generating the advisory alert if at least one of said threshold levels has been met or exceeded.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein each threshold level comprises at least one of a percentage of a predetermined value and a percentage of particular clearing firm's outstanding obligations.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregate trader position is a large-trader position comprising a plurality of contracts across a plurality of customer accounts, said customer accounts being managed by a plurality of clearing firms, the method further comprising:

associating each of said customer accounts and related positions with a single large-trader account; and

communicating the advisory alert in connection with the large-trader account.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising authorizing each of said clearing firms to anonymously communicate notices and information relating to said large-trader position to and from one another.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said authorizing step comprises entering into a contractual agreement between one or more clearing firms and an owner of said large-trader position.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step occurs at least one of periodically, continually, on-demand, following a predefined event, randomly, and at least once daily.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing step occurs at least once daily after processing all contracts associated with the aggregate trader position.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically notifying at least one of an owner of the aggregate trader position and at least one clearing firm if the owner no longer has a trader position at a particular clearing firm; and

excluding the particular clearing firm from receiving any future advisory communications relating to the aggregate trader position.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

communicating to an owner of the aggregate trader position the established threshold level;

receiving an acceptance or rejection of the established threshold level by the owner;

communicating the acceptance or rejection to one more authorized entities; and

activating the established threshold level if accepted by the owner.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically generating an approaching alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value is within a predetermined range of the threshold level; and

communicating the approaching alert to one or more authorized entities.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold level is valid for at least one processing cycle, the method further comprising establishing a threshold level after each processing cycle.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein an owner of the aggregate trader position establishes the threshold level as a range of a predetermined level.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregate trader position comprises two or more contracts having correlated risk profiles, the method further comprising associating the contracts having said correlated risk profiles with the aggregate trader position.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregate trader position comprises two or more contracts having opposed risk profiles, the method further comprising associating the contracts having said opposed risk profiles with the aggregate trader position.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold level is a percentage of a speculative position limit.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold level is a percentage of a hedge position limit.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregate parameter value comprises at least one of a total number of contracts of the aggregate trader position, a net value of the contracts, and a risk value associated with the contracts.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the authorized entity comprises at least one of (i) one or more of the clearing firms; (ii) a regulatory entity; (iii) a third party; (iv) one or more clearing houses; and (v) an owner of the aggregate trader position.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold level is established at a value that renders the aggregate trader position reportable if exceeded.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold level is established at a value that triggers the advisory alert prior to rendering the aggregate trader position reportable.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregate trader position comprises a combination of long and short contracts associated with a particular commodity.

23. The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing, modifying, or canceling said threshold level remotely via an Internet accessible interface.

24. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

establishing two or more threshold levels associated with the aggregate trader position;

comparing the aggregate parameter value with each of said threshold levels;

determining, after each comparing step, whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the actual parameter value associated with each of said customer accounts.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising imposing one or more intervening measures if it is determined that the aggregate parameter value has met, exceeded, or is within a predetermined range of at least one of the threshold levels.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the advisory alert comprises predetermined account details relating to the one or more customer accounts.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the advisory alert is anonymous insofar as it does not reveal the identity of the clearing firms associated with the aggregate trader position.

28. A system for managing a position concentration risk of an account, comprising:

a position concentration risk software application stored on a server, said software application providing users with functionality to manage a position concentration risk associated with one or more customer accounts; and

one or more user third party terminals coupled to the server, said third party terminals comprising a data interface for accessing the server and the position concentration risk software application stored thereon,

wherein the position concentration risk software application, when executed and accessed via the one or more third party terminals, enables users to:

establish a threshold level for an aggregate trader position that is associated with the one or more customer accounts, said customer accounts being managed by one or more clearing firms;

aggregate an actual parameter value associated with each of said customer accounts to determine an aggregate parameter value;

compare the aggregate parameter value with the threshold level;

automatically generate an advisory alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value has met or exceeded the threshold level; and

communicate the advisory alert to an authorized entity.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the aggregate trader position is a large-trader position comprising a plurality of contracts across a plurality of customer accounts, said customer accounts being managed by a plurality of clearing firms, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to:

associate each of said customer accounts and related positions with a single large-trader account;

communicate the advisory alert in connection with the large-trader account; and

authorize each of said clearing firms to communicate notices and information relating to said large-trader position to and from one another.

30. The system of claim 28, wherein the compare operation occurs at least one of periodically, continually, on-demand, following a predefined event, at least once daily, and randomly.

31. The system of claim 28, wherein the compare operation occurs at least once daily after processing all contracts associated with the aggregate trader position.

32. The system of claim 28, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to:

communicate to an owner of the aggregate trader position the established threshold level;

receive an acceptance or rejection of the established threshold level by the owner;

communicate the acceptance or rejection to one or more authorized entities; and

activate the established threshold level if accepted by the owner.

33. The system of claim 28, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to:

automatically generate an approaching alert if, based on the compare operation, it is determined that the aggregate parameter value is within a predetermined range of the threshold level; and

communicate the approaching alert to one or more authorized entities.

34. The system of claim 28, wherein the authorized entity comprises at least one of (i) one or more of the clearing firms; (ii) a regulatory entity; (iii) a third party; (iv) one or more clearing houses; and (v) an owner of the aggregate trader position.

35. The system of claim 28, wherein the threshold level is established at a value that renders the aggregate trader position reportable if exceeded.

36. The system of claim 28, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to establish, modify, or cancel said threshold level remotely via an Internet accessible interface.

37. The system of claim 28, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to:

establish two or more threshold levels associated with the aggregate trader position;

compare the aggregate parameter value with each of said threshold levels;

determine, after each comparing step, whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the actual parameter value associated with each of said customer accounts.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the position concentration risk software application further enables users to impose one or more intervening measures if it is determined that the aggregate parameter value has met, exceeded, or is within a predetermined range of at least one of the threshold levels.

39. A method of managing a position concentration risk of an account, comprising:

providing at least one computing device comprising a memory for storing instructions and a processor for executing said instructions, and utilizing said at least one computing device to perform the steps of:

establishing a threshold level for a trader position associated with a customer account, said trader position comprising one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity;

comparing an actual parameter value associated with said trader position against the threshold level;

automatically generating an advisory alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the actual parameter value has met or exceeded the threshold level; and

communicating the advisory alert to an authorized entity.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising automatically generating an advisory alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the actual parameter value is within a predetermined range of the threshold level.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein the parameter value comprises at least one of a total number of the contracts, a net value of the contracts, and a risk value associated with the contracts.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein the authorized entity comprises one or more of the group consisting of a clearing firm, a regulatory entity, a third party, and an owner of the trader position.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein the threshold level is established at a value that renders the trader position reportable if exceeded.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein the threshold level is established at a value that triggers the advisory alert prior to rendering the trader position reportable.

45. The method of claim 39, wherein the trader position comprises a combination of long and short contracts associated with a particular commodity.

46. The method of claim 39, further comprising establishing, modifying, or canceling said threshold level remotely via an Internet accessible interface.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein establishing, modifying, or canceling the threshold level comprises:

determining a threshold value for one or more positions and associating the threshold value with the customer account;

notifying the owner of said threshold value and requesting the owner's confirmation;

the owner confirming acceptance of the threshold value;

notifying one or more authorized entities responsible for managing said customer account of the threshold value and of the owner's acceptance thereof; and

activating said threshold level based on the accepted threshold value.

48. The method of claim 47, further comprising automatically notifying at least one of said owner and said clearing firms of any modifications to the threshold level.

49. The method of claim 39, further comprising communicating the advisory alert via electronic-mail means.

50. The method of claim 39, further comprising:

establishing two or more threshold levels associated with the trader position; and

automatically generating and communicating an advisory alert after each threshold level is met or exceeded.

51. The method of claim 50, further comprising automatically generating and communicating an advisory alert if, based on the comparing step, it is determined that the actual parameter value is within a predetermined range of either of said threshold levels.

52. The method of claim 39, wherein two or more of the contracts have correlated risk profiles, the method further comprising associating the contracts having said correlated risk profiles with the trader position.

53. The method of claim 39, wherein two or more of the contracts have opposed risk profiles, the method further comprising associating the contracts having said opposed risk profiles with the trader position.

54. The method of claim 39, wherein the advisory alert comprises predetermined account details relating to the customer account.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the advisory alert is anonymous insofar as it does not reveal the identity of any clearing firm associated with the customer account.

56. The method of claim 39, wherein the threshold level is a percentage of at least one of a speculative position limit and an accountability level.

57. The method of claim 39, wherein the threshold level is a percentage of at least one of a hedge position limit and an accountability level.

58. The method of claim 39, further comprising:

establishing two or more threshold levels associated with the trader position;

comparing the actual parameter value associated with said trader position against each of said threshold levels;

determining, after each comparing step, whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the trader position's actual parameter value.

59. The method of claim 58, further comprising imposing one or more intervening measures if it is determined that the actual parameter value has met, exceeded, or is within a predetermined range of at least one of the threshold levels.

60. A method of managing a position concentration risk of an account, comprising:

providing at least one computing device comprising a memory for storing instructions and a processor for executing said instructions, and utilizing said at least one computing device to perform the steps of:

establishing a threshold level for a trader position associated with a customer account, said trader position comprising one or more contracts for the purchase or sale of a commodity;

determining an actual parameter value associated with the trader position;

comparing an actual parameter value associated with said trader position against the threshold level;

determining, based on the comparing step, whether to impose one or more intervening measures to regulate transactions that impact the trader position's actual parameter value.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein determining whether to impose one or more intervening measures comprises at least one of:

determining if the actual parameter is within a predetermined range of the threshold level;

determining if the actual parameter level has met the threshold level; and

determining if the actual parameter has exceeded the threshold level.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the intervening measures comprise at least one of:

generating an advisory alert notifying an authorized entity;

disabling certain trade registration access associated with the trader position;

disabling access to a trading system; and

disabling access to a clearing system;

63. The method of claim 60, wherein the parameter value comprises at least one of a total number of the contracts, a net value of the contracts, and a risk value associated with the contracts.

64. The method of claim 60, wherein the authorized entity comprises one or more of the group consisting of a clearing firm, a regulatory entity, a third party, and an owner of the trader position.

65. The method of claim 60, further comprising communicating imposing said one or more intervening measures remotely via an Internet accessible interface.