Margin requirements for cryptocurrency futures contracts

With the launch of trading of cryptocurrency futures contracts on certain futures exchange in December 2017, this notice clarifies the minimum margin requirements for these futures contracts for Dealer Member inventory- and client positions.

Under Dealer Member Rule 100.8(f) (Rule 100.8(f)), IIROC may prescribe with respect to any particular or kind of person or account greater or lesser margin requirements than those prescribed or referred to in Rule 100.8 (Commodity Futures Contracts and Futures Contract Options).

We are prescribing greater margin requirements for cryptocurrency futures contracts that trade on commodity futures exchanges than the margin requirements prescribed or referred to in Rule 100.8, as set out below. For such exchange-traded cryptocurrency futures contract positions of Dealer Members and clients, a Dealer Member must mark to market and margin them daily at the greatest of:
(i) 50% of market value of the contracts
(ii) the margin required by the futures exchange on which the contracts are entered into
(iii) the margin required by the futures exchange’s clearing corporation
(iv) the margin required by the Dealer Member’s clearing broker.

This margin guidance is effective immediately.