
Pershing's Impartial Lottery Process: Partial Calls

When a security is subject to a partial redemption, pursuant to FINRA Rule 4340, Pershing must have procedures in place that are designed to treat clients fairly in accordance with an impartial lottery process.

When an issuer initiates a partial call of securities, the depository holding such securities (typically, the Depository Trust Corporation, or DTC) conducts an impartial, computerized lottery using an incremental random number technique to determine the allocation of called securities to participants for which it holds securities on deposit (including Pershing). Because DTC's lottery is random and impartial, participants may or may not receive an allocation of securities selected for redemption.

When Pershing is notified that it received an allocation of called securities, Pershing conducts a similar, computer-generated random lottery. The lottery determines the accounts that will be selected and the number of securities in the account that will be redeemed. Allocations are based on the number of trading units held in the account. The probability of any trading unit held by an account being selected as called in a partial call is proportional to the total number of trading units held through Pershing.

Once the lottery is complete, Pershing notifies introducing broker-dealers whose introduced accounts have received an allocation. Securities registered in the client's name, either in transit or held in custody, are excluded from the Pershing lottery process. Pershing initiates the lottery process by identifying the accounts holding the called security, the total par value of the called securities held and the trading unit of the security.

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