OANDA Margin Rules

Avoid margin closeouts. Know about margin and how it works.

The OANDA platform supports **margin trading**, which means you can enter into positions larger than your account balance. One advantage of using margin to trade is that you can leverage the funds in your account and potentially generate large profits relative to the amount invested. The downside is that you can potentially incur significant losses in your margin capital very quickly.

What is Margin?

OANDA requires sufficient collateral to ensure that you can cover any losses you might incur on your positions. The collateral is required is referred to as **margin**. Although there is no minimum deposit required to open an account with OANDA, the margin in your account will limit the size of the positions you can open.

The term **leverage** is often used to describe the margin requirements. For example, leverage of 50:1 corresponds to a margin requirement of 2% (1 divided by 50 is 0.02 or 2%). A 2% margin means that, if you wish to open a new position, then you must deposit and/or have 2% of the margin for the size of the position in the account. Another way of saying the same thing: for each dollar of margin available you can make a $50 dollar trade.

OANDA (Canada) Corporation ULC Margin Requirements

The Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO) establishes margin rates, which may vary from time to time. Margin requirements also vary given the base currency of your account.

See the Canadian margin rates list.

How Margin is Calculated

When you have open trades for many different currency pairs, your account's margin requirement is calculated by weighting the margin requirements for the various trades at their respective sizes and margin rates.

For more information margin and leverage, please see understanding margin and leverage.

What Happens with a Margin Closeout?

You must maintain sufficient margin in your account to support your open positions. You are responsible for monitoring your account to prevent margin closeouts.

A margin closeout will be triggered in the following circumstances:

- When the Margin Closeout Value declines to half, or less than half, of the Margin Used. The OANDA platform will try to alert customers who are signed in to the OANDA platform when the Margin Closeout Value falls within 5% of a margin closeout, and again when the Margin Closeout Value falls within 2.5% of a margin closeout. When the Margin Closeout Value declines to half, or less than half, of the Margin Used, all tradable open positions in the account will automatically close using the current OANDA rates at the time of closing. If trading is unavailable for certain open positions at the time of the margin closeout, those positions will remain open and the OANDA platform will continue to monitor your margin requirements. When the markets reopen for the remaining open positions, another margin closeout may occur if your account remains under margined.

Please note: in a fast moving market, there may be little time between warnings, or there may not be sufficient time to warn you at all. Be mindful of the "Margin Closeout Percent" field in the Account Summary of the OANDA user interface. The closer the Margin Closeout Percent is to 100%, the closer you are to a margin closeout.

- OANDA will send daily emails to accounts that fall below margin requirements at 3:45 p.m. Eastern time. When an account remains under margined for 6 consecutive **trading** days, all tradable open positions in the account will automatically close using the current OANDA rates at the time of closing. Any remaining open positions will automatically close at the current OANDA rate when the markets for those instruments re-open.

Margin Requirement is checked at 3:45 p.m. ET. Even if the account satisfies the Margin Requirement during the day but falls below for the 3:45 p.m. ET check, the account will be considered under margined. Saturday and Sunday do not count towards the 6 consecutive days as trading is not available on weekends (see OANDA Hours of Operation). If the account recovers by 3:45 p.m. on a trading day, before the end of 6 consecutive trading days, a new count will start again from the day the account falls below margin requirements. For example, if your account is under margined on Monday at 3:45 p.m., recovers and is adequately margined on Wednesday at 3:45 p.m., and then falls below margin requirements again on Friday before 3:45 p.m. and continuously remains under margined, a margin closeout will occur 10 days later on Monday starting at 3:45 p.m.

How to Avoid Margin Closeouts

Take proactive measures to avoid getting a margin closeout on your account. For example,

- Monitor the status of your account continuously.
- Specify a stop-loss order for each open trade to limit downside risk. You can specify the stop-loss rate at the time you issue a trade or add a stop-loss order at any time for any open trade. You can also change your stop-loss orders at any time to take current market prices or other conditions into account, (click on an open trade in the "Trades" table, then click "Modify" in the pop-up window to change the stop-loss).

  Note: Your trade is closed at the current OANDA rate, which may vary from your stop-loss price - especially when trading resumes after periods of market closure.

If you happen to be close to a margin closeout, the unique features of the OANDA platform provide some simple strategies to avoid it:

- Incrementally reduce the size of your positions as you get close to a margin closeout. (OANDA allows you to trade in arbitrary units, as opposed to fixed lots, which makes this simple to do.)
- Close individual positions to reduce the amount of margin required.
- Transfer additional funds into the account from another sub-account.
- Add funds to the account. Note, however, that the time it takes to add funds could mean your funds arrive too late.

For more information refer to our Legal Documents section.