

MERRILL LYNCH RESEARCH REPORTS SECURITIES LITIGATION SETTLEMENT

Submission of Label Data in Computer Readable Formats

If you hold any of the stocks specified herein (which were purchased during the specified Class Period) as nominee for a beneficial owner, then, within ten (10) days after you receive Notice, you must either: (1) send a copy of this Notice and the Proof of Claim by first class mail to all such Persons; or (2) provide a list of names and addresses of such Persons to the Claims Administrator:

If you choose to mail the Notice and Proof of Claim yourself, you may obtain from the Claims Administrator (without cost to you) as many additional copies of these documents as you will need to complete the mailing. Regardless of whether you choose to complete the mailing yourself or elect to have the mailing performed for you, you may obtain reimbursement for or advancement of reasonable administrative costs actually incurred or expected to be incurred in connection with forwarding the Notice and Proof of Claim and which would not have been incurred but for the obligation to forward the Notice and Proof of Claim, upon submission of appropriate documentation to the Claims Administrator.

To facilitate the transfer of data to the Claims Administrator, we have prepared the following guidelines for electronic data submission.

Preferred Format – Microsoft Excel

The preferred data format for all data transfers is Microsoft Excel. The file should contain no more than six name and address columns. Figure 1, below, illustrates a representative MS Excel spreadsheet, and a sample spreadsheet is available for download from www.MerrillLynchSettlement.com.

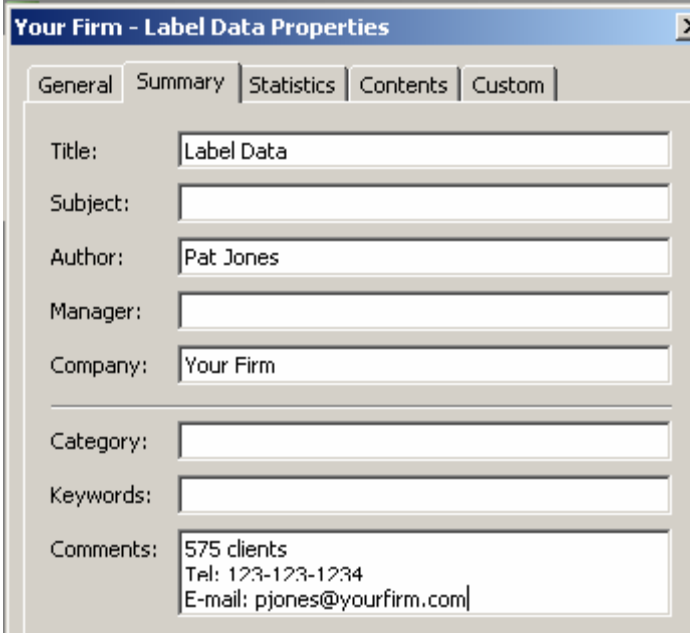
Figure 1: MS Excel Sample File

Name 1	Name 2	Name 3	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Country
Jane Doe			123 Main St.		My Town	MN	12345	
Magnolia Trust Co.	Bank of New Ulm	Attn: Stacy Grey	333 Oak Ave.	2nd Fl	Chaska	MN	55123	
Jon Smith and	Jane Smith	JT	5521 Olive Blvd.		New Ulm	MN	55111	
Sean O'Malley	c/o Global Globes		PO Box 1		Auckland		312	New Zealand

Labeling Your File

To ensure accuracy, please fully complete the summary tab (click File > Properties) for each file that you submit. Figure 2 below, contains an example of the information that you should provide.

Figure 2: Summary Example



The image shows a screenshot of a Windows-style dialog box titled "Your Firm - Label Data Properties". The dialog has five tabs: "General", "Summary", "Statistics", "Contents", and "Custom". The "Summary" tab is selected. The fields are filled with the following information:

Title:	Label Data
Subject:	
Author:	Pat Jones
Manager:	
Company:	Your Firm
Category:	
Keywords:	
Comments:	575 clients Tel: 123-123-1234 E-mail: pjones@yourfirm.com

Alternate Data Formats

If MS Excel is unavailable to you, you may submit your data in an ASCII format – either in a comma separated variable or tab delimited format. The file format should be comparable to the one identified above. If you provide an ASCII file, you must provide a detailed file layout, including record counts. If you do not provide a file layout, your file will be returned to you.

Acceptable Media

Data can be sent to the Claims Administrator using either 3.5” IBM®/Windows® formatted disks or CD-ROM media, provided they are clearly labeled.

Encrypted Files

The Claims Administrator will accept files encrypted using PGP. A copy of the Claims Administrator’s public key is available for download from:

www.MerrillLynchSettlement.com /labels.cfm

Programs to encrypt files using PGP are widely available for download, including, www.pgp.com (commercial) and www.gnupg.org (freeware).

Where to Submit Data

Please send your data files to:

Merrill Lynch Litigation Settlement
Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 2004
Chanhassen, MN 55317-2004

Receipt Confirmation

The Claims Administrator will send a written confirmation of our receipt of your electronic files within fourteen (14) days of receipt. Do not assume your files have been received by the Claims Administrator until you receive written confirmation of its receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement letter within fourteen (14) days of our receipt of the file, then please contact the Claims Administrator toll free at 1-888-217-2225.

Support

For general questions regarding data issues, please complete the form located on the web site.