

# COMPUTER MODEL CERTIFICATION

## FIDELITY BROKERAGE SERVICES LLC

Investment Strategy Tool within the Planning and Guidance  
Center (“IST”)

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017





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## Opinion Letter

Matthew Borden  
SVP, PWI Planning and Guidance Tools  
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC  
245 Summer Street, V2A  
Boston, MA 02210

September 21, 2017

Dear Mr. Borden:

We have evaluated the Investment Strategy Tool (“IST”) computer model provided by Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC to determine if it meets the requirements to be used as a Certified Computer Model as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended [“ERISA”] Section 408(g) and Internal Revenue Code [“IRC”] Section 4975(f)(8)(C)(iii).

Based on evaluations concluded on September 19, 2017, it is our opinion that:

- ERISA plan fiduciaries who meet all other ERISA requirements and use the IST computer model will qualify for the fiduciary relief granted under ERISA Section 408(g), and;
- Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC using the IST computer model to provide investment advice, as evaluated by DALBAR, to ERISA or IRA plan participants or beneficiaries, is in compliance with ERISA Section 408(g) and IRC Section 4975(d)(17).

Detailed findings from our evaluations will be available from DALBAR and may be obtained from its website.

Our opinion regarding the IST computer model is based on information provided by Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC and confirmed through public sources where possible. Any material change or discrepancy in this information could reverse our opinion.

Very truly yours,

DALBAR, Inc.





## Investment Model Provider Fact Sheet: Fidelity Investments / Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC<sup>1</sup>

<b>Company History:</b> Founded and privately held since 1946	<b>Number of Customer Reps:</b> 10,000+	<b>Affiliated Firms:</b> See Page 8
<b>Background Check</b> Clear <sup>2</sup>	<b>Total Assets under Management/Administration:</b> \$2.1 trillion / \$5.7 trillion	<b>Primary Business of Firm:</b> Broker/Dealer Services, Personal and Workplace Retirement Services
<b>Primary Compensation Sources:</b> Various	<b>Customer Accounts:</b> 67 Million+	<b>Broker/Dealer Name:</b> Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC
<b>Geographic Coverage</b> National provider of brokerage and retirement services	<b>Clients and customers:</b> 23,000 employers managing employee benefits 26 million people investing with Fidelity	<b>RIA Name:</b> N/A
<b>Previously Certified:</b> May 18, 2017	<b>Material Changes since Last Certification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guaranteed Income Adjustment to Target Asset Mix</li> <li>Complementary Asset Adjustment to Target Asset Mix</li> </ul>	
<b>Web Sites</b> <a href="http://www.fidelity.com">www.fidelity.com</a> <a href="http://www.netbenefits.com">www.netbenefits.com</a> <a href="http://www.fidelity.com/calculators-tools/planning-guidance-center">www.fidelity.com/calculators-tools/planning-guidance-center</a>		

<sup>1</sup> Firm Metrics as of December, 2016

<sup>2</sup> Disclosure events exist, but nothing unusual or concerning for a firm this size.



## Investment Model Fact Sheet: Investment Strategy Tool (“IST”)

### Investment Model Characteristics

Inputs	Age ✓	Time Horizon ✓	Risk Tolerance ✓
	Current Investments ✓	Other Assets ✓	Sources of Income ✓
	Investment Preferences ✓		
Outputs	Explanation of Asset Classes ✓	Allocation by Asset Class ✓	Allocation by Investment ✓
	Risk Category Selected ✓	Allocation Graphic ✓	Method of Acceptance ✓
Defaults	Time-based Target Asset Mix		
Implementation	User has the option of rebalancing to execute recommendation.		

### Risk Categories

	Domestic Stock (%)	Foreign Stock (%)	Bonds (%)	Short Term (%)
Short-Term	0	0	0	100
Conservative	14	6	50	30
Moderate with Income	21	9	50	20
Moderate	28	12	45	15
Balanced	35	15	40	10
Growth with Income	42	18	35	5
Growth	49	21	25	5
Aggressive Growth	60	25	15	0
Most Aggressive	70	30	0	0



## Fee Structure

### Usual fees charged for services:

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No fee is charged to the investor for this advice service.

### Contractual arrangements that could result in direct or indirect compensation to manager or affiliates on the basis of investment decisions if clients take actions on the basis of advice given:

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Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC and its affiliates receive revenue from proprietary products and third parties in the form of commissions, revenue sharing, sales loads, 12b-1 fees, finders' fees, sub-transfer agent fees, management fees, transaction fees, payments for referrals, etc. that may present a material conflict of interest.

Fidelity has multiple relationships with other financial institutions that also provide securities products and services that FBS may recommend to retail clients which may cause an actual or potential material conflict of interest. In addition, financial institutions themselves may be clients of FBS or an affiliate or may provide products and services to Fidelity or its clients. Relationships with associates at these firms, or associate incentives such as entertainment by these firms, may result in an actual, potential or perceived material conflict of interest. Associate incentives such as gifts or entertainment provided by associates at the firm or third parties, or relationships with associates at the firm or third parties, may lead to a conflict of interest.

Testing of the model revealed no signs of bias stemming from these potential conflicts.

### Sources of compensation and percentage from each source:

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Fidelity Investments receives compensation that varies based on the products or services chosen by their clients. Due to this, Fidelity will receive variable compensation in connection to the recommendation to buy, sell or hold certain products and services. Where sales loads, finder's fees, and other commission-based compensation apply, the more transactions entered into, and/or the greater their value, the more compensation Fidelity Investments receives. Fidelity also receives investment advisory and wrap fees associated with advisory services that they recommend to clients.

### Other factors or suggestions from others that could improperly influence investment decisions or the advice given to clients:

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None.



## Investment Model Provider Disclosures

The following important disclosures follow:

- DALBAR Certification
- Scope of Evaluation
- Acceptance of Fiduciary Responsibility
- Adviser Affiliations
- Additional Disclosures



DALBAR has evaluated the **Investment Strategy Tool (“IST”)** offered by **Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC** to determine compliance with United States Department of Labor and DALBAR standards for Fiduciary Advisers as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended [ERISA] Section 408(g) and Internal Revenue Code [IRC] Section 4975(d)(17) and associated regulations.

The following evaluations were performed:

### Due Diligence Requirements

Objective process to assess:

- Adviser qualifications ✓
- Quality of services offered ✓
- Reasonableness of fees charged for the service ✓
- Avoidance of self-dealing ✓
- Avoidance of conflicts of interest ✓
- Avoidance of other improper influence ✓

Process that takes into account:

- Use of generally accepted investment theories ✓
- Experience and qualifications of the adviser ✓
- Adviser’s registration in accordance with applicable federal and/or state securities law ✓
- Willingness of manager to assume fiduciary status and responsibility under ERISA ✓



## Adviser Affiliations

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Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC has disclosed that it is affiliated with the following firms:

- ✓ LUMINEX TRADING & ANALYTICS LLC
- ✓ IMPRESA MANAGEMENT LLC
- ✓ FIDELITY BUSINESS SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
- ✓ FIDELITY SELECTCO, LLC
- ✓ FIDELITY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH (JAPAN) LIMITED
- ✓ FIDELITY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH (HONG KONG) LIMITED
- ✓ FIDELITY CLEARING CANADA ULC
- ✓ FIDELITY (CANADA) ASSET MANAGEMENT ULC
- ✓ FIDELITY INSTITUTIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT TRUST COMPANY
- ✓ FIDELITY PERSONAL TRUST COMPANY, FSB
- ✓ STRATEGIC ADVISERS, INC.
- ✓ FIAM LLC
- ✓ BALLYROCK INVESTMENT ADVISORS LLC
- ✓ FMR CO., INC.
- ✓ NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC
- ✓ FIDELITY DISTRIBUTORS CORPORATION
- ✓ FIDELITY GLOBAL BROKERAGE GROUP, INC.
- ✓ FIDELITY INVESTMENTS CANADA ULC
- ✓ FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.
- ✓ FIDELITY INVESTMENTS MONEY MANAGEMENT, INC.
- ✓ FMR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED
- ✓ FIDELITY MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH COMPANY
- ✓ FIDELITY MANAGEMENT TRUST COMPANY

## Additional Disclosures

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None.



## Investment Model Certification Results

DALBAR has evaluated the Investment Strategy Tool (“IST”) computer model to be offered by **Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC** to determine if it will meet the requirements to be used as a Certified Computer Model as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended [“ERISA”] Section 408(g) and Internal Revenue Code [“IRC”] Section 4975(f)(8)(C)(iii).

The methodologies used for the evaluation are presented in the following sections. The methodologies applied were consistent with each specific requirement of the regulations. There were no limitations or restrictions imposed on DALBAR in the selection or application of the methodologies used.

DALBAR has a 30-year history recognized by industry and government as an independent third-party expert in the business of providing evaluations, ratings and performance due diligence. DALBAR certifications are recognized as marks of excellence in adviser services, communications, electronic and telephone services. DALBAR is the only ratings firm with an SEC no-action letter exempting its evaluations from the testimonial rule. Given its history, reputation and our extensive involvement in fiduciary adviser training, we believe that DALBAR meets or exceeds the expertise and proficiency required to conduct certifications required by ERISA Section 408(g)(5) and IRC Section 4975(f)(8)(C)(iii).

**Based on the results of the evaluation it has been determined that the IST computer model meets the requirements.**



**METH** = Evaluation of Methodology Documentation  
**TEST** = Model Test  
**COMP** = Compared to Comparable Models

**APP** = Through Written Statement via Application  
**WS** = Written Statement  
**NOT** = Review notifications/disclosures

## Specific Findings

COMPLIANCE TEST	METHOD OF EVALUATION	RESULT	COMMENT
Is investment theory recognized as being generally accepted?	METH TEST	✓	Screening and selection methodologies define a structured and objective approach that applies the generally accepted investment variables of risk, asset allocation, time horizon and expected returns based on historical patterns.
Cost	COMP	✓	No fee will be charged for the use of the model.
<b>Other specific requirements and best practices:</b>			
Takes fees and expenses into account	METH TEST	✓	The Model Test demonstrated that lower cost investment options are favored.
Requests and utilizes participant/investor information about age, time horizons, risk tolerance, current investments, other assets, sources of income and investment preferences	METH TEST	✓	The Model Test demonstrated that the information requested from plan participants and IRA investors meets industry best practices. This includes inputs of age, time horizons, risk tolerance, current investments, sources of income and other assets.



COMPLIANCE TEST	METHOD OF EVALUATION	RESULT	COMMENT
Utilize objective criteria to select and allocate designated plan investments.	METH	✓	<p>Screening and selection methodologies define a structured and objective approach that applies the generally accepted investment variables of risk, asset allocation, time horizon and expected returns based on historical patterns.</p> <p>Methodology with respect to strategy recommendations (Target Date Funds, Target Allocations Funds, Managed Accounts or Model Portfolios) was also evaluated and found to be objective and reasonable.</p>
<b>Does not:</b>			
Favor investments that compensate investment model provider or affiliates.	METH TEST APP	✓	The Model Test demonstrated that the tool does not favor investments that compensate Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC or its affiliates.
Favor investments that result in greater compensation to investment model provider or affiliates.	METH TEST APP	✓	The Model Test demonstrated that the tool does not favor investments that compensate Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC or its affiliates.
Base investment selection on criteria that cannot be expected to persist.	METH	✓	Funds are screened and selected on generally accepted criteria including, but not limited to total assets, sufficient historical data, and risk adjusted return.
<b>Does:</b>			
Consider all designated investments except those noted below	METH TEST	✓	All designated plan investments are considered by the computer model in the investment selection process (except those noted below).
Exclude employer securities	METH WS	✓	By default, the tool assumes that all assets in an account will be liquidated and the strategy applied to all such assets. Users of the tool can override this default.
Excludes investments that vary asset mix	METH	✓	These categories of investments are excluded from the plan's designated investments during the investment selection process.
Exclude retirement income annuities	METH	✓	These categories of investments are excluded from the plan's designated investments during the investment selection process.
Provide participant with a list of exclusions.	TEST WS	✓	Investments within the plan not considered by the model are disclosed to the participant.



## Explanation of Methods Used

<b>METHOD</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS</b>
<b>Evaluation of Methodology Documentation</b>	All methodology documentation is evaluated to determine the investment approach used by the computer model.
<b>Model Test</b>	The standard DALBAR test of investor profiles was used. An allocation was established by answering all questions in a likely manner of that hypothetical investor. These hypothetical investors are (1) new to the workforce, (2) at the investment threshold, (3) a highly compensated employee (4) a pre-retiree and (5) a retiree.
<b>Comparison to Comparable Models</b>	The cost and functionality of computer models that are known to be used for investment selection and asset allocation are compared to the computer model being evaluated.
<b>Written Statement</b>	Additional written statements were requested and provided by the fiduciary adviser.
<b>Interview</b>	Fiduciary adviser was interviewed to clarify questions raised during the evaluation process.
<b>Evaluate notifications/disclosures</b>	Notifications and disclosures were reviewed to ensure compliance with regulations. Notifications must contain all required content, in a manner that is calculated to be understood.