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November 20, 2003

Ms. Jean A. Webb
Secretary
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Center
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

Reference File #2386.01
Rule Certification

Dear Ms. Webb:

Pursuant to Commission Regulation 40.6, the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT[®]) hereby submits the following:

- **Amendments to Rules 159.00 and 201.00 and Regulations 201.01, 201.01A and 333.02 per the attached texts (additions underlined; deletions bracketed).**

These amendments will streamline the membership application and Primary Clearing Member designation processes by eliminating the following requirements:

- Sponsorship of membership applicants; and
- Clearing firm advance review of membership files of individuals for whom the firm will become the Primary Clearing Member.

The CBOT intends to implement these amendments no sooner than one day after the Commission's receipt of this filing.

There were no opposing views among the CBOT's Board of Directors concerning these amendments.

The CBOT certifies that these amendments comply with the Commodity Exchange Act and the rules thereunder.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Draths
Vice President and Secretary

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Additions underlined; Deletions [bracketed]

159.00 Membership Committee - All applications for membership shall be referred to the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee, in its discretion, may require an applicant who resides in the continental United States to appear in person for an examination either before the full committee, a duly authorized subcommittee thereof, or a representative of the Member Services Department. The Committee may also impose different requirements for other applicants in lieu of personal appearance.

[The Membership Committee may, at its discretion, require the personal appearance and examination of the sponsor.] The Membership Committee, by a majority vote of its members present at a duly constituted meeting, shall approve or deny the admission of the applicant to membership. A decision of the Membership Committee to deny the application may be appealed to the Regulatory Compliance Committee.

201.00 Application for Membership - Each application for membership shall be in writing and filed with the Exchange [together with the name of one member sponsor]. All applicants for membership shall be investigated as to the representations contained in the application. Upon receipt of the application for membership, the Secretary shall, within fifteen days thereafter, make available to the membership the name of the applicant [and of the sponsor], and shall post the same information on the bulletin board for a period of at least ten days after such notification to the [M]membership.

201.01 Responsibilities of Applicant for Membership [and His Sponsors] - Any undue delay by an applicant [or his sponsors] in the submission of documents required for processing of the membership application or [any undue delay by the applicant or his sponsors] in appearing, if an appearance is required, may be deemed [as] a withdrawal of the membership application.

[201.01A Sponsoring Applicants for Membership] - When the Exchange considers the qualifications of an applicant for membership in the Chicago Board of Trade, it relies to a large extent upon the statements of members who are sponsoring the applicant.

Sponsorship, therefore, entails considerable responsibility; and the Exchange feels that such responsibility is not met when a member recommends for membership an individual whom the member sponsor does not know to be fully qualified. Such sponsorship is of no assistance whatever to the Exchange and only results in the rejection of the sponsorship-often to the embarrassment of both the applicant and the sponsor.

The Exchange requires that an applicant have one sponsor.

- For applicants who will not have a primary clearing member ("PCM") firm, the sponsor must be either: (1) a registered member, partner or officer of a CBOT[®] member firm; or (2) a member who has been acquainted with the applicant for a period of at least ninety days.
- For applicants who will have a PCM, the member sponsor must be a registered member, partner or officer of the applicant's PCM.

In every case it is imperative that a sponsor make a thorough investigation of the applicant and be fully informed regarding the applicant's character, integrity, financial standing and business history.]

[333.02 Primary Clearing Members' Membership File Review - Before a clearing member grants Primary Clearing Member authorization to any individual pursuant to Rule 333.00 a duly authorized representative of such clearing member must:

- a) review such individual's membership file as maintained by the Association; and
- b) confirm, in writing, to the Department of Member Services of the Association, that this review was conducted.

The written confirmation referenced above will be on a form prescribed by the Association and will be retained by the Association in the applicable individual membership file.]