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June 5, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC PORTAL

Mr. Christopher J. Kirkpatrick Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21st Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20581

> RE: CFTC Regulation 40.6(a) Certification. TAS Block Trades in COMEX Copper Futures and Issuance of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1510-4 Regarding Rule 524 ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions"). NYMEX Submission No. 15-198 (1 of 2)

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX") and Commodity Exchange, Inc. ("COMEX") (collectively, the "Exchanges") hereby notify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") that they are self-certifying that COMEX will begin to permit outright Copper futures trades in the nearby non-spot active month and the second active month to be executed as block trades pursuant to Rule 526 ("Block Trades") and priced at the settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price pursuant to Rule 524 ("Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions"). The Exchanges are also self-certifying the issuance of NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1510-4 ("RA1510-4") on June 8, 2015, concerning Rule 524. RA1509-4 informs the marketplace that COMEX will begin to permit TAS block trades in Copper futures as described above. Pursuant to CFTC Regulation 40.6(a), this Submission shall become self-certified on June 22, 2015. However, please note that COMEX will not begin to permit TAS block trades in Copper futures until Sunday, July 5, 2015 for trade date Monday, July 6, 2015. The Exchanges are separately amending Rule 524 in Submission No. 15-176 effective on July 6, 2015.

The minimum threshold for TAS block trades in the nearby non-spot active and second active months in Copper futures will remain at 25 contracts, consistent with the minimum threshold applicable to non-TAS block trades in all non-spot active months of Copper futures. Pursuant to Submission No. 15-067R dated April 28, 2015, the Exchange reduced the Copper futures block trade minimum threshold level from 25 to 5 contracts for all inactive months and for each active month when it becomes the spot month, effective on trade date May 18, 2015.

The Exchanges reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA" or "Act") and identified that allowing TAS block trades in Copper futures and the issuance of RA1510-4 may have some bearing on the following Core Principles:

<u>Compliance with Rules</u>: The Market Regulation Advisory Notice being issued provides guidance to the marketplace on the regulatory requirements attendant to TAS, TAM and MO transactions. This guidance is intended to assist market participants in remaining in compliance with Rule 524 and is therefore in compliance with this Core Principle.

<u>Availability of General Information</u>: As required by this Core Principle, the Exchanges are publicly issuing RA1510-4 to ensure that market participants have updated guidance and information

attendant to the post close session. The Advisory Notice will also be available on the CME Group website.

<u>Execution of Transactions</u>: Core Principle 9 permits a designated contract market ("DCM") to authorize for bona fide business purposes transactions executed away from the DCM's centralized marketplace, and the Exchanges have established block levels in a wide array of futures and options products over many years. The Exchanges are not changing the block trade minimum threshold for active month TAS block trades, rather they will remain at the existing minimum threshold of 25 contracts applicable to non-TAS block trades in non-spot active month Copper futures. This level remains in compliance with this Core Principle.

The Exchanges certify that permitting TAS block trades in Copper futures and RA1510-4 complies with the Act and regulations thereunder. There were no substantive opposing views to this proposal.

The Exchanges certify that this submission has been concurrently posted on the Exchanges' website at <u>http://www.cmegroup.com/market-regulation/rule-filings.html</u>.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me at 212-299-2200, or via e-mail at <u>CMEGSubmissionInquiry@cmegroup.com</u>.

Sincerely,

/s/Christopher Bowen Managing Director and Chief Regulatory Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit A – Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1510-4

1 North End Avenue New York, NY 10282 T 212 299 2200 F 212 299 2299 christopher.bowen@cmegroup.com cmegroup.com

<u>Exhibit A</u>

MARKET REGULATION ADVISORY NOTICE

Exchange	NYMEX & COMEX
Subject	Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions
Rule References	Rule 524
Advisory Date	June 8, 2015
Advisory Number	NYMEX & COMEX RA1510-4
Effective Date	Various – See Below

This Advisory Notice supersedes NYMEX & COMEX Market Regulation Advisory Notice RA1509-4 from May 28, 2015. It is being issued to notify the marketplace that effective on Sunday, July 5, 2015, for trade date Monday, July 6, 2015, COMEX will begin to permit outright Copper futures trades executed in the nearby non-spot active month and the second active month to be executed as block trades pursuant to Rule 526 ("Block Trades") and priced at the settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

Additionally, as previously notified, effective on Sunday, June 21, 2015, for trade date Monday, June 22, 2015:

- COMEX will begin to permit Copper futures trades in the spot month to be executed on CME Globex and priced at the settlement price up to and including on the last day of trading in the expiring contract month. Currently, TAS pricing is available solely in the first and second active contract months; and
- NYMEX will eliminate TAS-eligibility in the following five futures contracts:
 - Cocoa (CJT)
 - Coffee (KTT)
 - Cotton (TTT)
 - No. 11 Sugar (YOT)
 - REBCO (RET)

Important information on regulatory considerations for market participants engaging in TAS, TAM or MO transactions appears in Section 2, a list of products and contract months eligible to be executed as TAS and TAM transactions appears in Sections 7 and 8, and the text of Rule 524 appears in Section 9 of this Advisory Notice.

1. General Information on TAS, TAM and MO Transactions

TAS transactions may be executed at the current day's settlement price or, in all eligible products with the exception of the expiration month in Copper futures, at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price, and, depending on the particular product, may be executed in the pit, on CME Globex or as a block trade. Effective on June 22, 2015, TAS trades in spot month Copper futures will be eligible to be executed on CME Globex solely at the settlement price.

TAM trading is analogous to existing Trading at Settlement ("TAS") trading wherein parties are permitted to trade at a differential to a not-yet-known price. TAM trading uses a marker price, whereas TAS trading uses the Exchange-determined settlement price for the applicable contract month. As with TAS trading,

parties are able to enter TAM orders at the TAM price or at a differential between one and ten ticks higher or lower than the TAM price. TAM transactions may be executed on CME Globex or as a block trade.

MO transactions in pit-traded Copper futures are transactions which are priced at that day's settlement price for the contract.

2. Regulatory Considerations

All market participants are reminded that any trading activity that is intended to disrupt orderly trading or to manipulate or attempt to manipulate a settlement or marker price to benefit a TAS, TAM or MO position, including a TAS or TAM block position, will subject the member and/or the market participant to disciplinary action for any of a number of rule violations, including, but not limited to:

- price manipulation or attempted price manipulation
- wash trading
- conduct detrimental to the interest or welfare of the Exchange or conduct which tends to impair the dignity or good name of the Exchange
- engaging in conduct inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade

Investigation of suspected manipulative or disruptive activity related to TAS, TAM or MO, or activity in the related underlying markets will include the Market Regulation Department's ("Department") review of positions and trading activity in NYMEX markets and any related markets to determine if such activity was disruptive, collusive, and/or caused or attempted to cause aberrant price movement during these periods. Pursuant to Rule 432.L.3, market participants are reminded that it is an offense to fail to produce any books or records requested by authorized Exchange staff within 10 days after such request is made or such shorter period of time as determined by the Exchange in exigent circumstances. The Department always has the authority to request books and records as well as other relevant information regarding the nature of a participant's trading and positions in Exchange products and in any related markets as part of its regulatory program.

3. Entry of TAS and TAM Orders on CME Globex

Rule 524 permits the initiation of TAS and TAM orders into CME Globex only subsequent to the beginning of each group's pre-open state and during the time period the applicable contracts are available for TAS or TAM trading on CME Globex. The initiation of any TAS or TAM order on CME Globex outside of these time periods is strictly prohibited.

Any market participant who initiates the entry of a TAS or TAM order prior to receipt of the security status message indicating that market has transitioned to the pre-open will be subject to disciplinary action by a panel of the Business Conduct Committee, notwithstanding that the order may have been rejected by the CME Globex system. Sanctions for noncompliance may include a fine, disgorgement of any profits realized as a result of any orders accepted by CME Globex which were initiated prior to receipt of the security status message and/or a suspension of access to the market. Market participants must ensure that they have appropriate protocols in place to ensure that TAS and TAM orders are not initiated prior to receipt of the security status message.

4. TAS and TAM Calendar Spreads

The following intra-commodity calendar spreads in Light Sweet Crude Oil ("CL"), NY Harbor ULSD ("HO"), Henry Hub Natural Gas ("NG") and RBOB Gasoline ("RB") futures may be executed on CME Globex, on the trading floor or as block trades and priced at TAS:

- nearby month/second month
- nearby month/third month
- nearby month/fourth month

- second month/third month
- second month/fourth month
- third month/fourth month

For the London Marker, intra-commodity calendar spreads in the nearby month/second month spread, the second month/third month spread and the nearby/third month spread in CL, Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial ("BZ"), HO and RB futures may be executed on CME Globex and priced at TAM.

For the Singapore Marker, intra-commodity calendar spreads in the nearby month/second month spread, the second month/third month spread and the nearby/third month spread in CL and BZ futures may be executed on CME Globex and priced at TAM.

The legs of TAS and TAM spread trades executed at **zero** or at a **negative differential** (negative 1 through negative 10) on CME Globex, on the trading floor via open outcry or as block trades will be priced as follows:

- If the spread trades at zero, each leg will be priced at the settlement or market price, as applicable, for the respective contract months.
- If the spread trades at a negative differential, the **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **minus** the allowable TAS or TAM price increment traded (negative 1 through negative 10).

The legs of TAS and TAM spread trades executed at a **positive differential** (positive 1 through positive 10) will be priced as follows:

Where execution occurs on CME Globex:

• If the spread trades at a positive differential (positive 1 through positive 10), the **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **plus** the TAS or TAM price increment traded (from positive 1 through positive 10).

Where execution occurs on the trading floor (TAS) or as block trades (TAS or TAM):

• If the spread trades at a positive differential (positive 1 through positive 10), the **nearby** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month. The **far** leg of the spread will be priced at the settlement or marker price, as applicable, for that contract month **minus** the allowable TAS or TAM price increment traded (positive 1 through positive 10).

5. TAS on Gold, Silver and Copper Futures

TAS transactions are allowed in the active contract month in Gold and Silver futures trading on CME Globex, in the pit or as block trades, and may be executed at the settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

TAS transactions are allowed in the first and second active contract months in Copper futures trading on CME Globex, and may be executed at the settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price. Effective on June 22, 2015, TAS trades in spot month Copper futures will be eligible to be executed on CME Globex solely at the settlement price. Effective on July 6, 2015, Copper futures trades executed in the nearby non-spot active month and the second active month will be eligible to be executed as block trades pursuant to Rule 526 ("Block Trades")

and priced at the settlement price or any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price. TAS transactions are not allowed to be executed via open outcry in the Copper futures pit.

In Gold futures, TAS trades are permitted in the following active contract months: February, April, June, August, and December. Accordingly:

When the February contract becomes spot, the April contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the April contract becomes spot, the June contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the June contract becomes spot, the August contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the August contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; and

When the December contract becomes spot, the February contract becomes the TAS-eligible month.

In Silver futures, TAS trades are permitted in the following active contract months: March, May, July, September and December. Accordingly:

When the March contract becomes spot, the May contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the May contract becomes spot, the July contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the July contract becomes spot, the September contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the September contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the September contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the September contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month; When the September contract becomes spot, the December contract becomes the TAS-eligible month;

When the December contract becomes spot, the March contract becomes the TAS-eligible month.

In Copper futures, TAS trades are permitted in the first two active contract months: March, May, July, September and December. Accordingly:

When the March contract becomes spot, the May and July contract months are TAS-eligible; When the May contract becomes spot, the July and September contract months are TAS-eligible;

When the July contract becomes spot, the September and December contract months are TASeligible;

When the September contract becomes spot, the December and March contract months are TAS-eligible; and

When the December contract becomes spot, the March and May contract months are TASeligible month.

6. MO Transactions in Pit-Traded Copper Futures

MO transactions in Copper futures are open outcry trades competitively executed in the Copper futures pit where the trade is priced at that day's settlement price for the contract. MO transactions in Copper futures are eligible to be executed in the spot month and the next six consecutive contract months. Additionally, with the exception of the post close session, members may execute an MO order at any time the Copper futures pit is open for trading, provided that the order is placed as an MO order. Regular trading hours for open outcry trading in the Copper futures pit are from 8:10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET").

Instructions to execute the order as an MO must be denoted on the order and members must identify an order executed as an MO on their trading record.

An order entered as an MO will be executed by the floor broker as a Market on Close order if the order is not previously executed as an MO or specifically designated to be executed only as an MO. An instruction to execute an order only as an MO must be communicated at the time the order is placed.

TAS-Eligible Futures Products and Contract Months 7.

Pit-Traded Contracts

Light Sweet Crude Oil (CL)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 4th months

Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial (BZ)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

NY Harbor ULSD (HO)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 4th months

Henry Hub Natural Gas (NG)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 4th months

Henry Hub Natural Gas Last Day Financial (NN) spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

Henry Hub Natural Gas Look-Alike Last Day Financial (HH)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

RBOB Gasoline (RB)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 4th months

European Low Sulphur Gasoil (100mt) Bullet (7F)

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd and 3rd months

Gold (GC)

February, April, June, August and December contract months (first active month only)

Silver (SI)

March, May, July, September and December contract months (first active month only)

CME Globex Contracts

For compliance and enforcement purposes, the start of a TAS pre-open period is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state and the end of a TAS trading session is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that group is closed.

TAS orders may not be entered into CME Globex from the end of a TAS trading session until receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state.

Commodity Code on Product Name and Contract Months CME Globex

Cleared Product

CLT Light Sweet Crude Oil

spot (except on the last trading day), 2nd, 3rd and 4th months

CL

BZT	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot (except on the last trading day) 2 nd and 3 rd months	ΒZ
BBT	Brent Crude Oil Penultimate Financial Spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	BB
НОТ	NY Harbor ULSD spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th months	HO
NGT	Henry Hub Natural Gas spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th months	NG
NNT	Henry Hub Natural Gas Last Day Financial spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd and 3 rd months	NN
HHT	Henry Hub Natural Gas Look-Alike Last Day Financial spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd and 3 rd months	ΗH
7FT	European Low Sulphur Gasoil (100mt) Bullet spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd and 3 rd months	7F
RBT	RBOB Gasoline spot (except on the last trading day), 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th months	RB
GCT	Gold February, April, June, August and December contract months (first active month only)	GC
SIT	Silver March, May, July, September and December contract months (first active month only)	SI
HGT	Copper March, May, July, September and December contract months (first and second active months only) (effective June 22, 2015, spot month at the settlement price)	HG

8. TAM-Eligible Products and Contract Months on CME Globex

For compliance and enforcement purposes, the start of a TAM pre-open period is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state and the end of a TAM trading session is defined by receipt of the security status message indicating that group is closed.

TAM orders may not be entered into CME Globex from the end of a TAM trading session until receipt of the security status message indicating that the group has transitioned to the pre-open state.

Commodity Code on CME Globex	Product Name and Contract Months	Cleared Product		
	London Markers			
CLL	Light Sweet Crude Oil spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	CL		
BZL	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	BZ		
HOL	NY Harbor ULSD spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	НО		
RBL	RBOB Gasoline spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	RB		
Singapore Markers				
CLS	Light Sweet Crude Oil spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	CL		
BZS	Brent Crude Oil Last Day Financial spot, 2 nd and 3 rd months	BZ		

Questions regarding this Advisory Notice may be directed to the following individuals in Market Regulation:

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For media inquiries concerning this Advisory Notice, please contact CME Group Corporate Communications at 312.930.3434 or <u>news@cmegroup.com</u>.

9. Text of Rule 524

Trading at Settlement ("TAS"), Trading at Marker ("TAM") and Matched Order ("MO") Transactions

The Exchange shall determine the commodities, contract months and time periods during which TAS, TAM and MO transactions shall be permitted.

524.A. Trading at Settlement ("TAS") Transactions

The following shall govern TAS transactions:

1. TAS transactions executed in the pit must be made open and competitively pursuant to the requirements of Rule 521 during the hours designated for pit trading in the particular contract and must be identified as such on the member's trading records.

- TAS orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts are available for TAS trading on Globex and during each TAS contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAS order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
- 3. TAS-eligible commodities and contract months may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526 except that TAS block trades may not be executed on the last day of trading in an expiring contract.
- 4. Unless otherwise specified by the Exchange, TAS transactions may be executed at the current day's settlement price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the settlement price.

524.B. Trading at Marker ("TAM") Transactions

The following shall govern TAM transactions:

- 1. TAM orders may be entered on Globex at any time the applicable contracts are available for TAM trading on Globex and during each TAM contract's prescribed pre-open time period. The initiation of any TAM order on Globex outside these time periods is prohibited.
- 2. TAM-eligible commodities and contract months may be executed as block trades pursuant to the requirements of Rule 526.
- 3. TAM transactions may be executed at the current day's applicable marker price or at any valid price increment ten ticks higher or lower than the applicable marker price.

524.C. Matched Order ("MO") Transactions

MO transactions are open outcry trades competitively executed pursuant to Rule 521 where the price of the trade is that day's settlement price for the contract.

The following shall govern MO transactions:

- 1. Members may execute an MO at any time during pit trading hours except during the post close session. Members may execute an order as an MO provided the order is placed as an MO and such instructions are denoted on the order. An order entered as an MO will be executed during the closing period as a Market on Close order if not previously executed as an MO or specifically designated to be executed only as an MO. An order specifically designated for execution only as an MO must be designated as such at the time the order is placed.
- 2. Members must identify an order executed as an MO on their trading record.