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## **BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Submission No. 15-134 August 18, 2015

Mr. Christopher J. Kirkpatrick Secretary of the Commission Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20581

## Re: Amendments to Russell Member Firm Fee Program -Submission Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Regulation 40.6

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and Commission Regulation 40.6, ICE Futures U.S., Inc. ("Exchange") submits, by written certification, notice that the Exchange is amending the terms of the Russell Member Firm Fee Program ("the Program"), as set forth in Exhibit A.

The Program, which was launched on January 2, 2014, is open to any firm that is a member of IFUS or which owns or leases a membership or trading rights instrument at certain exchanges. Currently, participants in the program that execute 1,000 sides in a given month in all Russell Index futures and options contracts (other than the Russell 2000 Index Mini) combined receive a discounted rate of 75 cents per side for all Russell Index futures and options volume executed for their proprietary account. In addition, participants who trade at least 1,000 lots of Russell 1000 Index contract currently receive a further discounted rate of 45 cents per side. Participants who meet that threshold and also trade at least 1,000 lots combined of Russell 1000 Growth, Russell 1000 Value, Russell 2000 Growth and Russell 2000 Value Index Mini contracts currently receive a further discounted rate of 35 cents per side.

The Exchange is amending the program incentives as follows:

- 1. participants in the program that execute 1,000 sides in a given month in all Russell Index futures and options contracts combined will receive a discounted rate of 85 cents per side for all Russell Index and MSCI futures and options volume
- 2. participants who satisfy the requirements of paragraph 1 above and also trade at least 1,000 lots of MSCI contracts will receive a further discounted rate of 45 cents per side for all Russell Index and MSCI futures and options volume executed for their proprietary account; and

3. Participants who satisfy the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2 above and also trade at least 1,000 lots combined of Russell 1000, Russell 1000 Growth, Russell 1000 Value, Russell 2000 Growth and Russell 2000 Value Index Mini contracts will receive a further discount of \$0.10 per side off the rate earned per paragraph 1 or 2 above for all Russell Index and MSCI futures and options volume executed for their proprietary account.

The Exchange believes that the revisions to the terms of this program are appropriate and will provide an incentive to traders to trade both the Russell Index Mini and MSCI contracts.

The Exchange certifies that the amended Program complies with the requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. In particular, the amendments comply with Core Principle 4 (Monitoring of Trading), Core Principle 9 (Execution of Transactions) and Core Principle 12 (Protection of Market Participants). The Program is structured so that they do not create incentives for participants to engage in market abuses such as manipulative trading or wash sales. In addition, the Exchange's Market Regulation Department actively monitors for trading abuses using electronic exception reports and will take appropriate action against any participants engaging in market abuses. The Program does not impact order execution priority or otherwise give participants any execution preference or advantage.

The Exchange is not aware of any substantive opposing views to the Program, which will become effective on September 1, 2015. The Exchange further certifies that concurrent with this filing, a copy of this submission was posted on the Exchange's website, which can be accessed at (https://www.theice.com/notices/RegulatoryFilings.shtml).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 212-748-4021 or at jason.fusco@theice.com.

Sincerely,

Jasm V. Tuso

Jason V. Fusco Assistant General Counsel Market Regulation

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cc: Division of Market Oversight New York Regional Office

## ICE Futures U.S.<sup>®</sup>, Inc. Russell Contract Member Firm Fee Program

The program offers entities that are corporate members of a number of qualifying derivatives exchanges that execute proprietary trades in Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Index, Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index, Russell 1000 Value Index, Russell 1000 Growth Index, Russell 2000 Value Index and Russell 2000 Growth Index Mini futures and options contracts ("the Russell Contracts") <u>and the mini MSCI Index futures contracts ("the MSCI Contracts"</u>) during a calendar month a fee reduction which is rebated to the participant's clearing member and passed on to the participant. The fee reduction is more fully described below.

Participant Name

Type of Membership (check one)

CME Corporate Member	<b>CBOT</b> <u>Corporate Member</u>	<b>CBOE</b> Corporate Member
NYMEX Corporate Member	<b>ISE</b> <u>Corporate Member</u>	IFUS Corporate Member
NYSE Euronext Corporate Member	ICE Futures Europe Corporate Member	<b>CFE</b> Corporate Member

NFA Registration ID (if applicable):

Please identify the proprietary account/s you will be using for trading ICE Futures U.S. Russell Index <u>and</u> <u>mini MSCI Index</u> products (only trades in identified accounts are eligible for program rates).

ICE Futures U.S. Clearing Member	Proprietary Trading Account Number	

Clearing Member Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

From the effective date, for each month that a participating firm:

(1) executes for its proprietary account(s) 1,000 futures and/or options contract sides of the Russell 1000 Index Mini MSCI Contracts, the participating firm will qualify for a reduced Exchange and Clearing fee (the "Fee") of \$0.45/contract side for transactions in all the Russell and MSCI Contracts;

(2) has met the Russell 1000 Index Mini-<u>MSCI Contracts</u> volume requirement specified in paragraph (1) above and executes for its proprietary account(s) 1,000 futures contract sides combined in the Russell <u>1000 Index, Russell</u> 1000 Growth Index, Russell 1000 Value Index, Russell 2000 Growth Index and Russell 2000 Value Index Contracts, the participating firm will qualify for a reduced Fee of \$0.35/contract side for transactions in all the Russell <u>and MSCI</u> Contracts;

(3) has not met the MSCI Contracts volume requirement specified in paragraph (1) above but executes for its proprietary account(s) 1,000 futures contracts sides combined in the Russell 1000, Russell 1,000 Index, Growth Index, Russell 1000 Value Index, Russell 2000 Growth Index and Russell 2000 Value Index Contracts, the participating firm will qualify for a reduced Fee of \$0.75/contract side for transactions in all the Russell and MSCI contracts;

(4) fails to meet the Russell 1000 Index Mini volume MSCI contract volume requirement specified in paragraph (1) and the Russell Contract volume requirement specified above in paragraph (3) above but executes at least 1,000 Russell Contracts for its proprietary account(s), the participating firm will qualify for a reduced Fee of \$.<u>8</u>75/contract side for all transactions in the Russell and MSCI Contracts for that month.

Only transactions in said Russell and MSCI Contracts executed by the participating firm in its proprietary account(s) are eligible for reduced fees in this program; block trades and EFP transactions in the Russell 2000 Index Mini futures contracts shall not be eligible for reduced fees; block trades and EFP transactions in the other Russell Index and MSCI contracts are eligible for reduced fees. Participant's MSCI volume that earns a discounted rate in any other ICE Futures U.S. fee program will not be eligible to earn a discounted fee in this Program but may be counted towards the Participant's monthly volume requirements to earn discounted fees for Participant's Russell contract volume. The difference between the rate charged the participating firm in the Member Firm Fee Program and the standard non-member fees for Russell and MSCI transactions in these contracts is rebated to the Program participating firm through the participating firm's clearing member. To the extent that the standard non-member fees for any program product are lower than the program rate earned by a participant in a calendar month, the participant shall be charged the standard non-member fee for its volume in that product.

The Member Firm Fee Program continues through trade date December 31, 2016 or until further notice, but in no case for a period to exceed three years. ICE Futures U.S. reserves the right to remove any participant from the Program at its discretion, and to terminate or amend the program terms at any time.

As a qualified representative of the member firm applying to participate in the Program, I hereby certify that the information provided above is true and correct. I hereby acknowledge and understand that ICE Futures U.S., including but not limited to the Market Regulation Department, will be reviewing trading in the proprietary account(s) listed above to determine whether the firm continues to meet the requirements of the Member Firm Fee Program and whether the firm should continue or be renewed as a participant in the Member Firm Fee Program. I authorize ICE Futures U.S. to contact the clearing member of the participating firm from time to time to confirm its continued eligibility for the program and authorize its clearing member to release all trading information related to the proprietary account(s) listed above to ICE Futures U.S.

Signature:		Date:
Printed Name:		
Title:	Firm:	
Telephone Number:		
E-Mail Address:		

Please call Ted Doukas (312.836.6712) <u>or Laura Brandeis (212 323-8874)</u> with questions about the program. The application should be returned to ted.doukas@theice.com.