



October 26, 2015

Christopher J. Kirkpatrick  
Secretary  
Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Three Lafayette Centre  
1155 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20581

Re: CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC Rule Certification  
Submission Number CFE-2015-027

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (“Act”), and §40.6(a) of the regulations promulgated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) under the Act, CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC (“CFE” or “Exchange”) hereby submits a CFE rule amendment (“Amendment”) to amend CFE Rule 517 and CFE Policy and Procedure VII to allow market makers in security futures to meet their obligations by providing orders instead of quotes. The Amendment will become effective on November 9, 2015.

Rule 517 (Customer Margin Requirements for Contracts that are Security Futures) and Policy and Procedure VII (Security Futures Market Maker Registration Policy and Procedures) of the Policies and Procedures section of the CFE Rulebook set forth obligations of market makers in security futures with respect to providing a market in those products. Rule 517 and Policy and Procedure VII currently provide that market makers in CFE security futures may meet these obligations by providing quotations (or quotes). A quote includes both a bid and an offer in the same message whereas an order contains either a bid or an offer in the order message. Potential security futures market makers have requested that they be able to satisfy the obligations under Rule 517 and Policy and Procedure VII by providing orders instead of quotes. CFE believes that the same practical result is achieved by providing a market through the submission of two orders (one with a bid and one with an offer) as through the submission of a two-sided quote that includes both a bid and an offer. Accordingly, the Amendment allows for market makers in security futures to use either method to satisfy the security futures market maker obligations under Rule 517 and Policy and Procedure VII.

CFE believes that the Amendment complies with DCM Core Principle 9 (Execution of Transactions) under Section 5 of the Act. Allowing market makers in CFE security futures to meet their obligations via orders will contribute to attracting market makers for security futures and thus promote a competitive, open, and efficient market and mechanism for executing transactions in those products.

CFE believes that the impact of the Amendment will be beneficial to the public and market participants. CFE is not aware of any substantive opposing views to the Amendment. CFE hereby certifies that the Amendment complies with the Act and the regulations thereunder. CFE further

certifies that CFE has posted a notice of pending certification with the Commission and a copy of this submission on CFE's Web site (<http://cfe.cboe.com/aboutcfe/rules.aspx>) concurrent with the filing of this submission with the Commission.

The Amendment, marked to show additions in underlined text and deletions in [bracketed] text, consists of the following:

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### **CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC Rules**

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#### **CFE Rule 517. Customer Margin Requirements for Contracts that are Security Futures**

(a) – (m) No changes.

(n) *Exclusion for Market Makers.*

(i) A Person shall be a “Market Maker” for purposes of this Rule 517, and shall be excluded from the requirements set forth in Commission Regulations §§ 41.42 through 41.49 and Rules 400 through 406 under the Exchange Act, as applicable, in accordance with Commission Regulation § 41.42(c)(2)(v) and Rule 400(c)(2)(v) under the Exchange Act with respect to all trading in Security Futures for its own account, if such Person is a Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader that is registered with the Exchange as a dealer (as such term is defined in Section 3(a)(5) of the Exchange Act) in Security Futures.

(ii) Each Market Maker shall:

(A) be registered as a floor trader or a floor broker with the Commission under Section 4f(a)(1) of the CEA or as a dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission (or any successor agency or authority) under Section 15(b) of the Exchange Act;

(B) maintain records sufficient to prove compliance with the requirements set forth in this paragraph (n) and Commission Regulation § 41.42(c)(2)(v) or Rule 400(c)(2)(v) under the Exchange Act, as applicable, including without limitation trading account statements and other financial records sufficient to detail activity; and

(C) hold itself out as being willing to buy and sell Security Futures for its own account on a regular or continuous basis.

A Market Maker satisfies condition (C) above if:

(1) such Market Maker: (x) provides continuous two-sided quotations throughout the trading day for all delivery months of Security Futures representing a meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security

Futures in which that Market Maker is designated as a Market Maker, subject to relaxation during unusual market conditions as determined by the Exchange (such as a fast market in either a Security Future or a security underlying such Security Future) at which times such Market Maker must use its best efforts to quote continuously and competitively; and (y) when providing quotations, quotes with a maximum bid/ask spread of no more than the greater of \$5.00 or 150% of the bid/ask spread in the primary market for the security underlying each Security Future; or

(2) such Market Maker: (x) responds to at least 75% of the requests for quotation for all delivery months of Security Futures representing a meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security Futures in which that Market Maker is designated as a Market Maker, subject to relaxation during unusual market conditions as determined by the Exchange (such as a fast market in either a Security Future or a security underlying such Security Future) at which times such Market Maker must use its best efforts to quote competitively; and (y) when responding to requests for quotation, quotes within five seconds with a maximum bid/ask spread of no more than the greater of \$5.00 or 150% of the bid/ask spread in the primary market for the security underlying each Security Future.

For purposes of clauses (1) and (2) above, beginning on the 181<sup>st</sup> calendar day after the commencement of trading of Security Futures, a “meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security Futures in which that Market Maker is designated as a Market Maker” shall mean a minimum of 20% of such trading volume.

A Market Marker may satisfy the obligations under clauses (1) or (2) above relating to the provision of quotations through the equivalent provision of orders instead of quotes.

(iii) Any Market Maker that fails to comply with the Rules of the Exchange, Commission Regulations §§ 41.42 through 41.49 or Rules 400 through 406 under the Exchange Act, as applicable, shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Chapter 7. Appropriate sanctions in the case of any such failure shall include, without limitation, a revocation of such Market Maker’s registration as a dealer in Security Futures pursuant to clause (i) above.

\* "SPAN" is a registered trademark of Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc., used herein under license. Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. assumes no liability in connection with the use of SPAN by any person or entity.

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**CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC Policies and Procedures**

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**CFE Policy and Procedure VII. Security Futures Market Maker Registration Policy and Procedures**

**A. *Security Futures Market Maker Program***

Pursuant to Exchange Rule 514, the Exchange has adopted a market maker program under which one or more Trading Privilege Holders or Authorized Traders may be designated as market makers in respect of one or more Security Futures to provide liquidity and orderliness in the market for such Security Futures. To be designated as an Exchange market maker in Security Futures, a Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader must complete and file with the Exchange a Market Maker Registration Form. By signing the registration form the Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader will confirm that it meets and will continue to meet the qualifications to act as market maker in Security Futures in accordance with Exchange Rules. The member will be required to identify all Security Futures for which it seeks to be designated as a market maker and elect which of the two alternative sets of market maker obligations specified in Exchange Rule 517(n) it intends to undertake.

**B. *Market Maker Exclusion from Customer Margin Requirements***

To qualify for the market maker exclusion in Exchange Rule 517(n) for purposes of the Exchange's customer margin rules relating to Security Futures, a person must:

- (1) be a Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader that is registered with the Exchange as a dealer in Security Futures as defined in Section 3(a)(5) of the Exchange Act;
- (2) be registered as a floor trader or a floor broker under Section 4f(a)(1) of the CEA or as a dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") under Section 15(b) of the Exchange Act;
- (3) maintain records sufficient to prove compliance with the requirements of Exchange Rule 517(n) and Commission Rule 41.42(c)(2)(v) and SEC Rule 400(c)(2)(v) under the Exchange Act as applicable, including without limitation trading account statements and other financial records sufficient to detail activity; and
- (4) hold itself out as being willing to buy and sell Security Futures for its own account on regular or continuous basis.

In addition, the market maker exclusion provides that any market maker that fails to comply with the rules of the Exchange or the margin rules adopted by the SEC and the Commission shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Exchange's rules, and that appropriate sanctions in the case of any such failure shall include, without limitation, a revocation of such market maker's registration as a dealer in Security Futures.

**C. *Market Maker Categories***

Exchange Rule 517(n) specifies two alternative ways for a Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader to satisfy the requirement that a market maker hold itself out as being willing to buy and sell Security Futures for its own account on a regular or continuous basis. Each Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader seeking market maker designation must register for one of the following two market maker categories and will undertake to perform all of the obligations set forth in the elected category:

*Category 1.* The market maker will provide continuous two-sided quotations throughout the trading day for all delivery months of Security Futures representing a meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security Futures in which that market maker is designated as a market maker, subject to relaxation during unusual market conditions as determined by the Exchange (such as a fast market in either a Security Future or a security underlying such Security Future) at which times such market maker must use its best efforts to quote continuously and competitively; and when providing quotations, quotes for a minimum of one contract with a maximum bid/ask spread of no more than the greater of \$5.00 or 150 percent of the bid/ask spread in the primary market for the security underlying each Security Future; or

*Category 2.* The market maker will respond to at least 75 percent of the requests for quotations for all delivery months of Security Futures representing a meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security Futures in which that market maker is designated as a market maker, subject to relaxation during unusual market conditions as determined by the Exchange (such as a fast market in either a Security Future or a security underlying such Security Future) at which times such market maker must use its best efforts to quote competitively; and when responding to requests for quotation, quotes within five seconds for a minimum of one contract with a maximum bid/ask spread of no more than the greater of \$5.00 or 150 percent of the bid/ask spread in the primary market for the security underlying each Security Future.

For purposes of Categories 1 and 2 above, beginning on the 181<sup>st</sup> calendar day after the commencement of trading of Security Futures, a “meaningful proportion of the total trading volume on the Exchange from Security Futures in which that market maker is designated as a market maker” shall mean a minimum of 20 percent of such trading volume.

A market maker may satisfy the obligations under Category 1 or 2 above relating to the provision of quotations through the equivalent provision of orders instead of quotes.

**D. *Qualification for “60/40” Tax Treatment***

To qualify as a “dealer” in security futures contracts within the meaning of Section 125(g)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), a Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader is required (i) to register as a market maker for purposes of the Exchange’s margin rules under Category 1 or Category 2 above; (ii) to undertake in its registration form to provide quotations for all products specified for the market maker exclusion from the Exchange margin rules; and (iii) to quote a minimum size of

- (A) ten (10) contracts for each product not covered by (B) or (C) below;
- (B) five (5) contracts for each product specified by the member to the extent such quotations are provided for delivery months other than the next two delivery months then trading; and
- (C) one (1) contract for any single stock futures contract where the average market price for the underlying stock was \$100 or higher for the preceding calendar month

or for any futures contract on a narrow-based security index, as defined by Section 1a(25) of the CEA.

A Trading Privilege holder or Authorized Trader may satisfy the above requirements relating to the provision of quotations through the equivalent provision of orders instead of quotes.

**E. Products**

As noted above in completing the Market Maker Registration Form, a member must specify all Security Futures for which it intends to act as a market maker. The Exchange will assign to the Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader all of the Security Futures listed on its registration form, unless the Exchange provides written notice to the Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader identifying any Security Futures for which such assignment is withheld. A Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader may change the list of Security Futures for which it undertakes to act as market maker for any calendar quarter by filing a revised Market Maker Registration Form with the Exchange on any business day prior to the last trading day of such quarter, and such change shall be effective retroactive to the first trading day of such quarter. Each market maker shall be responsible for maintaining books and records that confirm that it has fulfilled its quarterly obligations under the market maker category elected on its Market Maker Registration Form in respect of all Security Futures designated for that calendar quarter.

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Questions regarding this submission may be directed to Arthur Reinstein at (312) 786-7570 or Nicole Gordon at (312) 786-8109. Please reference our submission number CFE-2015-027 in any related correspondence.

CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC

By: James F. Lubin  
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