



## BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Submission No. 17-210 December 1, 2017

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: New Softs Futures Market Maker Program -

Submission Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Regulation 40.6(a)

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and Commission Regulation 40.6(a), ICE Futures U.S., Inc. ("Exchange") submits, by written certification, notice that the Exchange is launching a new Softs Futures Market Maker Program (the "Program") on January 1, 2018. The Program replaces the existing Softs Futures Market Maker Program, which expires on December 31, 2018. The terms of the new Program are set forth in Exhibit A.

The Exchange certifies that the new Program complies with the requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. In particular, the Program complies 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 to 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 further certifies that, concurrent with this filing, a redacted copy of this submission (consistent with the petition for Confidential Treatment filed contemporaneously with the Commission) was posted on the Exchange's website at (<a href="https://www.theice.com/futures-us/regulation#rule-filings">https://www.theice.com/futures-us/regulation#rule-filings</a>). No substantive opposing views were expressed by members or others with respect to the amendment, which will become effective on January 1, 2018.

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

Sincerely,

Jason V. Fusco

Assistant General Counsel

Market Regulation

Enc.

cc: Division of Market Oversight

#### **EXHIBIT A**

#### [REDACTED]

# ICE Futures U.S.®, Inc. Softs Futures Market Maker Program

## **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize participants to increase central limit order book liquidity in the products listed below; this enhanced liquidity will benefit all participants in the marketplace.

#### **Product Scope**

Sugar No.11<sup>®</sup>, Coffee "C" <sup>®</sup>, Cotton No. 2<sup>®</sup>, Cocoa, FCOJ and Sugar No. 16 futures contracts.

#### **Eligible Participants**

IFUS may designate an unlimited number of participants in the Program, who may be Exchange members or non-members. In order to be considered for selection into the Program, potential participants must have maintained a sufficient monthly average volume in program or other Exchange contracts over the past three months at the time of application. Notwithstanding the foregoing the Exchange may add or subtract from the aforementioned criteria as it deems necessary.

## **Program Term**

The Program Term shall start on January 1, 2018 and end on December 31, 2018.

#### **Obligations**

Participants are required to provide the Exchange with information acceptable to the Exchange detailing their trading activity under the program, and the Exchange may require an additional third party verification report.

## **Program Incentives**

#### [REDACTED]

#### **Monitoring and Termination of Status**

The Exchange shall monitor trading activity and Participants' performance and shall retain the right to revoke Participants' status if it concludes from review that a Program Participant has failed to meet its obligations or no longer meets the eligibility requirements of this Program.