

Thomson Reuters (SEF) LLC 3 Times Square New York, NY 10036

March 24, 2017

#### VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20581

#### Re: <u>New Contract Submission 17-02.37: Rule 40.2(a) Certification of Thomson Reuters</u> (SEF) LLC Cross-Currency Non-Deliverable Forwards

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thomson Reuters (SEF) LLC ("<u>TR SEF</u>") hereby notifies the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("<u>CFTC</u>"), pursuant to CFTC Regulation 40.2(a), that it is certifying 43 Cross-Currency Non-Deliverable Forward contracts (the "<u>Contracts</u>") on TR SEF's swap execution facility platform. TR SEF's intended listing date is April 3, 2017.

Specifically, TR SEF certifies Cross-Currency NDFs in the following currencies:

Deliverable Currencies	Non-Deliverable Currencies
AED United Arab Emirates Dirham	ARS Argentine Peso
AUD Australia Dollar	BRL Brazilian Real
BGN Bulgaria Lev	CLP Chilean Peso
BWP Botswana Pula	CNY Chinese Renminbi
CAD Canada Dollar	COP Colombian Peso
CHF Switzerland Franc	EGP Egyptian Pound
CNH Offshore Chinese Renminbi	GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal
CZK Czech Republic Koruna	IDR Indonesian Rupiah
DKK Denmark Krone	INR Indian Rupee
EEK Estonia Kroon	KES Kenya Shilling
EUR Euros	KRW South Korean Won
GBP United Kingdom Pound	KZT Kazakh Tenge
HKD Hong Kong Dollar	MYR Malaysian Ringgit

HRK Croatia Kuna	PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol
HUF Hungary Forint	PHP Philippine Peso
ILS Israel Shekel	PKR Pakistan Rupee
ISK Iceland Krona	RUB Russian Ruble
JMD Jamaica Dollar	THB Thai Baht
JOD Jordan Dinar	TWD Taiwan Dollar
JPY Japan Yen	UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia
KWD Kuwait Dinar	UYU Uruguayan Peso
LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	VEF Venezuelan Bolívar
LVL Latvia Lats	VND Vietnamese Dong
MAS Morocco Dirham	
MUR Mauritius Rupee	
MXN Mexico Peso	
NOK Norway Krone	
NZD New Zealand Dollar	
OMR Oman Rial	
PLN Poland Zloty	
QAR Qatar Riyal	
RON Romania New Leu	
RSD Serbia Dollar	
SAR Saudi Arabia Riyal	
SEK Sweden Krona	
SGD Singapore Dollar	
SKK Slovakia Koruna	
TND Tunisia Dollar	
TRY Turkey Lira	
USD U.S. Dollar	
XOF West African CFA Franc	
ZAR South Africa Rand	
ZWD Zimbabwe Dollar	

Pursuant to CFTC Regulation 40.2, this submission includes:

- (i) A copy of the submission cover sheet;
- (ii) The intended listing date: April 3, 2017;
- (iii) A certification that: (1) the Contracts comply with the Commodity Exchange Act ("<u>CEA</u>") and CFTC regulations thereunder, and (2) TR SEF posted a notice of pending certification with the CFTC and a copy of this submission on TR SEF's website concurrent with this submission (*see* <u>Schedule 1</u>);
- (iv) A concise explanation and analysis of the Contracts and their compliance with applicable provisions of the CEA, including Core Principles, and the CFTC's regulations thereunder (*see* <u>Schedule 2</u>); and
- (v) A copy of the Contracts' rules (*see* <u>Schedule 3</u>).

Please contact me using the information below if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Wayne Pestone 1333 H Street Suite 700 Washington DC 20005 Phone: (202) 377-7975 Email: wayne.pestone@thomsonreuters.com

Sincerely,

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Wayne Pestone Chief Compliance Officer

cc: Nancy Markowitz, Deputy Director, Division of Market Oversight, Exchange and Data Repository Branch

Roger Smith, Special Counsel, Division of Market Oversight (Commodity Futures Trading Commission)

#### SCHEDULE 1 Certifications

I hereby certify that: (1) the Cross-Currency Non-Deliverable Forward Contracts comply with the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.* and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's regulations promulgated thereunder; and (2) concurrent with this submission, Thomson Reuters (SEF) LLC has posted on its website: (a) a notice of pending certification of the Cross-Currency Non-Deliverable Forward Contracts; and (b) a copy of this submission.

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By: Wayne PestoneTitle: Chief Compliance OfficerDate: March 24, 2017

### SCHEDULE 2 Explanation and Analysis

All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Schedule 2 shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Schedule 3 (Contract Terms).

## I. Contract Description

The Cross-Currency Non-Deliverable Forward contracts (the "<u>Contracts</u>") are non-deliverable forward ("<u>NDF</u>") contracts that settle in certain deliverable currencies other than US dollars. NDFs are cash settled foreign exchange forwards between two counterparties, typically used to either hedge or speculate against currencies where exchange controls in a particular country make it difficult for market participants to trade in the spot market directly. NDFs may also be based on two currencies that are not subject to exchange controls.

Counterparties to the Contracts will not exchange the underlying currencies. Instead, the entire deal is settled in the specified Settlement Currency. Settlement for the Contract will be arranged by calculating the difference between the Forward Rate, which is agreed upon between the counterparties at the start of the contract, and the prevailing Spot FX Rate, on the Fixing Date. The difference is then multiplied by the notional amount, which is also determined at the start of the contract, to arrive at the settlement amount. Cash settlement of the settlement amount will be due on the Settlement Date.

## II. Compliance with Applicable Provisions of the CEA and CFTC Regulations

Thomson Reuters (SEF) LLC ("<u>TR SEF</u>") has determined that the Core Principles identified below apply to the Contracts. As required by CFTC Regulation § 40.2(a), the following analysis therefore demonstrates that the Contracts are compliant with applicable provisions of the CEA and CFTC regulations and policies thereunder.

### **Core Principle 2 – Compliance with Rules**

- TR SEF intends to list the Contracts on its swap execution facility ("<u>SEF</u>") platform. All of TR SEF's rules in the TR SEF rulebook will apply to the Contracts if they are listed.
- Chapter 9 of the TR SEF rulebook prohibits abusive trading practices in any contract approved for trading on the TR SEF platform. The TR SEF rulebook is enforced by TR SEF's Market Regulation Department (which includes TR SEF compliance employees as well as the National Futures Association ("<u>NFA</u>")). Chapter 10 of the TR SEF rulebook sets forth the rules governing investigations and prosecutions of rule violations.
- Under TR SEF Rule 311, any person accessing the SEF platform, entering orders into the platform or submitting any contracts into the platform, whether directly or through an intermediary, agrees to, among other things: (1) be bound by, and comply with, the SEF rules and obligations and applicable law, in each case to the extent applicable to it; (2) become subject to TR SEF's jurisdiction with respect to any and all matters arising from, related to, or in connection with, the status, actions or omissions of such person; (3) permit TR SEF and the NFA to access any and all information relevant to activities

related to the SEF business; and (4) assist TR SEF in complying with its legal and regulatory obligations, cooperate with TR SEF and the CFTC in any inquiry, investigation, audit, examination or proceeding.

### **Core Principle 3 – Swaps Not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation**

- As noted above, the Contracts are NDF contracts where the counterparties arrange settlement by calculating the difference between the Forward Rate and the prevailing Spot FX Rate on the Fixing Date. As such, the reference price is the prevailing Spot FX Rate on the date and time in which the parties agree that the comparison will be made (*i.e.*, the Fixing Date). Depending on the Reference Currencies and Settlement Currency, the source for the Spot FX Rate on the Fixing Date will be derived from either of, or a combination of (1) the spot rate identified in the relevant EMTA, Inc. ("EMTA") Template for the applicable Non-Deliverable Currency assuming USD as the Settlement Currency (the "Non-Deliverable Spot Rate"), and (2) the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for the applicable Deliverable Currency against USD.
- According to WM/Reuters, the primary source of rates is actual traded rates taken from Thomson Reuters Matching, EBS and Currenex. The secondary source of rates is the rates on the order matching systems of Thomson Reuters Matching, EBS and Currenex "Order rates/Orders." Bank quotes from Reuters RICs will be captured for instances where neither Trades nor Orders are available.<sup>1</sup>
- According to WM/Reuters, Thomson Reuters undertakes a periodic review of the appropriateness of using specific data suppliers to provide the data used in the calculation and validation of the benchmark rates. This review is intended to, among other things, assist in ensuring that: (1) the benchmark rates are based on reliable and observable market data that reflect the economic realities of a given market, and (2) that the benchmark rates themselves are reliable representations of the foreign exchange market.<sup>2</sup>
- As stated by the WM Company Methodology: "These rates were adopted by index compilers, the Financial Times and other users and became the de facto standard for Closing Spot Rates on a global basis."<sup>3</sup> Because the WM Closing Spot Rates generally are calculated based on actual orders and trades from market leading platforms, such rates are less susceptible to manipulation than rates derived from a survey-based method. Due to the volumes of trades on these platforms, manipulation of those rates would require significant resources and would be very difficult to achieve. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, TR SEF does not believe that the Contracts are readily susceptible to manipulation.

# **Core Principle 4 - Monitoring of Trading and Trade Processing**

• Pursuant to TR SEF Rule 406, TR SEF will monitor trading on the Platform in order to prevent manipulation, price distortion, and disruptions of the delivery or cash settlement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See WM/Reuters FX Benchmarks, Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide at 9, available at http://financial.thomsonreuters.com/content/dam/openweb/documents/pdf/financial/wm-reuters-methodology.pdf.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  *Id.* at 6.

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  *Id.* at 5.

process through surveillance, compliance, and disciplinary practices and procedures, including through the real-time monitoring of trading, and comprehensive trade reconstruction.

### **Core Principle 5 - Ability to Obtain Information**

• Chapter 5 of the TR SEF Rulebook sets forth the requirements of Participants to maintain documents and keep documents and information available for inspection by TR SEF or the Commission. Rule 502 requires Participants to make certain disclosures to TR SEF immediately upon the occurrence of certain events. Under Rule 503, TR SEF may, directly or through the NFA, inspect a Participant's systems, equipment and software, access a Participant's systems, equipment, software, or premises, and copy or reproduce certain Participant data. In addition, Rule 503 authorizes the Market Regulation Department to require a Participant to furnish information concerning the Participant's Platform Activity, including furnishing the Terms Incorporated by Reference, and/or examine the books and records of any Participant. Additionally, under Rule 205(e), the Chief Compliance Officer may, directly or through the NFA, inspect the books and records of any Participant to appear before him or her and produce its books and records and answer questions regarding alleged violations of TR SEF Rules.

### **Core Principle 6 - Position limits or accountability**

TR SEF Rule 924 provides for the SEF's authority to adopt position limits or position accountability levels for speculators, the prohibition of positions in excess of limits, and the positions to which the limits shall apply. Through discussions with Commission Staff and the Chief Compliance Officers from twenty-two SEFs, it was determined that each SEF would establish rules consistently regarding the setting of position limits and accountability levels. The language contained in TR SEF Rule 924 arose out of those discussions. As part of those discussions, twenty-one of the twenty-two SEFs submitted an explanatory discussion identifying a number of inherent limitations for a SEF to adopt position limits or accountability levels at this time for swaps, which are more fully set out in TR SEF Submission 15-05 (Dec. 22, 2015). Subsequently, in its re-proposed position limits rules, the CFTC has proposed that until a SEF has access to sufficient swap position information, it need not demonstrate compliance with Core Principle 6(B). See Position Limits for Derivatives, Reproposal, 81 Fed. Reg. 96704, 96963 (Dec. 30, 2016) (Appendix B to Part 37 – Guidance on, and Acceptable Practices in, Compliance with Core Principles, Core Principle 6).

### **Core Principle 7 - Financial integrity of transactions**

• TR SEF does not list swaps that are subject to the mandatory clearing requirement under Section 2(h)(1) of the CEA.

# **Core Principle 9 - Timely publication of trading information**

- TR SEF will submit timely reports regarding the Contract to a registered swap data repository as prescribed in Parts 43 and 45 of the CFTC's Regulations.
- TR SEF will record, report and publish on its website all data required by Part 16 of the CFTC's regulations.

# SCHEDULE 3 Contract Terms

Cross-Currency NDF Contract Terms		
Contract Overview	A cross-currency non-deliverable forward ("NDF") is an outright forward contract in which counterparties settle the difference between the contracted NDF price or rate and the prevailing spot price or rate on an agreed notional amount, and where settlement may be performed in certain currencies other than USD.	
Reference Currency 1	Non Deliverable Currencies	
	ARS Argentine Peso	
&	BRL Brazilian Real	
	CLP Chilean Peso	
Reference Currency 2	CNY Chinese Renminbi	
	COP Colombian Peso	
	EGP Egyptian Pound	
	GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	
	IDR Indonesian Rupiah	
	INR Indian Rupee	
	KES Kenya Shilling	
	KRW South Korean Won	
	KZT Kazakh Tenge	
	MYR Malaysian Ringgit	
	PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	
	PHP Philippine Peso PKP Pakistan Pupas	
	PKR Pakistan Rupee RUB Russian Ruble	
	THB Thai Baht	
	TWD Taiwan Dollar	
	UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	
	UYU Uruguayan Peso	
	VEF Venezuelan Bolívar	
	VND Vietnamese Dong	
	Deliverable Currencies	
	AED United Arab Emirates	
	Dirham	
	AUD Australia Dollar	
	BGN Bulgaria Lev	
	BWP Botswana Pula	
	CAD Canada Dollar	
	CHF Switzerland Franc	
	CNH Offshore Chinese Renminbi	
	CZK Czech Republic Koruna	
	DKK Denmark Krone	

	EEK Estonia Kroon
	EUR Euros
	GBP United Kingdom Pound
	HKD Hong Kong Dollar
	HRK Croatia Kuna
	HUF Hungary Forint
	ILS Israel Shekel
	ISK Iceland Krona
	JMD Jamaica Dollar
	JOD Jordan Dinar
	JPY Japan Yen
	KWD Kuwait Dinar
	LKR Sri Lanka Rupee
	LVL Latvia Lats
	MAS Morocco Dirham
	MAS Molocco Diman MUR Mauritius Rupee
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	MXN Mexico Peso
	NOK Norway Krone
	NZD New Zealand Dollar
	OMR Oman Rial
	PLN Poland Zloty
	QAR Qatar Riyal
	RON Romania New Leu
	RSD Serbia Dollar
	SAR Saudi Arabia Riyal
	SEK Sweden Krona
	SGD Singapore Dollar
	SKK Slovakia Koruna
	TND Tunisia Dollar
	TRY Turkey Lira
	USD U.S. Dollar
	XOF West African CFA Franc
	ZAR South Africa Rand
	ZWD Zimbabwe Dollar
Settlement Currency	AUD Australia Dollar
Settlement Currency	CAD Canada Dollar
	CHF Switzerland Franc
	DKK Denmark Krone
	EUR Euros
	GBP United Kingdom Pound
	HKD Hong Kong Dollar
	JPY Japan Yen
	MXN Mexico Peso
	NOK Norway Krone
	NZD New Zealand Dollar
	PLN Poland Zloty

	SEK Sweden Krona
	SGD Singapore Dollar
	ZAR South Africa Rand
	BRL Brazilian Real
	CNY Chinese Renminbi
	INR Indian Rupee
	KES Kenya Shilling
	KZT Kazakh Tenge
	PKR Pakistan Rupee
Quoting Convention and Minimum Increment	Notional amount, as agreed by the counterparties
Minimum Size	Notional amount, as agreed by the counterparties
Notional Currency	Currency in which the contract size is expressed in
Trading Conventions	Buy or Sell which refers to the contract size expressed in Notional Currency
Forward Rate	The currency exchange rate expressed as the amount of Reference Currency 1 per unit of Reference Currency 2per unit of Settlement Currency
Trade Date	The date on which parties enter into the contract
Settlement Date	Specified settlement or payment date
Fixing Date	The date at which the Forward Rate is calculated
Settlement Procedure	Bilateral settlement performed in the Settlement Currency
Clearing Venue	Bilateral
Block Size	As set forth in Appendix F to Part 43 of the CFTC Regulations
Speculative Limits	As set forth in CFTC 17 CFR Part 150
Reportable Levels	As set forth in CFTC Regulation 15.03

### Spot FX Rate Calculation

For Cross-Currency NDFs consisting of a Deliverable and Non-Deliverable Currency as Reference Currencies, a base exchange rate, expressed in USD (the "Base Exchange Rate") will be derived from a combination of (1) the spot rate identified in the relevant EMTA, Inc. ("EMTA") Template for the applicable Non-Deliverable Currency assuming USD as the Settlement Currency (the "Non-Deliverable Spot Rate"), and (2) the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for the applicable Deliverable Currency against USD; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide, as amended and supplemented from time to time, or any successor thereto. The Non-Deliverable Spot Rate shall incorporate all of the EMTA template terms then in effect as recommended by EMTA or a recognized successor that are applicable to the Non-Deliverable Currency (assuming USD as the Settlement Currency). The Spot FX Rate will then be derived from the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for the Settlement Currency against the Base Exchange Rate; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide, as amended and supplemented from time to time, or any successor thereto.

For Cross-Currency NDFs consisting of two Non-Deliverable Currencies as Reference Currencies, the Base Exchange Rate will be derived from a combination of the Non-Deliverable Spot Rate for each of the applicable Non-Deliverable Currencies, assuming USD as the Settlement Currency. The Base Exchange Rate shall incorporate all of the EMTA template terms then in effect as recommended by EMTA or a recognized successor that are applicable to the Non-Deliverable Component Pair (assuming USD as the Settlement Currency). The Spot FX Rate will then be derived from the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for the Settlement Currency against the Base Exchange Rate; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide, as amended and supplemented from time to time, or any successor thereto.

For Cross-Currency NDFs consisting of two Deliverable Currencies as Reference Currencies, the Base Exchange Rate will be derived from a combination of the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for both of the applicable Deliverable Currencies against USD; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate for one or both Deliverable Currencies is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate for such currency or currencies shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide, as amended and supplemented from time to time, or any successor thereto. The Spot FX Rate will then be derived from the WM/Reuters 4:00 pm Closing Spot Rate for the Settlement Currency against the Base Exchange Rate; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate for the Settlement Currency against the Base Exchange Rate; provided, however, that if the WM/Reuters Closing Spot Rate is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Spot Rate is quoted in units to a non-USD currency, then the Closing Spot Rate shall be converted to USD in accordance with Section 6 of the WM/Reuters Spot & Forward Rates Methodology Guide, as amended and supplemented from time to time, or any successor thereto.