

April 20, 2022

SUBMITTED VIA CFTC PORTAL

Secretary of the Commission
Office of the Secretariat
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

Re: KalshiEX LLC – CFTC Regulation 40.2(a) Notification Regarding the Initial Listing of the “Will the U.S. State Department recommend Americans do not travel to Beijing?” Contract

Dear Sir or Madam,

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Section 40.2(a) of the regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, KalshiEX LLC (Kalshi) hereby notifies the Commission that it is self-certifying the “Will the U.S. State Department recommend Americans do not travel to Beijing?” contract (Contract). The Exchange intends to list the contract in correspondence to epidemiological developments. The Contract’s terms and conditions (Appendix A) includes the following strike conditions:

- **<date>** (target date)
- **<begin/end>**

Along with this letter, Kalshi submits the following documents:

- A concise explanation and analysis of the Contract;
- Certification;
- Appendix A with the Contract’s Terms and Conditions;
- Confidential Appendices with further information; and
- A request for FOIA confidential treatment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elie Mishory
Chief Regulatory Officer
KalshiEX LLC
emishory@kalshi.com

KalshiEX LLC

Official Product Name: Will the U.S. State Department recommend Americans do not travel to Beijing?

Rulebook: TRAVELWARN

Kalshi Contract Category: Political Decision

Travel Warning

April 20, 2022

CONCISE EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, INCLUDING CORE PRINCIPLES AND THE COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS THEREUNDER

Pursuant to Commission Rule 40.2(a)(3)(v), the following is a concise explanation and analysis of the product and its compliance with the Act, including the relevant Core Principles, and the Commission's regulations thereunder.

I. Introduction

The “Will the U.S. State Department recommend Americans do not travel to Beijing?” Contract is a contract relating to State Department travel warnings. After careful analysis, Kalshi (hereafter referred to as “Exchange”) has determined that the Contract complies with its vetting framework, which has been reviewed by the CFTC and formed part of the Exchange’s application for designation as a Contract Market (“DCM”) that was approved by the Commission.

The State Department has four levels of travel advisory: (1) Exercise normal precautions, (2) Exercise increased caution, (3) Reconsider travel, (4) Do not travel. This contract regards whether the State Department will recommend a category 4. The State Department lists these categories both for countries and for regions within the country. For example, as of April 13, 2022, the State Department puts the People’s Republic of China in Category 3 but regions like Shanghai (which is subject to a major COVID-19 related lockdown) in Category 4. This contract is designed to target whether the State Department will either elevate the warning or lower the warning.

Further information about the Contract, including an analysis of its risk mitigation and price basing utility, as well as additional considerations related to the Contract, is included in Confidential Appendices B, C, and D.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulations 40.2(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that the listing of the Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations under the Act.

General Contract Terms and Conditions: The Contract operates similar to other binary contracts that the Exchange lists for trading. The minimum price fluctuation is \$0.01 (one cent). Price bands will apply so that Contracts may only be listed at values of at least \$0.01 and at most \$0.99. Further, the Contract is sized with a one-dollar notional value and has a minimum price fluctuation of \$0.01 to enable Members to match the size of the contracts purchased to their economic risks. The Exchange has further imposed position limits (defined as maximum loss exposure) of \$25,000 USD on the Contract. As outlined in Rule 5.12 of the Rulebook, trading shall be available at all times outside of any maintenance windows, which will be announced in advance by the Exchange. Members will be charged fees in accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Rulebook. Fees are charged in such amounts as may be revised from time to time to be reflected on the Exchange's Website. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading. That new Source Agency and Underlying would be objective and verifiable. Kalshi would announce any such decision on its website. All instructions on how to access the Underlying are non-binding and are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time. Furthermore, the Contract's payout structure is characterized by the payment of an absolute amount to the holder of one side of the option and no payment to the counterparty. During the time that trading on the Contract is open, Members are able to adjust their positions and trade freely. After trading on the Contract has closed, the Expiration Value and Market Outcome are determined. The market is then settled by the Exchange, and the long position holders and short position holders are paid according to the Market Outcome. In this case, "long position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "Yes" side of the Contract and "short position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "No" side of the Contract. If the Market Outcome is "Yes," meaning that the U.S. State Department recommends on any date between Issuance and <date> that Americans do not travel to Beijing, then the long position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the short position holders receive no payment. If the Market Outcome is "No," then the short position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the long position holders receive no payment. Specification of the circumstances that would trigger a Market Outcome of "Yes" are included below in the section titled "Payout Criterion" in Appendix A.

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5c OF THE COMMODITY
EXCHANGE ACT, 7 U.S.C. § 7A-2 AND COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING
COMMISSION RULE 40.2, 17 C.F.R. § 40.2**

Based on the above analysis, the Exchange certifies that:

- The Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations thereunder.
- This submission (other than those appendices for which confidential treatment has been requested) has been concurrently posted on the Exchange's website at <https://kalshi.com/regulatory/filings>.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the exchange at ProductFilings@kalshi.com.

Eliezer Mishory

By: Eliezer Mishory
Title: Chief Regulatory Officer
Date: April 20, 2022

Attachments:

Appendix A - Contract Terms and Conditions

Appendix B (Confidential) - Further Considerations

Appendix C (Confidential) - Source Agency

Appendix D (Confidential) - Compliance with Core Principles

APPENDIX A – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF CONTRACTS TRADED ON KALSHI

Official Product Name: Will the U.S. State Department recommend Americans do not travel to Beijing?

Rulebook: TRAVELWARN

TRAVELWARN

Scope: These rules shall apply to this contract.

Underlying: The Underlying for this Contract is the official travel advisories (and the dates of the updates) from the U.S. State Department for Beijing, China issued between Issuance and <date>. Revisions to the Underlying made after Expiration will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

Instructions: The list of travel advisories is available [here](#).¹ For subnational regions, please click on the country. These instructions on how to access the Underlying are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time.

Source Agency: The Source Agency is the U.S. State Department.

Type: The type of Contract is a Binary Contract.

Issuance: The contract shall be issued in accordance with epidemiological circumstances.

<date>: <date> refers to a calendar date specified by Kalshi. Kalshi may list iterations of the Contract corresponding to variations of <date>.

Payout Criterion: The Payout Criterion for the Contract encompasses the Expiration Values that the State Department has issued a warning that Americans should not travel to Beijing (often referred to as a Category 4 “do not travel”; a category 3 “reconsider travel” is not considered a warning that Americans should not travel to Beijing). Because Beijing is part of the People’s Republic of China, a State Department-issued warning that Americans should not travel to the People’s Republic of China (Category 4 “Do Not Travel”) is also encompassed in the Payout Criterion.

Example: Below is a travel advisory from April 11, 2022. This contains a “reconsider travel” warning for the People’s Republic of China, but a “do not travel” warning for Hong Kong, Jilin and Shanghai.

¹<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/China.html>

Travel Advisory April 11, 2022	China - Level 3: Reconsider Travel	H O
<p>Reconsider travel to the People's Republic of China (PRC) due to arbitrary enforcement of local laws and COVID-19-related restrictions. Do not travel to the PRC's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Jilin province, and Shanghai municipality due to COVID-19-related restrictions, including the risk of parents and children being separated. Reconsider travel to the PRC's Hong Kong SAR due to arbitrary enforcement of local laws.</p>		

Minimum Tick: The Minimum Tick size for the referred Contract shall be \$0.01.

Position Limit: The Position Limit for the \$1 referred Contract shall be \$25,000 per Member.

Last Trading Date: The Last Trading Date of the Contract will be the sooner of the date of the first 10:00 AM ET following the occurrence of an event encompassed by the Payout Criterion (whereupon the Last Trading Time will be 10:00 AM ET) or <date> (whereupon the Last Trading Time will be 11:59 PM ET).

Settlement Date: The Settlement Date of the Contract shall be no later than the day after the Expiration Date, unless the Market Outcome is under review pursuant to Rule 7.1.

Expiration Date: The Expiration Date of the Contract shall be the sooner of the date of the first 10:00 AM ET following the occurrence of an event that is encompassed in the Payout Criterion or the day after <date>.

Expiration time: The Expiration time of the Contract shall be 10:00 AM ET.

Settlement Value: The Settlement Value for this Contract is \$1.00.

Expiration Value: The Expiration Value is the value of the Underlying as documented by the Source Agency on the Expiration Date at the Expiration time.

Contingencies: Before Settlement, Kalshi may, at its sole discretion, initiate the Market Outcome Review Process pursuant to Rule 6.3(c) of the Rulebook. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading.