

September 23, 2021

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 CASELOW 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 CASELOW contract (Contract).

Along with this letter, Kalshi submitted 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
New Contract Submission: CASELOW
COVID-19 Case Floor
September 23, 2021

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 CASELOW Contract is a contract relating to the seven-day moving average of COVID-19 cases. The emergence of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, has had enormous implications for the American economy. Despite vaccination efforts, the virus remains a threat in the United States. 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.

As of September 2021, nearly 700,000 Americans have died of COVID-19, and over 42 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded.¹ Millions of Americans have lost loved ones, jobs, and a sense of normalcy. Shutdowns, social distancing requirements, and fear of contracting the virus have shuttered businesses, prompted layoffs, and reduced income streams. Unemployment climbed to 14.8% in April 2020², before declining to 5.8% in May 2021 -- still over 2 points higher than pre-pandemic levels³. The number of new COVID-19 cases is an essential indicator of the state of the pandemic. Government officials at the local, state, and federal levels make policy decisions around shutdowns, social distancing measures, and fiscal stimulus based on COVID-19 case counts, among other factors. Fear of contracting or spreading COVID-19 also tracks with new case counts: higher levels of COVID-19 deter would-be customers from eating inside, shopping inside, travelling, and more. The contract allows individuals and institutions to directly hedge the economic fallout that comes with higher COVID-19 levels.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html>

² <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R46554.pdf>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>

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 there is at least one day when the seven-day moving average is below <count> , 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.



By: Eliezer Mishory
Title: Chief Regulatory Officer
Date: 9/23/21

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

Contract: CASELOW

CASELOW

Scope: These rules shall apply to the CASELOW contract.

Underlying: The reported seven-day moving averages as published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Revisions to the Underlying made after Expiration will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

Instructions: The Underlying is available at https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailycases. Scroll down to the section titled “Data Table for Daily Case Trends”. The underlying is the set of values in the column entitled “7-Day Moving Avg”. 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Type: The type of Contract is a Binary Contract.

Issuance: The Issuance of the initial Contract will be on or after September 25, 2021. After the initial Contract, Contract iterations will be listed on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the Exchange and corresponding to the risk management needs of Members.

<count>: Kalshi may list iterations of the Contract with <count> levels that fall within an inclusive range between a maximum value of <1,000,000> and a minimum value of <0> at consecutive increments of <1>. Due to the potential for variability in the Underlying, the Exchange may modify <count> levels in response to suggestions by Members.

Payout Criterion: The Payout Criterion for the Contract encompasses the Expiration Values that contain a value strictly below <count> (i.e. if there is a day whereupon the CDC reports the 7-day moving average for COVID-19 cases is below <count> as documented at the Expiration Time on the Expiration Date).

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 initial iteration of the Contract will be the same day as the Expiration Date. The Last Trading Time will be the same as the Expiration time.

Settlement Date: The Settlement Date of the initial iteration of the Contract shall be 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 December 1, 2021.

Expiration time: The Expiration time of the initial Contract iteration shall be 11:00 AM ET.

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

Expiration Value: The Expiration Value is the set containing the values of the Underlying for each day in the statistical period between Issuance and Expiration 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.