

Sarah Williams Staff Attorney

February 4, 2015

Re: Additions to Subchapter 26D of the ICC Rules to Provide for Clearing of Additional Standard Emerging Market Sovereign CDS Contracts Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Commission Regulation 40.6

#### VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Christopher Kirkpatrick
Secretary
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20581

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

ICE Clear Credit LLC ("ICC") hereby submits, pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") Regulation 40.6, a self-certification of amended ICC Rules (the "Amended Rules") to provide for the clearance of additional Standard Emerging Market Sovereign CDS contracts (collectively, "SES Contracts"), namely the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Colombia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Poland. ICC is registered with the Commission as a derivatives clearing organization ("DCO"). ICC intends to make the Amended Rules effective no sooner than the tenth business day following the filing of this submission with the Commission at its Washington, D.C. headquarters and with its Chicago regional office.

This submission includes the Amended Rules. A description of the principal changes contained in the Amended Rules follows. Certification of the Amended Rules pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Commission Regulation 40.6 is also provided below.

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to adopt rules that will provide the basis for ICC to clear additional credit default swap contracts. ICC has been approved to clear eight SES Contracts: the Federative Republic of Brazil, the United Mexican States, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Hungary, and the Republic of South Africa. ICC proposes amending Subchapter 26D of its Rules to provide for the clearance of additional SES Contracts, specifically the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Colombia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Poland. These additional SES Contracts will be offered on the 2014 ISDA Credit Derivatives Definitions. The addition of these SES Contracts will benefit the market for emerging market credit default swaps by providing market participants the benefits of clearing, including reduction in counterparty risk and safeguarding of margin assets pursuant to clearing house rules. Clearing of the additional SES Contracts will not require any changes to ICC's Risk Management Framework.

These additional SES Contracts have terms consistent with the other SES Contracts approved for clearing at ICC and governed by Subchapter 26D of the ICC rules, namely the Federative Republic of Brazil, the United Mexican States, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Hungary, and the Republic of South Africa. Minor revisions to Subchapter 26D (Standard Emerging Market Sovereign ("SES") Single Name) are made to provide for clearing the additional SES Contracts and described as follows.

Rule 26D-102 is modified to include the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Colombia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Poland in the list of specific Eligible SES Reference Entities to be cleared by ICC.

### Core Principle Review:

ICC reviewed the DCO core principles ("Core Principles") as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act. During this review, ICC identified the following Core Principles as being impacted:

Participant and Product Eligibility: ICC has set appropriate standards in ICC's policies and procedures for determining the eligibility of contracts. The additional SES Contracts fulfill ICC's standards regarding product eligibility.

Risk Management: ICC currently clears eight SES Contracts. ICC will apply its established margin and pricing methodology to the additional SES Contracts.

Settlement Procedures: The additional SES Contracts are subject to ICC's current physical settlement rules under Chapter 22: CDS Physical Settlement.

#### Amended Rules:

The proposed change consists of revisions to Subchapter 26D of the ICC Rules to provide for the clearance of additional SES Contracts, namely the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Colombia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Poland.

Annexed as an Exhibit hereto is the following:

A. Proposed amendments to the ICC Rules

## **Certifications:**

ICC hereby certifies that the Amended Rules comply with the Act and the regulations thereunder. There were no substantive opposing views to the Rules.

ICC certifies that, concurrent with this filing, a copy of the submission was posted on ICC's website, which may be accessed at: https://www.theice.com/clear-credit/regulation

ICC would be pleased to respond to any questions the Commission or the staff may have regarding this submission. Please direct any questions or requests for information to the attention of the undersigned at (312) 836-6883.

Sincerely,

Sarah Williams Staff Attorney

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# **Enclosures**

cc: Kate Meyer, Commodity Futures Trading Commission (by email)
Tad Polley, Commodity Futures Trading Commission (by email)
Peter Kals, Commodity Futures Trading Commission (by email)

Eric Nield, ICE Clear Credit (by email)
Michelle Weiler, ICE Clear Credit (by email)