



September 28, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Christopher J. Kirkpatrick
Office of the Secretariat
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581

Re: CFTC Regulation 40.6(a) Certification. Notification of Proposed Rule Change to Revise The Options Clearing Corporation's Schedule of Fees

Dear Secretary Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (“Act”), and Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) Regulation 40.6(a), The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) hereby certifies to the CFTC amendments to OCC’s schedule of fees. The date of implementation of the rule is at least 10 business days following receipt of the rule filing by the CFTC or the date the proposed rule is approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or otherwise becomes effective under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”). This rule filing has been submitted to the SEC under the Exchange Act as File No. SR-OCC-2021-009.

Amendments to OCC’s schedule of fees are included in Exhibit A. Material proposed to be added is marked by underlining, and material proposed to be deleted is marked with strikethrough text. All terms with initial capitalization that are not otherwise defined herein have the same meaning as set forth in the OCC By-Laws and Rules.¹

In conformity with the requirements of Regulation 40.6(a)(7), OCC states the following:

Explanation and Analysis

The purpose of this certification is to revise OCC’s schedule of fees to implement a fee holiday for the period beginning November 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021. OCC’s Capital Management Policy (“Policy”) provides that OCC reviews its fee schedule on a periodic basis in

¹ OCC’s By-Laws and Rules can be found on OCC’s public website: <https://www.theocc.com/Company-Information/Documents-and-Archives/By-Laws-and-Rules>.

consideration of factors including, but not limited to, projected operating expenses, projected volumes, anticipated cash flows, and capital needs.² Provided that OCC's shareholders' equity ("Equity"), less the minimum persistent amount of capital that OCC maintains exclusively to address losses or liquidity shortfalls arising from member defaults (the "Minimum Corporate Contribution"),³ exceeds 110% of the Target Capital Requirement⁴ ("Early Warning")⁵ plus any amount approved for capital expenditures, OCC's Board, or a Committee the Board has delegated, may use tools as it considers appropriate to lower costs for Clearing Members. Such tools for reducing the cost of clearing include lowering fees, declaring a fee holiday, or issuing refunds.⁶

OCC has experienced record volumes in 2021 while maintaining expenses at or around the budgeted amount. These strong financial results put OCC in a position to continue to invest resources in OCC's initiative to update and upgrade its technology infrastructure for critical clearing and settlement services, risk systems and data management,⁷ while at the same time lowering the cost of clearing for the users of the markets OCC serves. Accordingly, effective June 1, 2021, OCC lowered its clearing fee from \$0.045 per contract to \$0.02 per contract.⁸

As of June 30, 2021, OCC maintained Equity of approximately \$693 million, or approximately \$418 million more than the Early Warning.⁹ Based on projections of contract volume and expenses, OCC believes that it can implement a two-month fee holiday while maintaining sufficient revenue to support OCC's operations and capital needs, including 2021 cash needs related to OCC's technology infrastructure transformation. Accordingly, OCC proposes to modify its fee

² See Exchange Act Release No. 88029 (Jan. 24, 2020), 85 FR 5500, 5502 (Jan. 30, 2020) (File No. SR-OCC-2019-007) ("Order Approving Policy"); Exchange Act Release No. 87257 (Oct. 8, 2019), 84 FR 55194, 55196 (Oct. 15, 2019) (File No. SR-OCC-2019-805) ("Notice of No-Objection to Policy").

³ See Exchange Act Release No. 92038 (May 27, 2021), 86 FR 29861 (Jun. 3, 2021) (File No. SR-OCC-2021-003) (order approving proposed rule change to establish OCC's persistent minimum skin-in-the-game); Exchange Act Release No. 91491 (Apr. 7, 2021), 86 FR 19061 (Apr. 12, 2021) (File No. SR-OCC-2021-801) (notice of no objection to advance notice relating to OCC's establishment of persistent minimum skin-in-the-game).

⁴ The Target Capital Requirement is the amount of Equity recommended by Management and approved by the Board to ensure compliance with regulatory capital requirements and to keep such additional amount the Board may approve for capital expenditures. See OCC Rule 101.

⁵ The Early Warning is one of the thresholds under OCC's plan for replenishing capital in the event OCC's Equity falls close to or below OCC's regulatory capital requirements, as required by SEC Rule 17Ad-22(e)(15)(iii). See 17 CFR 17Ad-22(e)(15)(iii).

⁶ See Order Approving Policy, 85 FR at 5502; Notice of No-Objection to Policy, 84 FR at 55196.

⁷ See OCC Technology Changes + Enhancements Reference Guide, [available at https://www.theocc.com/Participant-Resources](https://www.theocc.com/Participant-Resources) (last updated July 21, 2021).

⁸ Exchange Act Release No. 91920 (May 18, 2021), 86 FR 27916 (May 24, 2021) (File No. SR-OCC-2021-006).

⁹ See OCC Schedule of Fees, [available at https://www.theocc.com/Company-Information/Schedule-of-Fees](https://www.theocc.com/Company-Information/Schedule-of-Fees) (under OCC Capital Management Reporting, unaudited as of June 30, 2021).

schedule to decrease both its per contract and per trade clearing fees to \$0 for the last two months of 2021.¹⁰

Fee Schedule		Proposed Fee Holiday from November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021	
Clearing Fees		Clearing Fees	
Trades with contracts of 0-2750	\$0.02/contract	Trades with contracts of 0-2750	\$0/contract
Trades with contracts of more than 2750	\$55/trade	Trades with contracts of more than 2750	\$0/trade

OCC proposes to make the fee change effective November 1, 2021, because OCC believes that this date is the first date that the industry could be prepared to process the new fee without disruption based on consultations with market participants.¹¹ Effective the first trading day of 2022, clearing fees will revert to the fee schedule in effect before November 1, 2021 and OCC will remove the fee holiday from its schedule of fees.

OCC reviewed the DCO core principles (“Core Principles”) as set forth in the Act, regulations thereunder, and the provisions applicable to a DCO that elects to be subject to the provisions of 17 CFR Subpart C (“Subpart C DCO”). During this review, OCC identified the following Core Principles and regulations and provisions applicable to subpart C DCOs as potentially being impacted:

Public Information. OCC believes that implementing the fee holiday will be aligned with Core Principle L,¹² which requires, in part, that each DCO provide to market participants sufficient information to enable the market participants to identify and evaluate accurately the costs associated with using the services of the DCO. OCC believes that by implementing the proposed changes to its schedule of fees and by publishing the modified schedule of fees to its public website it would provide Clearing Members with sufficient information to enable them to identify and evaluate the costs associated with using the services of OCC.

Opposing Views

No opposing views were expressed related to the rule amendments.

¹⁰ These changes are also reflected in Exhibit A.

¹¹ OCC notes that a mid-month change to clearing fees could introduce operational disruption to Clearing Members due to the impact on their billing processes.

¹² 7 U.S.C. 7a-1(c)(2)(L).

Notice of Pending Rule Certification

OCC hereby certifies that notice of this rule filing has been given to Clearing Members of OCC in compliance with Regulation 40.6(a)(2) by posting a copy of this certification on OCC's website concurrently with the filing of this submission.

Certification

OCC hereby certifies that the rule set forth at enclosed Exhibit A complies with the Act and the CFTC's regulations thereunder.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark C. Brown
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure

EXHIBIT A

Underlined text indicates new text

~~Strikethrough~~ text indicates deleted text

The Options Clearing Corporation

Schedule of Fees

Clearing Member

Clearing

Clearing Fees

	<u>Clearing Fees effective</u> <u>June 1, 2021</u>	<u>Fee Holiday from</u> <u>November 1, 2021 to</u> <u>December 31, 2021*</u>
Trades with contracts of 0 – 2750	\$0.02/contract	<u>\$0/contract</u>
Trades with contracts of more than 2750	\$55.00/trade	<u>\$0/trade</u>

*On the first trading day of 2022, clearing fees will revert to the fee schedule in effect before November 1, 2021 and OCC shall delete the fee holiday from the Schedule of Fees dated January 2022.

New Products

Unless otherwise agreed to by OCC and the applicable exchange, from the first day of listing through the end of the following calendar month **\$0.00**

Linkage per side **\$0.02**

**A Linkage transaction that includes more than 2,750 contracts will be charged a flat fee of \$55.00 per trade per side.*

Minimum Monthly Clearing Fee **\$200.00**

Exercise Fee — per line item on exercise notice **\$1.00**

Membership

New Clearing Member Qualification Fee **\$4,000.00**

Stock and Market Loan Program Transaction Fees

Per transaction assessed against each lender and borrower **\$1.00**

Stock and Market Loan Program Borrower Fees

Monthly annualized charge on average daily notional outstanding balance **0.4 basis point**

Stamps

Clearing Member Authorization Stamp **\$23.00/stamp**

Ancillary Services **Per Month**

TIER I **\$1,500.00**

ENCORE Access • MyOCC Access • Data Service - proprietary position and trade data (includes transmission to service bureau) • Report Bundle • Series File • Special Settlement File • Open Interest File • Prices File • Stock Loan File • Theoretical Profit and Loss Values • Leased line charges are additional

TIER II **\$1,000.00**

ENCORE Access • MyOCC Access • Data Service - proprietary position and trade data (includes transmission to service bureau) • Report Bundle • Leased line charges are additional

TIER III **\$650.00**

ENCORE Access • MyOCC Access

TIER IV (Stock Loan only) **\$300.00**

ENCORE Access • MyOCC Access

Additional Clearing Member **No Charge**

Leased Line Service Destinations **Per month, per line**

Midwest **\$1,000.00**

East Coast **\$1,500.00**

West Coast **\$2,000.00**

Cash Management Fee

Monthly annualized charge on Clearing Member's average daily cash balance in OCC's Federal Reserve bank account. **5 basis points**

Operational Loss Fee

Maximum Operational Loss Fee**	\$143,066,667.00 less the aggregate amount of Operational Loss Fees previously charged and not refunded as of the date calculated, divided by the number of Clearing Members at the time charged.
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*** OCC would charge the Operational Loss Fee if OCC's shareholders' equity falls below \$225,000,000.00 at any time or falls below \$250,000,000.00 for a period of 90 consecutive calendar days. If less than the maximum Operational Loss Fee is needed to return OCC's shareholders' equity to \$275,000,000.00, OCC will charge only that amount.*

Clearing Member & Non-Clearing Member

Publications

Disclosure Documents	\$0.45
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OCC/ICC By-Laws and Rules	Updates can be obtained on a subscription basis for \$47.00 per year.
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Non-Clearing Member

Series Information	Per Month
Non-Distribution	\$1,750.00
Distribution	\$3,000.00
Real Time Data (in addition to fees listed above)	\$250.00
Prices Information	\$3,000.00
Theoretical Profit and Loss Values	\$1,000.00

Escrow Banks

Escrow Program Fees	\$200.00 per month
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As of ~~June~~November 2021. ALL FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For further information, contact Member Services at 1-800-621-6072.