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BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Submission No. 15-124
July 15, 2015

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

**Re: Amendments to ICE Futures U.S. Rule 9.18(b) - Grading Cocoa for Exchange Delivery
Submission Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Regulation 40.6(a)**

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) Regulation 40.6(a), ICE Futures U.S., Inc. (“IFUS” or “Exchange”) hereby certifies the amendment to Exchange Rule 9.18(b), attached as Exhibit A, which provides that the penalty provisions for excess slate do not apply to delivery of Indonesia Sulawesi cocoa against the IFUS Cocoa Futures Contract.

When cocoa is graded to be eligible for delivery on the Exchange, sampled beans are visually examined for a slatey-grey color. Slate is a reliable indicator that a cocoa bean has not been fermented sufficiently during the processing of the beans at origin. Currently, for all origins other than Sanchez (Dominican Republic) and Haiti, IFUS Rule 9.18(b)(iv)(2)(A) provides for a penalty for delivery of beans graded at more than 10% slate. Sanchez and Haiti are exempted from the excess slate penalty because fermentation is not typically part of commercial bean processing in these two origins, and the impact of this on the relative value is already reflected in the discount/premium for the origins.

At the recommendation of the IFUS Cocoa Committee, which endorsed the change by unanimous vote, the Exchange is amending Rule 9.18(b)(iv)(2)(A) to exempt a third origin, Indonesia-Sulawesi, from the excess slate penalty provisions of the Rule. Like Sanchez and Haiti, fermentation is not typically part of commercial bean processing for this origin and the impact on relative value is incorporated into the discount/premium for the origin. The amendment will become effective on July 31, 2015 for the July 2017 delivery month, which will be listed for trading on August 3rd in accordance with the regular listing cycle.

The Exchange certifies that the amendment to Exchange Rule 9.18(b)(iv)(2), complies with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. The Exchange has reviewed the designated contract market core principles ("Core Principles"), as set forth in the Act and has determined that the amendment complies with Core Principle 3 (contracts not readily subject to

Manipulation) as the exemption from the slate penalty provision more closely aligns the IFUS Cocoa Futures Contract with commercial practice for the Indonesia-Sulawesi origin. The Exchange is not aware of any substantive opposing views and further certifies that, concurrent with this filing, a copy of this submission was posted on the Exchange's website, which may be accessed at (<https://www.theice.com/futures-us/regulation#Rule-Filings>).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 212-748-4021 or at jason.fusco@theice.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason V. Fusco". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray circular stamp.

Jason V. Fusco
Assistant General Counsel
Market Regulation

Enc.
cc: Division of Market Oversight

EXHIBIT A

(In the text of the amendments below, additions are underlined and deletions are bracketed and lined out.)

Rule 9.18. Grading Cocoa for Exchange Delivery

* * *

(iv) *Grade*

(1) The standard Grade is Cocoa, otherwise sound, defective to a maximum extent of: 4% by count show mold or 4% by count are insect infested or damaged; or a total of 6% by count show mold and are insect infested or damaged (or such other standards or lesser percentages as may from time to time be prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration or similar federal agency) and slatey to a maximum extent of ten percent (10%) by count. Except as provided in subparagraph (2)(A) of this paragraph, cocoa which exceeds any of the percentages prescribed in this Rule shall not be delivered on an Exchange Futures Contract.

(2) The following variations from standard Grade may be delivered at the premiums or discounts indicated below:

(A) For each one percent (1%) slatey more than ten percent (10%), a deduction of two dollars and twenty cents (\$2.20) per metric ton; but in the case of Indonesia-Sulawesi, Sanchez and Haiti Cocoa beans, no deduction shall be made for excess slate.

* * *

(balance of the Rule unchanged)