

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Fees for Reviews of the Rule Enforcement Programs of Designated Contract Markets and Registered Futures Associations

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of 2017 schedule of fees.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) charges fees to designated contract markets and registered futures associations to recover the costs incurred by the Commission in the operation of its program of oversight of self-regulatory organization rule enforcement programs, specifically National Futures Association (“NFA”), a registered futures association, and the designated contract markets. Fees collected from each self-regulatory organization are deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. The calculation of the fee amounts charged for 2017 by this notice is based upon an average of actual program costs incurred during fiscal year (“FY”) 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016.

DATES: Each self-regulatory organization is required to remit electronically the applicable fee on or before August 24, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Jean Buhler, Chief Financial Officer, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; (202) 418–5089; Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. For information on electronic payment, contact Jennifer Fleming; (202) 418–5034; Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background Information

A. General

This notice relates to fees for the Commission’s review of the rule

enforcement programs at the registered futures associations¹ and designated contract markets (“DCM”), each of which is a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) regulated by the Commission. The Commission recalculates the fees charged each year to cover the costs of operating this Commission program.² The fees are set each year based on direct program costs, plus an overhead factor. The Commission calculates actual costs, then calculates an alternate fee taking volume into account, and then charges the lower of the two.³

B. Overhead Rate

The fees charged by the Commission to the SROs are designed to recover program costs, including direct labor costs and overhead. The overhead rate is calculated by dividing total Commission-wide overhead direct program labor costs into the total amount of the Commission-wide overhead pool. For this purpose, direct program labor costs are the salary costs of personnel working in all Commission programs. Overhead costs generally consist of the following Commission-wide costs: Indirect personnel costs (leave and benefits), rent, communications, contract services, utilities, equipment, and supplies. This formula has resulted in the following overhead rates for the most recent three years (rounded to the nearest whole percent): 180 percent for FY 2014, 211 percent for FY 2015, and 190 percent for FY 2016.

C. Conduct of SRO Rule Enforcement Reviews

Under the formula adopted by the Commission in 1993, the Commission calculates the fee to recover the costs of its rule enforcement reviews and examinations, based on the three-year average of the actual cost of performing such reviews and examinations at each SRO. The cost of operation of the Commission’s SRO oversight program varies from SRO to SRO, according to the size and complexity of each SRO’s

program. The three-year averaging computation method is intended to smooth out year-to-year variations in cost. Timing of the Commission’s reviews and examinations may affect costs—a review or examination may span two fiscal years and reviews and examinations are not conducted at each SRO each year.

As noted above, adjustments to actual costs may be made to relieve the burden on an SRO with a disproportionately large share of program costs. The Commission’s formula provides for a reduction in the assessed fee if an SRO has a smaller percentage of United States industry contract volume than its percentage of overall Commission oversight program costs. This adjustment reduces the costs so that, as a percentage of total Commission SRO oversight program costs, they are in line with the pro rata percentage for that SRO of United States industry-wide contract volume.

The calculation is made as follows: The fee required to be paid to the Commission by each DCM is equal to the lesser of actual costs based on the three-year historical average of costs for that DCM or one-half of average costs incurred by the Commission for each DCM for the most recent three years, plus a pro rata share (based on average trading volume for the most recent three years) of the aggregate of average annual costs of all DCMs for the most recent three years.

The formula for calculating the second factor is: $0.5a + 0.5vt = \text{current fee}$. In this formula, “a” equals the average annual costs, “v” equals the percentage of total volume across DCMs over the last three years, and “t” equals the average annual costs for all DCMs. NFA has no contracts traded; hence, its fee is based simply on costs for the most recent three fiscal years. The following table summarizes the data used in the calculations of the resulting fee for each entity:

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF DATA USED IN FEE CALCULATIONS

| | Actual total costs | | | 3-Year average actual costs | 3-Year average volume (%) | Adjusted volume costs | 2016 Actual fee | 2017 Assessed fee |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | | | | | |
| CBOE Futures | | \$158,209 | \$227,059 | \$128,423 | 1.31 | \$71,004 | \$73,074 | \$71,004 |
| Chicago Board of Trade | \$55,515 | 17,938 | 28,720 | 34,058 | 29.61 | 170,554 | 79,476 | 34,058 |
| Chicago Mercantile Exchange | 225,701 | 540,151 | 372,278 | 379,377 | 44.66 | 421,246 | 385,923 | 379,377 |
| ICE Futures U.S | 81,176 | 105,864 | 386,719 | 191,253 | 9.22 | 143,431 | 153,429 | 143,431 |
| Minneapolis Grain Exchange | 47,648 | 147,983 | 14,314 | 69,981 | 0.05 | 35,250 | 69,741 | 35,250 |
| NADEX North American | 980 | | 81,758 | 27,579 | 0.14 | 14,516 | 17,505 | 14,516 |

¹ National Futures Association is the only registered futures association.

² See Section 237 of the Futures Trading Act of 1982, 7 U.S.C. 16a, and 31 U.S.C. 9701. For a broader discussion of the history of Commission fees, see 52 FR 46070, Dec. 4, 1987.

³ 58 FR 42643, Aug. 11, 1993, and 17 CFR part 1, appendix B.

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF DATA USED IN FEE CALCULATIONS—Continued

| | Actual total costs | | | 3-Year average actual costs | 3-Year average volume (%) | Adjusted volume costs | 2016 Actual fee | 2017 Assessed fee |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | | | | | |
| New York Mercantile Exchange | 225,672 | 118,701 | 242,792 | 195,722 | 14.49 | 172,990 | 159,897 | 172,990 |
| One Chicago | 31,196 | 289 | 282 | 10,589 | 0.29 | 6,798 | 28,384 | 6,798 |
| NASDAQ | | | | | 0.21 | 1,089 | | |
| ERIS Exchange | | | | | 0.01 | 68 | | |
| NY LIFFE | | | | | | | 4,909 | |
| ELX Futures | | | | | | | 22,378 | |
| KCBT | | | | | | | 186 | |
| Subtotal | 667,888 | 1,089,134 | 1,353,921 | \$1,036,981 | 100 | 1,036,945 | 994,901 | 857,423 |
| National Futures Association | 292,102 | 401,337 | 282,405 | 325,281 | | | 293,312 | 325,281 |
| Total | 959,990 | 1,490,471 | 1,636,326 | 1,362,262 | | | \$1,288,214 | 1,182,704 |

Note to Table 1: The 2017 Fee is the lesser of the 3-Year Average Actual Cost or the Adjusted Volume Cost. NY LIFFE, ELX, and KCBT are either Vacated or Dormant, but had direct labor costs in 2013 that produced a fee in 2016, based on the 3-Year Average.

An example of how the fee is calculated for one exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, is set forth here:

a. Actual three-year average costs = \$34,058.

b. The alternative computation is: (.5) (\$34,058) + (.5) (.2961) (\$1,036,981) = \$170,554.

c. The fee is the lesser of a or b; in this case \$34,058.

As noted above, the alternative calculation based on contracts traded is not applicable to NFA because it is not a DCM and has no contracts traded. The Commission's average annual cost for conducting oversight review of the NFA rule enforcement program during fiscal years 2014 through 2016 was \$325,281.

The fee to be paid by the NFA for the current fiscal year is \$325,281.

II. Schedule of Fees

Fees for the Commission's review of the rule enforcement programs at the registered futures associations and DCMs regulated by the Commission are as shown in the following table:

TABLE 2—SCHEDULE OF FEES

| | 3-Year average actual costs | 3-Year average volume (%) | Adjusted volume costs | 2017 Fee: lesser of actual or calculated fee |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| CBOE Futures | \$128,423 | 1.31 | \$71,004 | \$71,004 |
| Chicago Board of Trade | 34,058 | 29.61 | 170,554 | 34,058 |
| Chicago Mercantile Exchange | 379,377 | 44.66 | 421,246 | 379,377 |
| ICE Futures U.S | 191,253 | 9.22 | 143,431 | 143,431 |
| Minneapolis Grain Exchange | 69,981 | 0.05 | 35,250 | 35,250 |
| NADEX North American | 27,579 | 0.14 | 14,516 | 14,516 |
| New York Mercantile Exchange | 195,722 | 14.49 | 172,990 | 172,990 |
| One Chicago | 10,589 | 0.29 | 6,798 | 6,798 |
| NASDAQ | | 0.21 | 1,089 | |
| ERIS Exchange | | 0.01 | 68 | |
| NY LIFFE | | | | |
| ELX Futures | | | | |
| KCBT | | | | |
| Subtotal | 1,036,981 | 100 | 1,036,945 | 857,423 |
| National Futures Association | 325,281 | | | 325,281 |
| Total | 1,362,262 | | | 1,182,704 |

III. Payment Method

The Debt Collection Improvement Act ("DCIA") requires deposits of fees owed to the government by electronic transfer of funds. See 31 U.S.C. 3720. For information about electronic payments, please contact Jennifer Fleming at (202) 418-5034 or jffleming@cftc.gov, or see the CFTC website at www.cftc.gov, specifically, www.cftc.gov/cftc/cftcelectronicpayments.htm.

Fees collected from each self-regulatory organization shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United

States as miscellaneous receipts. See 7 U.S.C. 16a.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 19, 2018, by the Commission.

Christopher Kirkpatrick,
Secretary of the Commission.

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Notice of Intent To Renew Collection 3038-0021, Regulations Governing Bankruptcies of Commodity Brokers

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC or