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BY EMAIL AND AIRBORNE EXPRESS

Office of the Secretariat
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

Re: Rule Certification. NYMEX Submission 04-31: Notification of Approved Amendment to COMEX Rule 4.02(a) "Opening and Closing."

Dear CFTC Commissioners:

The New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc. ("NYMEX" or the "Exchange") is notifying the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC" or "Commission") of approved amendments to COMEX Rule 4.02(a), "Opening and Closing" which will go into effect on Monday, March 15, 2004. The approved amendments to COMEX Rule 4.02(a), "Opening and Closing" change the closing time in the Aluminum Futures Contract and the Aluminum Futures Options Contract from 1:10 PM to 1:15 PM.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act ("Act") and CFTC Rule 40.6, the Exchange hereby certifies that the attached rule amendment complies with the Act, including regulations under the Act. The approved amendments will go into effect on Monday, March 15, 2004.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact Albert J. Getz at (212) 299-2608.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Levin
Senior Vice President - Research

Attachment: Approved Amendments to COMEX Rule 4.02 (a), "Opening and Closing."

Approved Rule Amendments.

Strike-through indicated deletions; Underlining indicates additions.

COMEX Rule 4.02, "Hours for Trading"

(a) Opening and Closing. The hours for trading futures contracts and futures on options each day in which the futures contracts and futures options ~~is~~ are open for business shall be as follows:

<u>Futures Contract Or Option</u>	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Closing</u>
Gold	8:20 AM	1:30 PM
Silver	8:25 AM	1:25 PM
Copper	8:10 AM	1:00 PM
Aluminum	7:50 AM	1:10 <u>1:15</u> PM
Gold Futures Options	8:20 AM	1:30 PM
Silver Futures Options	8:25 AM	1:25 PM
Copper Futures Options	8:10 AM	1:00 PM
Aluminum Futures Options	7:50 AM	1:10 <u>1:15</u> PM

The balance of COMEX Rule 4.02, "Hours for Trading" remains unchanged.