# CBOE FUTURES EXCHANGE

February 7, 2012

#### Via Electronic Mail

Mr. David Stawick Secretary Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21st Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20581

# Re: <u>CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC Rule Certification</u> Submission Number CFE-2012-05

#### Dear Mr. Stawick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended ("Act"), and §40.6(a) of the regulations promulgated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Act, CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC ("CFE" or "Exchange") hereby submits a CFE rule amendment ("Amendment") to revise CFE Policy and Procedure IX, which sets forth CFE's Volatility Index Security Futures Lead Market Maker Program ("Program"). The Amendment revises the Market Performance Benchmark provision of the Program by increasing the minimum quote size that a Lead Market Maker shall provide throughout at least 95% of the trading day from 5 contracts to 50 contracts. The Exchange is making this change because the Volatility Index security futures covered by the Program will be rescaled on February 21, 2012 (from having a contract multiplier of \$1,000 to having a contract multiplier of \$100)<sup>1</sup> and, as a result, the Exchange is similarly rescaling the minimum quote size under the Market Performance Benchmark by a factor of 10. The Amendment will become effective on February 23, 2012.

CFE believes that the impact of the Amendment will be beneficial to the public and market participants. CFE is not aware of any substantive opposing views to the Amendment. CFE hereby certifies that the Amendment complies with the Act and the regulations thereunder. CFE further certifies that CFE has posted a notice of pending certification with the Commission and a copy of this submission on CFE's Web site (<u>http://cfe.cboe.com/aboutcfe/rules.aspx</u>) concurrent with the filing of this submission with the Commission.

The Amendment, marked to show additions in <u>underlined</u> text and deletions in [bracketed] text, consists of the following:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See CFE Submission Number CFE-2012-02 (submitted on February 3, 2012 to be effective on February 21, 2012).

# IX. Volatility Index Security Futures Lead Market Maker Program

Trading Privilege Holders ("TPHs") may apply to the Exchange for appointment as a lead market maker in a Volatility Index security futures contract. The specific Volatility Indexes on which the Exchange may list security futures are identified in CFE Rule 1601. This Volatility Index Lead Market Maker Program is in addition to the Security Futures Market Maker Program under CFE Policy and Procedure VII, and any lead market maker under the Volatility Index Lead Market Maker Program must also be a market maker under the Security Futures Market Maker Program.

The Exchange may approve one or more TPHs as lead market makers in the Volatility Index Lead Market Maker Program for one or more Volatility Index security futures contracts. Any TPH that desires to apply for lead market maker status in a Volatility Index security futures contract should submit an application in the form of a letter outlining the organization's qualifications and commitments. TPHs shall be selected by the Exchange based on the Exchange's judgment as to which applicants are most qualified to perform the functions of a lead market maker under the Program. Factors to be considered in making this selection may include, but are not limited to, satisfaction of the qualifications listed below as well as any one or more of the factors listed in CFE Rule 515(b), as applied to lead market maker applicants instead of with respect to DPM applicants.

The following describes the qualifications, market performance benchmarks, benefits, and appointment term under the Volatility Index Security Futures Lead Market Maker Program unless otherwise specified.

## **Qualifications**

- Experience in trading futures and/or options on volatility indexes.
- Ability to automatically and systemically provide quotations.

#### **Market Performance Benchmark**

- Throughout the trading day between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (or 3:15 p.m., as applicable), the TPH shall provide at least 95% of the time a 2-sided quote for a minimum of 5<u>0</u> contracts within a maximum width of \$0.20 in all contract months in the applicable Volatility Index security futures contract.
- The above market performance benchmark shall be subject to relief in the event of a fast market in the applicable Volatility Index security futures contract or the component options of the Volatility Index traded on CBOE or other extenuating circumstances or unusual market conditions to be determined solely by the Exchange. Under conditions as specified in the foregoing sentence, the TPH shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide a continuous quote and to respond to requests for a quote.

The Exchange may terminate, place conditions upon, or otherwise limit a TPH's appointment as a lead market maker under the Program if the TPH fails to satisfy the market performance benchmarks under the Program. However, failure of a TPH to satisfy the market performance benchmarks under the Program shall not be deemed a violation of Exchange rules.

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## **Benefits**

• Through December 31, 2012, the Exchange will maintain a revenue pool for each Volatility Index security futures contract equal to 20% of all transaction fees collected by the Exchange in that contract for TPHs appointed as lead maker makers under the Program in that contract. The revenue pool will be allocated monthly to TPHs appointed as lead market makers under the Program in the applicable Volatility Index security futures contract on a pro-rata basis based on the contract volume in that contract of those TPHs during the prior month resulting from quotes and resting orders provided by those TPHs. For purposes of the Program, a resting order is any order received by the CBOE System at least 3 seconds before its execution.

## <u>Term</u>

• The Program and each lead market maker appointment under the Program will expire on December 31, 2012. The Exchange may determine to extend the term of the Program and lead market maker appointments under the Program, allow the Program and lead market maker appointments under the Program to expire, terminate the Program and all lead market maker appointments under the Program at any time, or replace the Program with a different lead market maker maker program at any time.

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Questions regarding this submission may be directed to Arthur Reinstein at (312) 786-7570 or Jennifer Klebes at (312) 786-7466. Please reference our submission number CFE-2012-05 in any related correspondence.

CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC

By:

James F. Lubin Managing Director

cc: Riva Adriance (CFTC) Nancy Markowitz (CFTC) National Futures Association The Options Clearing Corporation