SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Amex LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Adopting the Text of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Rule 5210, Which Prohibits the Publication of Manipulative or Deceptive Quotations or Transactions, as NYSE Amex Equities Rule 5210

December 14, 2011.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),1 and Rule 19b–42 thereunder, and 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).3 The Exchange proposes to adopt the text of FINRA Rule 5210, which prohibits the publication of manipulative or deceptive quotations or transactions, as NYSE Amex Rule 5210.4

Background

On July 30, 2007, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”), and NYSE Regulation, Inc. (“NYSER”) consolidated their membership rules into a combined organization, FINRA, and entered into a Regulatory Services Agreement (“RSA”), under which FINRA agreed to perform certain regulatory functions of the Exchange on behalf of the Exchange. NYSE Amex became a party to the RSA effective December 15, 2008.5 On June 14, 2010, FINRA also assumed responsibility for performing the market surveillance and enforcement functions performed by NYSER. To facilitate FINRA’s performance of these enforcement functions and further harmonize the rules of FINRA and NYSE Amex, the Exchange is proposing to adopt the text of FINRA Rule 5210.6 FINRA Rule 5210 prohibits members from publishing or circulating, or causing to be published or circulated, any communication that purports to report any transaction as a purchase or sale of any security, unless such member believes that such transaction was a bona fide purchase or sale of such security. The Rule also prohibits members from publishing or circulating, or causing to be published or circulated, any communication that purports to quote the bid price or asked price for any security, unless the member believes that such quotation represents a bona fide bid for, or offer of, such security.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will strengthen FINRA’s ability to bring sanctions on behalf of the Exchange against a member organization for engaging in manipulative forms of quoting behavior, for example, quote stuffing and layering. FINRA Rule 5210 (formerly NASD Rule 3310 and IM 3310)7 was successfully used in the Acceptance, Waiver and Consent announced in September 2010 by FINRA against Trillium Brokerage Services and other individual Respondents.8 The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would augment FINRA’s ability on behalf of the Exchange to take action against manipulative quoting behavior on the Exchange.

2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),9 in general, and further the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),10 in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would provide an additional basis for bringing enforcement actions against Exchange member organizations that engage in deceptive and manipulative quoting activity. To the extent the Exchange has proposed changes that differ from the FINRA version of the Rules, such changes are technical in nature and do not change the substance of the FINRA Rule.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, does not impose any significant burden on competition, and, by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act10 and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.11

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver will allow FINRA to more effectively carry out its enforcement activities on behalf of the Exchange. Therefore, the Commission designates the proposal operative upon filing.12

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–NYSEAMEX–2011–93 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSEAMEX–2011–93. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used.

To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSEAMEX–2011–93, and should be submitted on or before January 12, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.13

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change To Adopt ICC’s Enhanced Margin Methodology

December 16, 2011.

I. Introduction

On November 4, 2011, ICE Clear Credit LLC (“ICC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change SR–ICC–2011–03 pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder.2 The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on November 10, 2011.3 The Commission received three comment letters regarding the proposal.4 For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is granting approval of the proposed rule change.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

This rule permits ICC to make certain modifications to its Risk Management Framework for clearing credit default swap (“CDS”) contracts. These modifications are collectively referred to as the “Portfolio Decomposition Model.” A fundamental aspect of ICC’s Portfolio Decomposition Model is the recognition that CDS contracts cleared by ICC referencing broad-based securities indices are essentially compositions of specific single-name CDS contracts. Under the Portfolio Decomposition Model, ICC would, among other things, decompose CDS contracts referencing broad-based

2 Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34–65699 (November 7, 2011), 76 FR 70206 (November 10, 2011). In its filing with the Commission, ICC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements is incorporated into the discussion of the proposed rule change in Section II below.

3 Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34–65699 (November 7, 2011), 76 FR 70206 (November 10, 2011). In its filing with the Commission, ICC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements is incorporated into the discussion of the proposed rule change in Section II below.