SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-75656; File No. SR-ICC-2015-014)

August 10, 2015

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Implement Single Name Backloading Incentive Program

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on July 30, 2015, ICE Clear Credit LLC ("ICC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by ICC. ICC filed the proposal pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>4</sup> thereunder, so that the proposal was effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to implement a single name backloading incentive program for client account clearing of single name credit default swap ("CDS") contracts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

## II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, ICC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. ICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

# A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The proposed rule change is intended to implement a single name backloading incentive program for client account clearing of single name CDS contracts. The proposed rule change is designed to incentivize market participants to submit additional transactions to ICC for clearing. Under the program, clients will receive a 50% discount on ICC clearing fees for backloaded single name CDS contracts. The discount will be paid back as a rebate directly through the client's Clearing Participant. ICC plans to begin processing program rebates on September 1, 2015, and the terms of the program are set to expire on December 1, 2015. Contracts must have an execution date prior to June 1, 2015 to be eligible for the rebate program.

ICC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act including Section 17A of the Act.<sup>5</sup> More specifically, the proposed rule change establishes or changes a member due, fee or other charge imposed by ICC under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii)<sup>6</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>7</sup> thereunder. ICC believes the proposed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC, in particular, to Section 17(A)(b)(3)(D), because the proposed fee changes apply equally to all market participants clearing backloaded single name CDS contracts in client accounts and therefore the proposed rule change provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among participants. As such, the proposed rule change is appropriately filed pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>9</sup> of the Act and paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.

#### B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

ICC does not believe the proposed rule change would have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition. The proposed rule change modifies pricing for client account clearing of single name CDS contracts. There is no limit to the number of client participants that may participate in the backloading incentive program; it will be open to all clients and rebates will be applied to all transaction fees for client accounts clearing eligible single name CDS contracts. As such, the proposed rule change applies consistently across all eligible market participants and the implementation of the proposed rule change does not preclude the implementation of similar incentive programs by other market participants. Therefore, ICC does not believe the proposed rule change imposes any burden on competition that is inappropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(D).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

### C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received. ICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by ICC.

### III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>10</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>11</sup> thereunder because the implementation of a single name backloading incentive program for client account clearing of single name CDS contracts results in changes which establish or change a due, fee, or other charge applicable to ICC's participants. 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

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

• Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-ICC-2015-014 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ICC-2015-014. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 website (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 website 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of ICE Clear Credit and on ICE Clear Credit's website at https://www.theice.com/clear-credit/regulation.

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 available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ICC-2015-014 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{12}$ 

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).