



May 8, 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: CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC Product Certification and Rule Certification
for CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index Futures Contract
Submission Number CFE-2012-10

Dear Mr. Stawick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (“Act”), and §40.2 and §40.6 of the regulations promulgated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Act, CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC (“CFE” or “Exchange”) hereby submits rules (“Rules”) and terms and conditions for a new product to be traded on CFE, which are attached hereto along with a chart that summarizes the product specifications. The new product is the CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index (“VXN”) futures contract (“Product”). The Product will be listed for trading on CFE commencing on May 23, 2012 and the Rules and terms and conditions for VXN futures will become effective on May 23, 2012.¹

The underlying index for the Product is the CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index (“VXN”). The VXN is based on real-time prices of options on the Nasdaq-100 Index (“NDX”) listed on Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“CBOE”) and is designed to reflect investors’ consensus view of future (30-day) expected market volatility of the NDX. The VXN calculation generally uses quotes of NDX option series from two nearby expiration months. Approximately 30 to 35 NDX option series are used to calculate the VXN at any given time. Information regarding the VXN, including the current methodology for computing the VXN, may be found on CBOE’s website at the following internet address: <http://www.cboe.com/micro/vxn>.

The VXN qualifies as a broad-based security index pursuant to the 2004 Joint Order issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“Commissions”) dated March 25, 2004 (Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49469) as amended by the 2009 Joint Order issued by the Commissions dated November 17, 2009 (Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61020) (“Joint Order”) in that:

- (1) The VXN measures the magnitude of changes in the level of the NDX over a defined period of time, which magnitude is calculated using prices of options on the NDX and represents an annualized standard deviation of percent changes in the level of the NDX;

¹ VXN futures were previously listed for trading on CFE from July 5, 2007 through February 19, 2009. See CFE Submission Numbers 2007-06 and 2008-09.

(2) The NDX is a broad-based security index and is not a narrow-based security index as that term is defined in Section 1(a)(25) of the Act and Section 3(a)(55) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”);

(3) The VXN has more than 9 component securities, all of which are options on the NDX;

(4) No component security of the VXN comprises more than 30% of the VXN’s weighing;

(5) The five highest weighted component securities of the VXN in the aggregate do not comprise more than 60% of the VXN’s weighting;

(6) CFE certifies that the NDX complies with the criteria set forth in condition (5) of the Joint Order;

(7) Options on the NDX are listed and traded on CBOE, a national securities exchange registered under Section 6 of the Exchange Act; and

(8) The aggregate average daily trading volume in options on the NDX on CBOE is approximately 31,202 contracts calculated as of the preceding 6 full months.

The rule chapter setting forth contract specifications for VXN futures will be Chapter 17.

CFE believes that the impact of the Product and Rules will be beneficial to the public and market participants. CFE is not aware of any substantive opposing views to the Product and Rules. CFE hereby certifies that the Product and Rules comply 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 (<http://cfe.cboe.com/aboutcfe/rules.aspx>) concurrent with the filing of this submission with the Commission.

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-2012-10 in any related correspondence.

CBOE Futures Exchange, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lubin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

By: James F. Lubin
Managing Director

cc: Philip Colling (CFTC)
Thomas Leahy (CFTC)
National Futures Association
The Options Clearing Corporation

Summary Product Specifications Chart for CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index Futures

CONTRACT NAME:	CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index (VXN) Futures
LISTING DATE:	May 23, 2012
DESCRIPTION:	The CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index is based on real-time prices of options on the Nasdaq-100 Index, listed on the Chicago Board Options Exchange (Symbol: NDX), and is designed to reflect investors' consensus view of future (30-day) expected market volatility of the Nasdaq-100 Index.
CONTRACT SIZE:	The contract multiplier for the VXN futures contract is \$1,000.
TRADING HOURS:	8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Chicago time.
TRADING PLATFORM:	CBOE <i>direct</i> .
CONTRACT MONTHS:	Up to nine near-term serial months and five months in the February quarterly cycle (February, May, August, November) may be listed for the VXN futures contract.
TICKER SYMBOLS:	Futures – VN Cash Index – VXN
PRICING CONVENTIONS:	Both futures prices and cash index levels are stated in decimal format.
MINIMUM PRICE INTERVALS:	0.05 of one CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index point (equal to \$50.00 per contract). 0.01 of one CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index point (equal to \$10.00 per contract) for spreads.
DOLLAR VALUE PER TICK:	\$50.00 per contract.
TERMINATION OF TRADING:	The close of trading on the day before the Final Settlement Date. When the last trading day is moved because of a CFE holiday, the last trading day for expiring VXN futures contracts will be the day immediately preceding the last regularly scheduled trading day.
FINAL SETTLEMENT DATE:	The Wednesday that is thirty days prior to the third Friday of the calendar month immediately following the month in which the contract expires ("Final Settlement Date"). If the third Friday of the month subsequent to expiration of the applicable VXN futures contract is a CBOE holiday, the Final Settlement Date for the contract shall be thirty days prior to the CBOE business day immediately preceding that Friday.
FINAL SETTLEMENT VALUE:	The final settlement value for VXN futures shall be a Special Opening Quotation ("SOQ") of VNX calculated from the sequence of opening prices on CBOE of the options used to calculate the index on the settlement date. The opening price for any series in which there is no trade shall be the average of that option's bid price and ask price on CBOE as determined at the opening of trading. The final settlement value will be rounded to the nearest \$0.01. If the final settlement value is not available or the normal settlement procedure cannot be utilized due to a trading disruption or other unusual circumstance, the final settlement value will be determined in accordance with the rules and bylaws of The Options Clearing Corporation.
DELIVERY:	Settlement of VXN futures contracts will result in the delivery of a cash settlement amount on the business day immediately

	following the Final Settlement Date. The cash settlement amount on the Final Settlement Date shall be the final mark to market amount against the final settlement value of the VXN futures contract multiplied by \$1,000.00.
POSITION LIMITS:	<p>A person may not own or control more than 5,000 contracts net long or net short in all contract months of a VXN futures contract combined.</p> <p>The foregoing position limit shall not apply to positions that are subject to a position limit exemption meeting the requirements of Commission Regulations and CFE Rules.</p>
MINIMUM REPORTABLE LEVEL:	200 or more contracts.

* * * * *

Rule Chapter Setting Forth Contract Specifications for CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index Futures

* * * * *

**CHAPTER 17
CBOE NASDAQ-100 VOLATILITY INDEX
FUTURES CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS**

1701. Scope of Chapter

This chapter applies to trading in futures on the CBOE Nasdaq-100 Volatility Index (“VXN”). The procedures for trading, clearing, settlement, and any other matters not specifically covered herein shall be governed by the generally applicable rules of the Exchange. After previously being listed for trading on the Exchange, VXN futures contracts were re-listed for trading on the Exchange commencing on May 23, 2012.

1702. Contract Specifications

(a) *Multiplier.* The contract multiplier for each VXN futures contract is \$1,000. For example, a contract size of one VXN futures contract would be \$21,000, if the VXN index level were 21 (21 x \$1,000.00).

(b) *Schedule.* The Exchange may list for trading up to nine near-term serial months and five months on the February quarterly cycle for the VXN futures contract. The final settlement date for the VXN futures contract shall be the Wednesday that is thirty days prior to the third Friday of the calendar month immediately following the month in which the applicable VXN futures contract expires. If the third Friday of the month subsequent to expiration of the applicable VXN futures contract is a CBOE holiday, the final settlement date for the contract shall be thirty days prior to the CBOE business day immediately preceding that Friday.

The trading days for VXN futures contracts shall be the same trading days of options on the Nasdaq-100 Index traded on CBOE, as those days are determined by CBOE.

The trading hours for VXN futures contracts are from 8:30 a.m. Chicago time to 3:15 p.m. Chicago time.

(c) *Minimum Increments.* Except as provided in the following sentence, the minimum fluctuation of the VXN futures contract is 0.05 index points, which has a value of \$50.00.

The individual legs and net prices of spread trades in the VXN futures contract may be in increments of 0.01 index points, which has a value of \$10.00.

(d) *Position Limits.* A person may not own or control more than 5,000 contracts net long or net short in all contract months of a VXN futures contract combined.

For the purposes of this rule, the positions of all accounts directly or indirectly owned or controlled by a person or persons, and the positions of all accounts of a person or persons

acting pursuant to an expressed or implied agreement or understanding shall be cumulated.

The foregoing position limit shall not apply to positions that are subject to a position limit exemption meeting the requirements of Commission Regulations and CFE Rules.

(e) *Termination of Trading.* Trading in VXN futures contracts terminates on the business day immediately preceding the final settlement date of the VXN futures contract for the relevant spot month. When the last trading day is moved because of a CFE holiday, the last trading day for an expiring VXN futures contract will be the day immediately preceding the last regularly-scheduled trading day.

(f) *Contract Modifications.* Specifications are fixed as of the first day of trading of a contract. If any U.S. government agency or body issues an order, ruling, directive or law that conflicts with the requirements of these rules, such order, ruling, directive or law shall be construed to take precedence and become part of these rules, and all open and new contracts shall be subject to such government orders.

(g) *Execution Priorities.* Pursuant to Rule 406(a)(i), the base allocation method of price-time priority shall apply to trading in VXN futures contracts.

(h) *Crossing Two Original Orders.* The eligible size for an original Order that may be entered for a cross trade with another original Order pursuant to Rule 407 is one Contract. The request for quote response period under Rule 407(a) for the request for quote required to be sent before the initiation of a cross trade under Rule 407 is five seconds. Following the request for quote response period, the Trading Privilege Holder or Authorized Trader, as applicable, must expose to the market for at least five seconds under Rule 407(b) at least one of the original Orders that it intends to cross.

(i) *Price Limits and Circuit Breaker Halts.* Pursuant to Rule 413, VXN futures contracts are not subject to price limits.

Trading in VXN futures contracts shall be halted whenever a market-wide trading halt commonly known as a circuit breaker is in effect on the New York Stock Exchange in response to extraordinary market conditions.

(j) *Exchange of Contract for Related Position.* Exchange of Contract for Related Position transactions, as set forth in Rule 414, may be entered into with respect to VXN futures contracts. Any Exchange of Contract for Related Position transaction must satisfy the requirements of Rule 414.

(k) *Block Trades.* Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(i), the minimum Block Trade quantity for the VXN futures contract is 100 contracts if there is only one leg involved in the trade. If the Block Trade is executed as a spread order, one leg must meet the minimum Block Trade quantity for the VXN futures contract and the other leg(s) must have a contract size that is reasonably related to the leg meeting the minimum Block Trade quantity.

(l) *No-Bust Range.* Pursuant to Rule 416, the CFE error trade policy may only be invoked for a trade price that is greater than 10% on either side of the market price of the applicable VXN futures contract. In accordance with Policy and Procedure III, the Help Desk will determine what the true market price for the relevant Contract was immediately

before the potential error trade occurred. In making that determination, the Help Desk may consider all relevant factors, including the last trade price for such Contract, a better bid or offer price, a more recent price in a different contract month and the prices of related contracts trading on the Exchange and other markets.

(m) *Pre-execution Discussions.* The Order Exposure Period under Policy and Procedure IV before an Order may be entered to take the other side of another Order with respect to which there has been pre-execution discussions is three seconds after the first Order was entered into the CBOE System. If no bid or offer price exist in the relevant VXN futures contract, the RFQ Response Period under Policy and Procedure IV that must elapse following the request for quote that is required to be sent prior to the entry of the first Order is five seconds.

(n) *Reportable Position.* Pursuant to Commission Regulation §15.03 and Commission Regulation Part 17, the position level that is required to be reported to the Commission is any open position in VXN futures contracts at the close of trading on any trading day equal to or in excess of 200 contracts on either side of the market.

(o) *Threshold Widths.* For purposes of Policy and Procedure I and Policy and Procedure II, the Threshold Widths for the VXN futures contract are as follows:

VXN Index Level	Threshold Width
1 – 100	20
100 – 200	50
200 – 10000	100

The minimum size of bids and offers that establish a Threshold Width is one contract.

(p) *Daily Settlement Price.* The daily settlement price for each VXN futures contract will be the average of the final bid and final offer for the VXN futures contract at the close of trading, subject to the following. If the average of the final bid and final offer is not at a minimum increment for the VXN futures contract, the daily settlement price shall be the average of the final bid and final offer rounded up to the nearest minimum increment. If there is no bid or offer at the close of trading, the Exchange may in its sole discretion establish a daily settlement price that it deems to be a fair and reasonable reflection of the market.

(q) *Trade at Settlement Transactions.* Trade at Settlement (“TAS”) transactions are not permitted in VXN futures.

1703. Settlement

Settlement of VXN futures contracts will result in the delivery of a cash settlement amount on the business day immediately following the settlement date. The cash settlement amount on the final settlement date shall be the final mark to market amount against the final settlement price of the VXN futures contract multiplied by \$1,000.00. The final settlement price of the VXN futures contract will be rounded to the nearest \$0.01.

Clearing Members holding open positions in VXX futures contracts at the termination of trading in that Contract shall make payment to or receive payment from the Clearing Corporation in accordance with normal variation and performance bond procedures based on the final settlement amount.

If the settlement value is not available or the normal settlement procedure cannot be utilized due to a trading disruption or other unusual circumstance, the settlement value will be determined in accordance with the Rules and By-Laws of The Options Clearing Corporation.