

**THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC
NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AWC**

Certified, Return Receipt Requested

**TO: Interactive Brokers LLC
Mr. Scott M. Litvinoff
Chief Regulatory Counsel & Associate General Counsel
2200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 280E
Washington, DC 20037**

**FROM: The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq")
c/o Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")
Department of Market Regulation
9509 Key West Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850**

DATE: May 23, 2017

RE: Notice of Acceptance of Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent No. 20120347730-02

Please be advised that your above-referenced Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") has been accepted on **May 23, 2017** by the Nasdaq Review Council's Review Subcommittee, or by the Office of Disciplinary Affairs on behalf of the Nasdaq Review Council, pursuant to Nasdaq Rule 9216. A copy of the AWC is enclosed herewith.

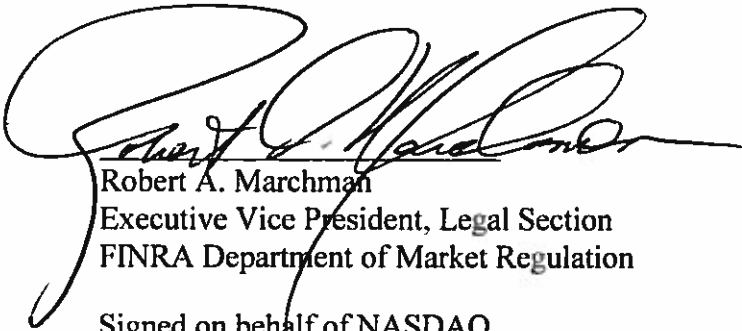
You are again reminded of your obligation, if currently registered, immediately to update your Uniform Application for Broker-Dealer Registration ("Form BD") to reflect the conclusion of this disciplinary action. Additionally, you must also notify FINRA (or NASDAQ if you are not a member of FINRA) in writing of any change of address or other changes required to be made to your Form BD.

You are reminded that Section I of the attached Letter of Acceptance, Waiver, and Consent includes an undertaking. In accordance with the terms of the AWC, a registered principal of the firm is required to notify the Compliance Assistant, Legal Section, Market Regulation Department, 9509 Key West Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, of completion of the undertaking.

You will be notified by the Registration and Disclosure Department regarding sanctions if a suspension has been imposed and by NASDAQ's Finance Department regarding the payment of any fine if a fine has been imposed.

Interactive Brokers LLC
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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jason Harman, Senior Counsel, at 646-430-7046.



Robert A. Marchman
Executive Vice President, Legal Section
FINRA Department of Market Regulation
Signed on behalf of NASDAQ

Enclosure

FINRA District 11 – Boston
Michael Solomon
Senior Vice President and Regional Director

**THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20120347730-02**

TO: The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
c/o Department of Market Regulation
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: Interactive Brokers LLC, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 36418

Pursuant to Rule 9216 of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or the "Exchange") Code of Procedure, Interactive Brokers LLC ("IBKR" or the "Firm") submits this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, Nasdaq will not bring any future actions against the firm alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. The firm hereby accepts and consents, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of Nasdaq, or to which Nasdaq is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by Nasdaq:

BACKGROUND

IBKR is a Connecticut limited liability company with its principal place of business located in Greenwich, Connecticut. The Firm acts as an agency broker-dealer, providing market access, execution, and clearing services to market participants ("Market Access Customers") for a wide variety of electronically traded products, including stocks, options, futures, forex, bonds, and funds worldwide.

The Firm has been registered with Nasdaq since July 12, 2006, and FINRA since January 6, 1995, and its registrations remain in effect.

RELEVANT PRIOR DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

1. In April 2013 the Firm was fined a total of \$82,500 and issued an undertaking in two related matters for its failure to adequately supervise customer trading for potentially manipulative activity, including wash sales, pre-arranged trades and marking-the-close, during the periods of December 1, 2009 through May 17, 2010, and October 8, 2010 through March 18, 2011, in violation of NASD Rule 3010, FINRA Rule 2010, and NASDAQ Rules 2110 and 3010. See FINRA

Matter No. 20100234784 (April 5, 2013)(Firm fined \$57,500); *and* NASDAQ Matter No. 20110274228 (April 5, 2013)(Firm fined \$25,000).

SUMMARY

2. In Matter No. 20130358268, the Trading and Financial Compliance Examination (“TFCE”) Section (formerly TMMS) of FINRA’s Department of Market Regulation (“Market Regulation”) conducted reviews of Clearly Erroneous Executions (“CEEs”) during 2013, and the Firm’s compliance with Rule 15c3-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“SEA”) (the “Market Access Rule”).¹
3. In Matter No. 20140399418, the TFCE Section of Market Regulation conducted reviews of CEEs during 2014, and the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule.
4. In Matter No. 20140411121, the Market Analysis Section of Market Regulation conducted reviews of CEEs that occurred on the Exchange between April 30, 2014 and December 18, 2014, and the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule.
5. In Matter No. 20150448964, the Market Analysis Section of Market Regulation conducted reviews of CEEs that occurred on the Exchange between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, and the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule.
6. In Matter No. 20130392978, the Chicago Equities Section of Market Regulation conducted reviews of potentially violative or manipulative trading activity by IBKR customers that occurred on the Exchange between August 1, 2013 and July 30, 2015, and the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule.
7. In Matter No. 20140407291, the Chicago Equities Section of Market Regulation conducted reviews of potentially violative or manipulative trading activity by IBKR customers that occurred on the Exchange between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2015, and the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule.
8. The above matters, as well as Matter No. 20120347730, were part of investigations conducted by Market Regulation on behalf of the Exchange and other self-regulatory organizations, including Bats BZX Exchange, Inc., Bats EDGA Exchange, Inc., Bats EDGX Exchange, Inc., and NYSE Arca, Inc. (collectively, the “SROs”), that reviewed the Firm’s compliance with the Market Access Rule and the supervisory rules of the SROs, including Nasdaq Rules 3010

¹ The SEC adopted Rule 15c3-5 effective July 14, 2011. See 17 C.F.R. § 240.15c3-5, *Risk Management Controls for Brokers or Dealers with Market Access*, 75 Fed. Reg. 69792, 69792 (Nov. 15, 2010) (Final Rule Release).

and 2010A, during the period of January 1, 2013 through at least January 31, 2016 (the "Review Period").

9. As a result of Market Regulation's investigations, it was determined that, during the Review Period, IBKR failed to establish, document, and maintain a system of risk management controls and supervisory procedures, including written supervisory procedures and an adequate system of follow-up and review, reasonably designed to manage the financial, regulatory, and other risks of its market access business.
10. Specifically, from January 1, 2013 through at least January 31, 2016, the Firm failed to establish, document, and maintain a system of risk management controls and supervisory procedures reasonably designed to prevent the entry of erroneous orders by rejecting orders that exceed appropriate price or size parameters, in violation of SEA Rules 15c3-5(b) and (c)(1)(ii), and Nasdaq Rules 3010 and 2010A.
11. In addition, from July 1, 2013 through at least December 31, 2015, the Firm failed to establish, document, and maintain a system of risk management controls and supervisory procedures reasonably designed to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements, including supervising customer trading to detect and prevent potentially violative and manipulative activity, in violation of SEA Rules 15c3-5(b) and (c)(2), and Nasdaq Rules 3010 and 2010A.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

12. During the Review Period, SEA Rule 15c3-5(b) required broker-dealers that provide market access to establish, document, and maintain a system of risk management controls and supervisory procedures reasonably designed to manage the financial, regulatory, and other risks of their market access business.²
13. During the Review Period, SEA Rule 15c3-5(c)(1)(ii) specifically required market access broker-dealers to have financial risk management controls and supervisory procedures reasonably designed to prevent the entry of erroneous orders, by rejecting orders that exceed appropriate price or size parameters, on an order-by-order basis or over a short period of time, or that indicate duplicative orders.
14. During the Review Period, SEA Rule 15c3-5(c)(2) specifically required market access broker-dealers to have regulatory risk management controls and supervisory procedures reasonably designed to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements.

² Rule 15c3-5 requires that, as gatekeepers to the financial markets, broker-dealers providing market access must "appropriately control the risks associated with market access so as not to jeopardize their own financial condition, that of other market participants, the integrity of trading on the securities markets, and the stability of the financial system." 17 C.F.R. § 240.15c3-5, 75 Fed. Reg. 69792, 69792 (Nov. 15, 2010).

15. Rule 15c3-5 requires, among other things, that a broker-dealer with market access document its system of risk management controls and supervisory procedures that are designed to manage the financial, regulatory, and other risks of market access. The broker-dealer must preserve a copy of its supervisory procedures and “a written description of its risk management controls” as part of its books and records for the time period required by SEC Rule 17a-4(e)(7) (emphasis added).³ The required written description is intended, among other things, to assist SEC and SRO staff to assess the broker-dealer’s compliance with the rule. Exchange Act Release No. 34-63241, 75 Fed. Reg. 69792, 69812 (Nov. 15, 2010).
16. During the Review Period, Nasdaq Rule 3010(a) required, among other things, that each member firm to “establish and maintain a system to supervise the activities of each . . . associated person[,]” and that such system must be “reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations and with applicable Nasdaq Rules.”
17. During the Review Period, Nasdaq Rule 2010A provided that member firms, in the conduct of their business, shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade.

IBKR Systems

18. During the Review Period, IBKR was a significant market access provider, acting as the gateway to U.S. securities markets and executing nearly 1 million trades per day for its Market Access Customers.
19. During the Review Period, all IBKR customer orders were entered into the Firm’s gateway to the Firm’s order management and routing systems, which applied certain rate-limit filters to all incoming orders. The orders were then checked against a number of credit and capital criteria, and if the orders passed these criteria, they were sent to the Firm’s order routing system.
20. The order routing system applied certain pre-trade controls prior to routing an order to a market center, including price, size/quantity, and anti-wash-trade controls. The order routing system then routed customer orders to the appropriate market center(s) via the Firm’s exchange gateways, which applied an additional layer of filters, including price, size/quantity and rate limits.⁴

³ See 17 C.F.R. § 240.15c3-5(b). Rule 17a-4(e)(7) requires a broker-dealer to maintain and preserve such description “until three years after the termination of the use of” the document. See 17 C.F.R. § 240.17a-4(e)(7).

⁴ The exchange gateways also prevent the entry of orders that exceed a maximum gross value of all orders they expect to execute on a particular market based on historical transaction levels.

Pre-Trade Erroneous Order Controls

21. Notwithstanding the pre-trade controls the Firm had during the Review Period, in multiple instances during this approximately three year period, IBKR failed to prevent the transmission of erroneous customer equity orders to the SROs due to inadequate risk management controls and supervisory procedures, resulting in 81 Clearly Erroneous Execution (CEE) events on 64 trade dates, including 13 CEEs filed on the Exchange.

Pre-trade Price Controls

22. Although the Firm implemented a number of pre-trade price controls to prevent the entry of erroneous orders during the Review Period,⁵ IBKR's pre-trade price controls were inadequate. For instance, of the 81 CEEs, at least 38 were more than 10% away from the market at the time of order entry.
23. There were several primary deficiencies in IBKR's pre-trade price controls. First, prior to April 2014, IBKR did not have any pre-trade price control for orders entered outside of regular market hours when typically there is no last sale or NBBO to use as a reference price. In addition, prior to November 2014 there were gaps in the application of the Firm's pre-trade price controls outside of regular trading hours. In fact, 73 of the 81 CEEs at issue in this matter were executed outside of regular market hours, the majority in excess of 15% away from the prevailing market.
24. For example, on October 1, 2014, IBKR's controls did not prevent the entry of a pre-open order to buy 40,000 shares of a security at a price of \$1.20/share. The market at the time was \$.14-\$1.20 and IBKR's customer erroneously entered a bid of \$1.20, rather than \$.12. The Firm's pre-trade price controls did not block the entry of the order or cap its price because there had not been any executions at the time and the controls did not reference the prior day's closing price. As a result, 15,000 shares were executed at a price of \$0.7322, which moved the price of the security 423%, and led to the filing of a CEE and four trades being busted.
25. Second, the Firm's pre-trade price controls as designed did not reasonably prevent, on an order by order basis, the entry of erroneous orders to the market. IBKR's pre-trade price controls re-price or "cap" limit orders to prices that are within a certain percentage of the current market or prior close based upon defined parameters⁶ and submit such orders to an Exchange or ATS. However, the Firm did not provide a mechanism by which to ensure that a re-priced or

⁵ The controls were designed to cap orders to a price within a certain percentage or distance of the current market, *i.e.*, generally, the last sale and/or National Best Bid and Offer ("NBBO").

⁶ IBKR's pre-trade price controls do not re-price or cap orders to prices that are inferior to the limit price the customer entered.

capped order fit within a customer's intended limit price, by confirming with the customer whether the new price of the order was intended or acceptable and thus was not erroneous. As a result, IBKR's pre-trade price controls still permitted certain potentially erroneous orders to enter the market.

Pre-trade Size Controls

26. In November 2012, the Firm implemented pre-trade size controls to prevent the entry of erroneous orders, which included an order size filter. However, during the Review Period, prior to August 2016, these pre-trade size controls were inadequate as the parameters for the order size filter were too wide to effectively prevent erroneously entered orders for securities that were not actively traded as the controls failed to take into account the individual characteristic of the securities, such as the average daily trade volume ("ADTV").

Written Supervisory Procedures for Erroneous Orders

27. In addition, prior to at least December 31, 2014, the Firm's written supervisory procedures failed to provide for the supervisory steps and reviews to be taken by the appropriate supervisor when conducting reviews of the Firm's pre-trade price or size controls to prevent the entry of erroneous orders.
28. The acts, practices, and conduct described above in paragraphs 18 through 27 constitute violations of SEA Rules 15c3-5(b) and (c)(1)(ii), and Nasdaq Rules 3010 and 2010A.

Supervision of Customer Trading

29. Although at various points during the Review Period IBKR implemented a series of post-trade surveillance reports and reviews to monitor customer trading activity to detect and prevent potentially violative or manipulative trading activity, including for wash trades, pre-arranged trading, layering⁷ or spoofing,⁸ marking the close, insider trading, and MOC/LOC activity, IBKR failed to adequately

⁷ Layering is a manipulative trading tactic designed to induce other market participants into executing trades at artificial prices. Layering generally involves, but is not limited to, a pattern in which multiple, non-bona fide (*i.e.* not intended to be executed) limit orders are entered on one side of the market in a stock at various price levels, which creates the appearance of a change in the supply and demand of the security, thereby moving the price. At or around the same time, the trader enters one or more orders for execution on the opposite side of the market; upon execution of some or all of those orders (in full or in part), any open non-bona fide orders are immediately cancelled. The activity is often then repeated on the opposite side of the market.

⁸ Spoofing is also a manipulative trading tactic designed to induce other market participants into executing trades at artificial prices. Spoofing generally involves, but is not limited to, a trading pattern in which multiple, non-bona fide limit orders are entered, thereby triggering some type of market movement and/or response from another market participant, combined with the entry of one or more orders for execution on the opposite side of the market. Upon execution of some or all of those orders, any open non-bona fide orders are cancelled.

supervise its customers' trading to detect and prevent certain kinds of potentially violative activity over a span of approximately two and one-half years.

30. There were several identified deficiencies with certain of IBKR's surveillance reports and reviews. To begin with, prior to July 30, 2015, the Firm had no specific, dedicated surveillance reports or reviews specifically designed to detect unusual patterns of cancellations, including spoofing or layering. For example, between August 2013 and October 2014, potentially violative spoofing activity was identified to have occurred in 10 symbols over 9 trade dates involving a combination of illiquid securities, execution prices away from the NBBO, odd-lot orders and executions, and round-trips that left the initial buyer flat.⁹
31. In addition, as of December 31, 2015, the Firm did not have any surveillance reports or reviews, such as an ADTV filter, specifically designed to detect unusual price and/or volume activity in thinly traded securities which could be indicative of manipulative trading. For example, Staff reviewed 32 instances of potential pre-arranged trading between an IBKR customer located in China and two customers of another broker-dealer in 5 symbols on 4 trade dates in July and August 2013. The trades appeared coordinated, with IBKR's customer consistently entering hidden orders in illiquid securities during the post-core trading session, at unusually high or low prices outside the ranges observed during core sessions, in close proximity with orders entered by the other participants. IBKR's systems did not detect this activity.
32. Finally, as of December 31, 2015, the Firm's marking the close surveillance was deficient. IBKR's surveillance detected executions in thinly traded stocks within the last 20 minutes of a security's close over rolling periods of days. However, because the surveillance was designed to detect only patterns of potential marking activity and was not designed to also capture instances of such activity on key individual trade dates (*e.g.*, month-end, quarter-end, year-end, etc.), IBKR's surveillance was inadequate.
33. The acts, practices, and conduct described above in paragraphs 29 through 32 constitute violations of SEA Rules 15c3-5(b) and (c)(2), and Nasdaq Rules 3010 and 2010A.

B. The Firm also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

1. A censure;
2. A fine in the amount of \$450,000, of which \$155,000 is payable to Nasdaq,¹⁰ and

⁹ Because the Exchange lacked jurisdiction over the individual persons or entities responsible for the underlying trading activity, Staff referred all of the conduct to the SEC for further review.

¹⁰ The balance of the sanction will be paid to the self-regulatory organizations listed in Paragraph B.4.

3. An undertaking requiring the Firm to address the Market Access Rule deficiencies described in this AWC and to ensure that it has implemented controls and procedures that are reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the rules and regulations cited herein.
 - a. Within 90 days of the date of this AWC, IBKR shall submit to the COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT, LEGAL SECTION, MARKET REGULATION DEPARTMENT, 9509 KEY WEST AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850, a written report, certified by a senior management Firm executive, to MarketRegulationComp@finra.org that provides the following information: (i) a reference to this matter; (ii) a representation that the Firm has addressed the deficiencies described above; and (iii) the date this was completed.
 - b. The Department of Market Regulation may, upon a showing of good cause and in its sole discretion, extend the time for compliance with these provisions.
4. Acceptance of this AWC is conditioned upon acceptance of similar settlement agreements in related matters between IBKR and each of the following self-regulatory organizations: Bats BZX Exchange, Inc., Bats EDGA Exchange, Inc., Bats EDGX Exchange, Inc., and NYSE Arca.

The Firm agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) in accordance with its executed Election of Payment Form.

The Firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that it is unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction(s) imposed in this matter.

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

The Firm specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under Nasdaq's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Formal Complaint issued specifying the allegations against it;
- B. To be notified of the Formal Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and

- D. To appeal any such decision to the Nasdaq Review Council and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, the Firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudice of the Chief Regulatory Officer, the Nasdaq Review Council, or any member of the Nasdaq Review Council, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

The Firm further specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

The Firm understands that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by FINRA's Department of Market Regulation and the Nasdaq Review Council, the Review Subcommittee, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to Nasdaq Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against the Firm; and
- C. If accepted:
1. This AWC will become part of the Firm's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by Nasdaq or any other regulator against the Firm;
 2. Nasdaq may release this AWC or make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with Nasdaq Rule 8310 and IM-8310-3; and
 3. The Firm may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. The Firm may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of Nasdaq, or to which Nasdaq is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects the Firm's right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which Nasdaq is not a party.

- D. The Firm may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. The Firm understands that it may not deny the charges or make any statement that is inconsistent with the AWC in this Statement. This Statement does not constitute factual or legal findings by Nasdaq, nor does it reflect the views of Nasdaq or its staff.

The undersigned, on behalf of the Firm, certifies that a person duly authorized to act on its behalf has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that it has agreed to the AWC's provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce the firm to submit it.

03/22/2017
Date

Interactive Brokers LLC, Respondent

By: 
Name: SCOTT M LITVINOFF

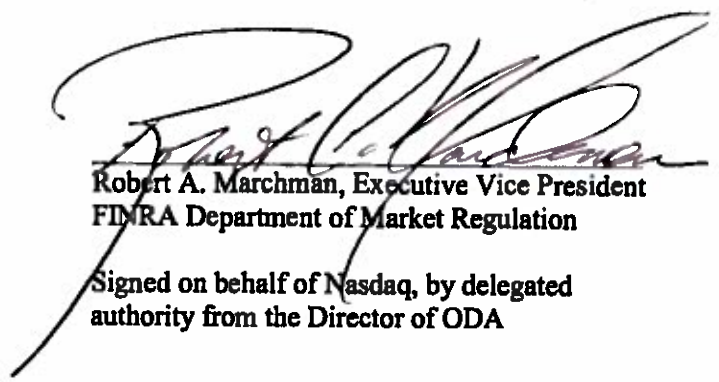
Title: Chief Regulatory Counsel &
Associate General Counsel

Reviewed by:


Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by Nasdaq:

5/23/17
Date


Robert A. Marchman, Executive Vice President
FINRA Department of Market Regulation

Signed on behalf of Nasdaq, by delegated
authority from the Director of ODA

ELECTION OF PAYMENT FORM

The Firm intends to pay the fine proposed in the attached Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent by the following method (check one):

- A firm check or bank check for the full amount;
- Wire transfer;

13/22/2017
Date

Respectfully submitted,

Respondent Interactive Brokers LLC

By: 

Name: SCOTT M LITVINOFF

Title: Chief Regulatory Counsel &
Associate General Counsel

Billing and Payment Contact

Please enter the billing contact information below. Nasdaq MarketWatch will contact you with billing options and payment instructions. **Please DO NOT submit payment until Nasdaq has sent you an invoice.**

Billing Contact Name: Arnold & Feist

Billing Contact Address: One Pickwick Plaza, Greenwich, CT 06830

Billing Contact Email: afeist@interactivebrokers.com

Billing Contact Phone Number: (203) 618-5882