

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

Certified, Return Receipt Requested

**TO: Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
Michael B. Radest
Chief Compliance Officer
101 S. Tryon Street
NC1-002-17-66
Charlotte, NC 28255**

**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: June 1, 2012

RE: Notice of Acceptance of Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent No. 20090189588-01

Please be advised that your above-referenced Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") has been accepted 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 will be notified by the Registration and Disclosure Department regarding sanctions, and NASDAQ's Finance Department will send you an invoice regarding the payment of any fine.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated
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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Joel S. Vengrin, Counsel,
at (240) 386-6814.



Thomas R. Gira
Executive Vice President
Department of Market Regulation, FINRA

Signed on behalf of NASDAQ

Enclosure

FINRA District 10 – New York
Michael Solomon
Regional Director
One World Financial Center
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281

Edward S. Knight, Chief Regulatory Officer
The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
9600 Blackwell Road
Rockville, MD 20850

FINRA

THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20090189588-01

2012 APR 17 AM 11:35

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

RE: Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 7691

Pursuant to Rule 9216 of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") Code of Procedure, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLCO" 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

The firm became a member of FINRA in 1937 and a member of Nasdaq in 2006, and its registration remains in effect. The firm has no relevant disciplinary history.

SUMMARY

In connection with matter 20090189588, the staff of the Market Making Analysis Section of the Department of Market Regulation reviewed on behalf of Nasdaq the firm's compliance with rules regarding locked and crossed markets during the period January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008 (the "review period").

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

1. During the review period, the firm failed to reasonably avoid displaying and engaged in a pattern or practice of displaying quotations that locked or crossed a protected quotation, in that, it entered intermarket sweep orders into the Nasdaq Single Book Execution System that locked or crossed a quotation previously disseminated pursuant to an effective national market system plan and failed to simultaneously route an intermarket sweep order to execute against the full displayed size of the locked or crossed protected quote. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of Nasdaq Rules 4613(e) and 4755(a)(4).

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

A censure and a \$12,500 fine.

The firm agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment(s) are due and payable. Nasdaq will send the firm an invoice for the full amount of the monetary sanction.

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 Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against the firm;
- B. To be notified of the 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. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in response to public inquiries about the firm's disciplinary record;
 3. Nasdaq may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with Nasdaq Rule 8310 and IM-8310-3; and

4. 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 firm certifies that it 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.

April 14, 2012

Date

Respondent

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

By: Michael B. Radez

Name: MICHAEL B. RADEZ

Title: CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Reviewed by:

Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by Nasdaq:

6/11/12

Date

Thomas R. Gira

Thomas R. Gira
Executive Vice President
Department of Market Regulation

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