### Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

OMB Number: 3235-0045 Expires: August 31, 2011 Estimated average burden hours per response......38

OMB APPROVAL

Page 1 of * 19	WASHING	EXCHANGE COMMISSIC GTON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4	Amendment No. (req. for	SR - 2011 - * 036 Amendments *)	
Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority					
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934					
Initial * Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section 19(b)(3)(A) *  Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *	
Pilot Extension of Time Per for Commission Action	1)ata Evnirac *		19b-4(f)(1)		
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document					
Description Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).  Amend FINRA Rule 2360 to Increase the Position Limit for Options on the Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust					
Contact Information  Provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change.					
First Name * Kathryn		Last Name * Moore			
Title * Assistant General Counsel					
E-mail * kathryn.moore@finra.org  Telephone * (202) 974-2974					
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  has duly caused this filling to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized officer.  Date 07/29/2011					
By Stephanie Dumont			Director of Capital Market	S	
(Name *)		Policy			
	l	(7	Fitle *)		
NOTE: Clicking the button at right will this form. A digital signature is as leg- signature, and once signed, this form of	ally binding as a physical	Stephanie	Dumont,		

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information (required) clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove View proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing (required) as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Add Remove View Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be Add Remove View considered part of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if View the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

## 1. <u>Text of Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend FINRA Rule 2360 (Options), Supplementary Material .03 to increase the position limit for options on the Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust ("SPY").

Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **2360.** Options

(a) through (c) No Change.

### • • • Supplementary Material: -----

.01 though .02 No Change.

## .03 Position Limits for Exchange-Traded Funds

(a) In accordance with Rule 2360(b)(3)(A)(vi), FINRA may fix the position limit for one or more classes or series of options. The position limits applicable to option contracts on the securities listed in the chart below are as follows:

<b>Security Underlying Option</b>	Position Limit
The DIAMONDS Trust (DIA)	300,000 contracts
The Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust (SPY)	[3] <u>9</u> 00,000 contracts

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

The iShares Russell 2000 Index Fund (IWM)	500,000 contracts
The PowerShares QQQ Trust (QQQQ)	900,000 contracts

(b) through (c) No Change.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

## 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change has been approved by the General Counsel of FINRA (or his officer designee) pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

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

(a) Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend FINRA Rule 2360,
Supplementary Material .03 to increase the position limit applicable to options on the
Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust, which trade under the symbol SPY, from

300,000 to 900,000 contracts<sup>2</sup> to conform to a recent rule change by other self-regulatory organizations<sup>3</sup> as well as the reasons discussed below.

Currently, SPY options have a position limit of only 300,000 contracts on the same side of the market while Power Shares QQQ Trust, based on the Nasdaq 100 Index<sup>®</sup> ("QQQ") options, which are comparable to SPY options but have lesser volume,<sup>4</sup> have a position limit of 900,000 contracts on the same side of the market. Given the high volume and continuous demand for trading SPY options, FINRA believes that the current position limit of 300,000 contracts is inadequate, and that such options should, like options on QQQ, have a position limit of 900,000 contracts.

The position limit on SPY options has remained flat for more than five years, despite the options being the most actively traded options for the last two years, and is no longer sufficient for optimal trading and hedging purposes. SPY options are used by large

The exercise limits on SPY options set forth in FINRA Rule 2360(b)(4), which is not amended by this filing, but which incorporate by reference options position limits, would correspondingly increase to 900,000 contracts.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64695 (June 17, 2011) 76 FR 36942 (June 23, 2011) (SEC order approving File No. SR-Phlx-2011-58); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64760 (June 28, 2011) 76 FR 39143 (July 5, 2011) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-ISE-2011-34); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64928 (July 20, 2011) (File No. SR-CBOE-2011-065); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64966 (July 26, 2011) (File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2011-50); and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64945 (July 21, 2011) (File No. SR-NYSEArca-2011-47).

For example, options on SPYs, the most actively traded options in the U.S. in terms of volume, traded a total of 33,341,698 contracts across all exchanges from March 1, 2011 through March 16, 2011. In contrast, over the same time period options on the QQQ traded a total of 8,730,718 contracts (less than 26.2% of the volume of options on SPYs). In addition, for 2010, options on SPY had an average daily trading volume of 3.63 million contracts, while options on QQQs had an average daily trading volume of 963,502. See supra note 3 PHLX rule filing, at 36942.

institutions and traders as a means to invest in or hedge the overall direction of the market. The restrictive option position limit prevents large customers, such as mutual funds and pension funds, from using options to gain meaningful exposure to, and hedging protection through the use of, SPY options. Restrictive options position limits also can result in lost liquidity in both the options market and the equity market. The proposed position limit increase will remedy this situation to the benefit of large as well as retail traders, investors, and public customers. FINRA also believes that increasing position and exercise limits for SPY options would lead to a more liquid and competitive market environment that would benefit customers interested in this product.

In addition, FINRA believes that the options on SPY position and exercise limits, at their current levels, no longer serve their stated purpose. There has been a steadfast and significant increase over the last decade in the overall volume of exchange-traded options; position limits, however, have not kept up with the volume. Part of this volume is attributable to a corresponding increase in the number of overall market participants, which has, in turn, brought about additional depth and increased liquidity in exchange-traded options.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> 

The Commission has previously observed that: "Since the inception of standardized options trading, the options exchanges have had rules imposing limits on the aggregate number of options contracts that a member or customer could hold or exercise. These rules are intended to prevent the establishment of options positions that can be used or might create incentives to manipulate or disrupt the underlying market so as to benefit the options position. In particular, position and exercise limits are designed to minimize the potential for minimanipulations and for corners or squeezes of the underlying market. In addition such limits serve to reduce the possibility for disruption of the options market itself, especially in illiquid options classes." See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39489 (December 24, 1997), 63 FR 276, 278 (January 5, 1998) (File No. SR-CBOE-97-11) (order approving increased OEX position and exercise limits).

FINRA believes that the existing surveillance procedures and reporting requirements at FINRA,<sup>6</sup> the options exchanges, and at the several clearing firms are capable of properly identifying unusual and/or illegal trading activity. These procedures use daily monitoring of market movements by automated surveillance techniques to identify unusual activity in both options and underlying stocks.<sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, large stock holdings must be disclosed to the Commission by way of Schedules 13D or 13G.<sup>8</sup> Options positions are part of any reportable positions and cannot legally be hidden. Moreover, the previously noted Rule 2360(b)(5) requirement that members must file reports with FINRA for any customer who held aggregate large long or short positions of any single class for the previous day will continue to serve as an important part of FINRA's surveillance efforts.

FINRA believes that the current financial requirements imposed by FINRA and by the Commission adequately address concerns that a member or its customer may try to maintain an inordinately large unhedged position in an option, particularly on SPY.

Current margin and risk-based haircut methodologies serve to limit the size of positions maintained by any one account by increasing the margin and/or capital that a member must maintain for a large position held by it or by its customer. It also should be noted that FINRA has the authority under FINRA Rule 4210(f)(8)(A) to impose a higher margin requirement upon a member when FINRA determines a higher requirement is

See FINRA Rule 2360(b)(5) for the reporting requirements.

These procedures have been effective for the surveillance of SPY options trading and will continue to be employed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.13d-1.

warranted. In addition, the Commission's net capital rule, Rule 15c3-1 under the Act,<sup>9</sup> imposes a capital charge on members to the extent of any margin deficiency resulting from the higher margin requirement.

Finally, FINRA believes that while the position limit on options on QQQs, which as noted are similar to SPY options, has been gradually expanded from 75,000 contracts to the current level of 900,000 contracts, there have been no adverse affects on the market as a result of this position limit increase. Likewise, there have been no adverse affects on the market from expanding the position limit for SPY options from 75,000 contracts to the current level of 300,000 contracts.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

### (b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA believes that the proposed rule filing promotes consistent regulation by harmonizing FINRA's position limits for options on SPYs with those of the other self-regulatory organizations. In addition, FINRA believes this proposal will be beneficial to

<sup>9 17</sup> CFR 240.15c3-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780-3(b)(6).

large market makers (which generally have the greatest potential and actual ability to provide liquidity and depth in this product), as well as retail traders, investors and public customers.

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

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

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

## **Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable

## 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) of the Act<sup>11</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>12</sup> in that the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; does not impose any significant burden on competition; and does not become operative for 30 days after filing or such shorter time as the Commission may designate.

FINRA requests that the Commission waive the requirement that the rule change, by its terms, not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing as set forth in

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), <sup>13</sup> such that FINRA may immediately harmonize its position limits for options on SPYs with those of the other self-regulatory organizations to ensure consistent regulation for the protection of investors and the public interest. In accordance with Rule 19b-4(f)(6), <sup>14</sup> FINRA submitted written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, as specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act. <sup>15</sup>

# 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is substantially similar to recently amended PHLX Rule 1001; ISE Rule 412, Supplementary Material .01; CBOE Rule 4.11, Interpretation and Policy .07; NYSE Amex Rule 904, Commentary .07; and NYSE Arca Rule 6.8, Commentary .06.<sup>16</sup>

## 9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

See supra note 3.

### EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2011-036)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Increase the Position Limit for Options on the Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust

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 , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,<sup>3</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by 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>

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 2360 (Options), Supplementary Material .03 to increase the position limit for options on the Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust ("SPY").

<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> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's website at <a href="http://www.finra.org">http://www.finra.org</a>, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend FINRA Rule 2360,
Supplementary Material .03 to increase the position limit applicable to options on the
Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts Trust, which trade under the symbol SPY, from
300,000 to 900,000 contracts<sup>4</sup> to conform to a recent rule change by other self-regulatory organizations<sup>5</sup> as well as the reasons discussed below.

The exercise limits on SPY options set forth in FINRA Rule 2360(b)(4), which is not amended by this filing, but which incorporate by reference options position limits, would correspondingly increase to 900,000 contracts.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64695 (June 17, 2011) 76 FR 36942 (June 23, 2011) (SEC order approving File No. SR-Phlx-2011-58); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64760 (June 28, 2011) 76 FR 39143 (July 5, 2011) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-ISE-2011-34); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64928 (July 20, 2011) (File No. SR-CBOE-2011-065); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64966 (July 26, 2011) (File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2011-50); and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64945 (July 21, 2011) (File No. SR-NYSEArca-2011-47).

Currently, SPY options have a position limit of only 300,000 contracts on the same side of the market while Power Shares QQQ Trust, based on the Nasdaq 100 Index® ("QQQ") options, which are comparable to SPY options but have lesser volume, have a position limit of 900,000 contracts on the same side of the market. Given the high volume and continuous demand for trading SPY options, FINRA believes that the current position limit of 300,000 contracts is inadequate, and that such options should, like options on QQQ, have a position limit of 900,000 contracts.

The position limit on SPY options has remained flat for more than five years, despite the options being the most actively traded options for the last two years, and is no longer sufficient for optimal trading and hedging purposes. SPY options are used by large institutions and traders as a means to invest in or hedge the overall direction of the market. The restrictive option position limit prevents large customers, such as mutual funds and pension funds, from using options to gain meaningful exposure to, and hedging protection through the use of, SPY options. Restrictive options position limits also can result in lost liquidity in both the options market and the equity market. The proposed position limit increase will remedy this situation to the benefit of large as well as retail traders, investors, and public customers. FINRA also believes that increasing position and exercise limits for SPY options would lead to a more liquid and competitive market environment that would benefit customers interested in this product.

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For example, options on SPYs, the most actively traded options in the U.S. in terms of volume, traded a total of 33,341,698 contracts across all exchanges from March 1, 2011 through March 16, 2011. In contrast, over the same time period options on the QQQ traded a total of 8,730,718 contracts (less than 26.2% of the volume of options on SPYs). In addition, for 2010, options on SPY had an average daily trading volume of 3.63 million contracts, while options on QQQs had an average daily trading volume of 963,502. See supra note 5 PHLX rule filing, at 36942.

In addition, FINRA believes that the options on SPY position and exercise limits, at their current levels, no longer serve their stated purpose. There has been a steadfast and significant increase over the last decade in the overall volume of exchange-traded options; position limits, however, have not kept up with the volume. Part of this volume is attributable to a corresponding increase in the number of overall market participants, which has, in turn, brought about additional depth and increased liquidity in exchange-traded options.<sup>7</sup>

FINRA believes that the existing surveillance procedures and reporting requirements at FINRA,<sup>8</sup> the options exchanges, and at the several clearing firms are capable of properly identifying unusual and/or illegal trading activity. These procedures use daily monitoring of market movements by automated surveillance techniques to identify unusual activity in both options and underlying stocks.<sup>9</sup>

The Commission has previously observed that: "Since the inception of standardized options trading, the options exchanges have had rules imposing limits on the aggregate number of options contracts that a member or customer could hold or exercise. These rules are intended to prevent the establishment of options positions that can be used or might create incentives to manipulate or disrupt the underlying market so as to benefit the options position. In particular, position and exercise limits are designed to minimize the potential for minimanipulations and for corners or squeezes of the underlying market. In addition such limits serve to reduce the possibility for disruption of the options market itself, especially in illiquid options classes." See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39489 (December 24, 1997), 63 FR 276, 278 (January 5, 1998) (File No. SR-CBOE-97-11) (order approving increased OEX position and exercise limits).

<sup>8 &</sup>lt;u>See FINRA Rule 2360(b)(5) for the reporting requirements.</u>

These procedures have been effective for the surveillance of SPY options trading and will continue to be employed.

Furthermore, large stock holdings must be disclosed to the Commission by way of Schedules 13D or 13G.<sup>10</sup> Options positions are part of any reportable positions and cannot legally be hidden. Moreover, the previously noted Rule 2360(b)(5) requirement that members must file reports with FINRA for any customer who held aggregate large long or short positions of any single class for the previous day will continue to serve as an important part of FINRA's surveillance efforts.

FINRA believes that the current financial requirements imposed by FINRA and by the Commission adequately address concerns that a member or its customer may try to maintain an inordinately large unhedged position in an option, particularly on SPY.

Current margin and risk-based haircut methodologies serve to limit the size of positions maintained by any one account by increasing the margin and/or capital that a member must maintain for a large position held by it or by its customer. It also should be noted that FINRA has the authority under FINRA Rule 4210(f)(8)(A) to impose a higher margin requirement upon a member when FINRA determines a higher requirement is warranted. In addition, the Commission's net capital rule, Rule 15c3-1 under the Act, 11 imposes a capital charge on members to the extent of any margin deficiency resulting from the higher margin requirement.

Finally, FINRA believes that while the position limit on options on QQQs, which as noted are similar to SPY options, has been gradually expanded from 75,000 contracts to the current level of 900,000 contracts, there have been no adverse affects on the market as a result of this position limit increase. Likewise, there have been no adverse affects on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.13d-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.15c3-1.

the market from expanding the position limit for SPY options from 75,000 contracts to the current level of 300,000 contracts.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

### 2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act, 12 which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA believes that the proposed rule filing promotes consistent regulation by harmonizing FINRA's position limits for options on SPYs with those of the other self-regulatory organizations. In addition, FINRA believes this proposal will be beneficial to large market makers (which generally have the greatest potential and actual ability to provide liquidity and depth in this product), as well as retail traders, investors and public customers.

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

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

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78<u>o</u>-3(b)(6).

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) 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 Act<sup>13</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>14</sup>

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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

### 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:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

### **Electronic Comments:**

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
   SR-FINRA-2011-036 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-FINRA-2011-036. 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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). 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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You

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should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2011-036 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{15}$ 

Elizabeth M. Murphy

Secretary

<sup>15</sup>