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REGISTRATION & DISCLOSURE

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO: 20080127719-01

TO: Department of Market Regulation
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 19585

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. (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, FINRA 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 FINRA, or to which FINRA 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 FINRA:

BACKGROUND

The firm became a member of FINRA on July 25, 1987. The firm's registration remains in effect.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

On October 13, 2005, FINRA accepted an AWC from the firm that included an \$8,000 fine for violations of NASD Rules 2110, 3010 and 6955(a), \$3,000 of which was for violations of NASD Rule 6955(a).

SUMMARY

The staff of the Department of Market Regulation (the "staff") reviewed the firm's compliance with Order Audit Trail System reporting requirements during the period May 1 through August 31, 2007 (the "review period").

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

During the review period:

1. The firm failed to timely report to OATS 8,041 Reportable Order Events.
2. The firm transmitted to OATS 24,578 Route or Combined Order/Route Reports that the OATS system was unable to link to the related order routed to Nasdaq due to inaccurate, incomplete or improperly formatted data.
3. The firm transmitted to OATS 79 Execution or Combined Order/Execution Reports that contained inaccurate, incomplete, or improperly formatted data. Because of the inaccurate, missing, or improperly formatted data, the OATS system was unable to link the execution reports to the related trade reports in an NASD trade reporting system.
4. The firm transmitted to OATS 2,638 Route or Combined Order/Route Reports that the OATS system was unable to link to the corresponding new order transmitted by the destination member firm due to inaccurate, incomplete or improperly formatted data.
5. The firm transmitted to OATS six New Order Reports and related subsequent reports where the timestamp for the related subsequent report occurred prior to the receipt of the order. Because of the inaccurate timestamps, the OATS system was unable to create an accurate, time-sequenced record from the receipt of the order through its resolution.

The conduct described in paragraphs 1 through 5 constitutes separate and distinct violations of NASD Rule 6955(a).

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

- A censure.
- A fine of \$12,500 for violations of NASD Rule 6955(a).

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. It has submitted an Election of

Payment form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

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 FINRA's 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 National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC") 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 prejudgment of the General Counsel, the NAC, or any member of the NAC, 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 FINRA Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of FINRA 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 the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to FINRA 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 FINRA 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. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; 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 FINRA, or to which FINRA 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 FINRA 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 FINRA, nor does it reflect the views of FINRA 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.

Dec 18 2009
Date

Respondent
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.

By: Christopher O'Donnell

Name: CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL

Title: MANAGING DIRECTOR

Reviewed by:

Michael Emerson

Attorney Name

Counsel for Respondent

Michael Emerson
General Counsel

Accepted by FINRA:

1/19/10
Date

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

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