

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20110288105-01**

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

RE: Cobra Trading, Inc., Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 132078

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Cobra Trading, Inc. (the "firm" or "Respondent") 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 Respondent alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Respondent 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 has been a member of FINRA since December 17, 2004, and its registration remains in effect.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

On October 17, 2011, FINRA accepted an AWC from the firm in which the firm was censured and fined \$8,500 for violating SEC Rule 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO in 2007.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In connection with Matter No. 20110288105 and 20130358426, the Short Sales Team of the Department of Market Regulation (the "Staff") reviewed the firm's compliance with SEC Rules 200(g) and 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO during the period from March 14, 2011 through November 1, 2011, and February 5, 2013.

In connection with Matter No. 20110288105:

1. During the period reviewed, the firm executed 2,139 short sale orders and failed to properly mark the orders as short. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO.
2. During the period reviewed, the firm, on 2,137 occasions, accepted a short sale order in an equity security from another person, or effected a short sale in an equity security for its own account, without: (1) borrowing the security, or entering into a bona-fide arrangement to borrow the security; or (2) having reasonable grounds to believe that the security could be borrowed so that it could be delivered on the date delivery is due; and (3) documenting compliance with SEC Rule 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO.

In connection with Matter No. 20130358426:

3. During the period reviewed, the firm executed 16 short sale orders and failed to properly mark the orders as short. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO.
4. During the period reviewed, the firm, on 16 occasions, accepted a short sale order in an equity security from another person, or effected a short sale in an equity security for its own account, without: (1) borrowing the security, or entering into a bona-fide arrangement to borrow the security; or (2) having reasonable grounds to believe that the security could be borrowed so that it could be delivered on the date delivery is due; and (3) documenting compliance with SEC Rule 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO.

In connection with STAR Nos. 20110288105 and 20130358426:

5. The firm's supervisory system did not provide for supervision reasonably designed to achieve compliance with respect to the applicable securities laws and regulations concerning the firm's compliance with SEC Rules 200(g) and 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO. Specifically, the firm's supervisory system did not include written supervisory procedures providing for: (1) the identification of the person(s) responsible for supervision with respect to the applicable rules; (2) a statement of the supervisory step(s) to be taken by the identified person(s); (3) a statement as to how often such person(s) should take such step(s); and (4) a statement as to how the completion of the step(s) included in the written supervisory procedures should be documented. The conduct described in

this paragraph constitutes a violation of NASD Rule 3010 and FINRA Rule 2010.

B. Respondent also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

A censure, a fine of \$32,500 (consisting of a fine of \$22,500 for the violations of SEC Rules 200(g) and 203(b)(1) of Regulation SHO, and \$10,000 for the supervisory violation), and an undertaking to revise the firm's written supervisory procedures with respect to the areas described in paragraph I.A.5. Within 30 business days of acceptance of this AWC by the NAC, a registered principal of the Respondent shall submit to the **COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT, LEGAL SECTION, MARKET REGULATION DEPARTMENT, 9509 KEY WEST AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850**, a signed, dated letter, or an e-mail from a work-related account of the registered principal to MarketRegulationComp@finra.org, providing the following information: (1) a reference to this matter; (2) a representation that the firm has revised its written supervisory procedures to address the deficiencies described in the above-referenced paragraph; and, (3) the date the revised procedures were implemented.

Respondent agrees to pay the monetary sanction upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment is due and payable. It has submitted an Election of Payment form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

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

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

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Respondent 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, Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudgment of the Chief Legal Officer, 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.

Respondent 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

Respondent 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 Respondent; 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 accordance with FINRA Rule 8313;
 - 3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and
 - 4. Respondent 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. Respondent 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: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.
- D. Respondent 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.

6/5/15
Date

Respondent
Cobra Trading, Inc.

By: [Signature]

Name: David Hessing

Title: President

Reviewed by:

[Signature]
Jeffery J. Ansley, Esq.
Bell Nunnally
3232 McKinney Avenue, Suite 1400
Dallas, Texas 75204
(214) 740-1408

Accepted by FINRA:

6/29/15
Date

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

[Signature]
Tina Salehi Gubb
Chief Counsel
FINRA Department of Market Regulation