

FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20130362837-01

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

RE: VFinance Investments, Inc, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 44962

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, VFinance Investments, 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 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 became a FINRA member on September 9, 1998. Its registration remains in effect. The firm has no prior relevant disciplinary history.

SUMMARY

In Matter No. 20130362837, the Department of Market Regulation reviewed the firm's compliance with Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO during the period of August 14, 2012 through July 31, 2013 (the "Review Period"). The review resulted in certain findings of violations of Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO, NASD Rule 3010, and FINRA Rule 2010 as described below.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

- 1) During the review period, the firm executed 329 short sale orders and failed to properly mark the orders as short. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO.

- 2) The firm's supervisory system did not provide for supervision reasonably designed to achieve compliance with respect to the applicable securities laws and regulations, and the Rules of FINRA. At a minimum, adequate written supervisory procedures should describe the following:

- (a) specific identification of the individual(s) responsible for supervision;
- (b) the supervisory steps and reviews to be taken by the appropriate supervisor;
- (c) the frequency of such reviews; and
- (d) how such reviews shall be documented.

The firm's written supervisory procedures failed to provide for one of the four above-cited minimum requirements for adequate written supervisory procedures for order marking pursuant to Rule 200(g) of Regulation SHO [(b)]. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes violations of FINRA Rule 2010 and NASD Rule 3010.

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

- 1) A censure;
- 2) A fine of \$17,500 (\$12,500 for Regulation SHO violations, \$5,000 for supervision); and
- 3) An undertaking to revise the firm's written supervisory procedures with respect to the area described in paragraph I.A.2 above. Within 30 business days of acceptance of this AWC by the National Adjudicatory Council ("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 paragraph I.A.2; and, (3) the date the revised procedures were implemented.

Respondent 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.

Respondent 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

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 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 in 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.

W1

3/7/2016
Date

~~VFinance Investments, Inc~~

By:

Name:

Title:

Counsel for Respondent

March 23, 2016
Date

James J. Nixon
Chief Litigation Counsel
FINRA Department of Market Regulation