

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

Certified, Return Receipt Requested

**TO: VFinance Investments, Inc
Mr. Billy Groeneveld
Chief Executive Officer
1200 N. Federal Highway
Suite 400
Boca Raton, FL 33432**

**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: July 16, 2015

RE: Notice of Acceptance of Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent No. 20120337081-01

Please be advised that your above-referenced Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") has been accepted on **July 16, 2015** 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 are reminded that Section I of the attached Letter of Acceptance, Waiver, and Consent includes an undertaking. In accordance with the terms of the AWC, a registered principal of the firm is required to notify the Compliance Assistant, Legal Section, Market Regulation Department, 9509 Key West Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, of completion of the undertaking.

You will be notified by the Registration and Disclosure Department regarding sanctions if a suspension has been imposed and by NASDAQ's Finance Department regarding the payment of any fine if a fine has been imposed.

VFinance Investments, Inc
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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact David J. Prieto, Principal Counsel, at (240) 386-6720.



James J. Nixon
Chief Litigation Counsel, Legal Section
Department of Market Regulation

Signed on behalf of NASDAQ

Enclosure

FINRA District 7 – Boca Raton
Jeffrey M. Pasquerella
Vice President and Regional Director
(Via email)

THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
No. 20120337081 - 01

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

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

Pursuant to Rule 9216 of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq") 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, 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 Nasdaq member on July 12, 2006. The firm became a FINRA member on September 9, 1998. Its registrations remain in effect. The firm has no prior relevant disciplinary history.

SUMMARY

In Matter No. 20120337081, the Market Analysis Section of FINRA's Department of Market Regulation (the "staff") reviewed the firm's compliance with SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS during the period of January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012 (the "1Q2012 Review Period").

In Matter No. 20130367180, the staff reviewed the firm's compliance with SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS during the period of October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 (the "4Q2012 Review Period").

In Matter No. 20130390808, the staff reviewed the firm's compliance with SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS during the period of July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 (the "3Q2013 Review Period").

As a result of its reviews, the staff found that the firm did not comply with the requirements of SEC Rule 604 in handling certain customer limit orders, as described further below. Additionally, the firm's supervisory system was not reasonably designed to ensure compliance with SEC Rule 604.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

In connection with Matter No. 20120337081

1. During the 1Q2012 Review Period, the firm failed to display immediately 18 customer limit orders in Regulation NMS securities (including the orders' full size and price) in its public quotation, when each such order was at a price that would have improved the firm's bid or offer in each such security; or when the order was priced equal to the firm's bid or offer and the national best bid or offer for each such security, and the size of the order represented more than a *de minimis* change in relation to the size associated with the firm's bid or offer in each such security. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS.

In connection with Matter No. 20130367180

2. During the 4Q2012 Review Period, the firm failed to display immediately 14 customer limit orders in Regulation NMS securities (including the orders' full size and price) in its public quotation, when each such order was at a price that would have improved the firm's bid or offer in each such security; or when the order was priced equal to the firm's bid or offer and the national best bid or offer for each such security, and the size of the order represented more than a *de minimis* change in relation to the size associated with the firm's bid or offer in each such security. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS.

In connection with Matter No. 20130390808

3. During the 3Q2013 Review Period, the firm failed to display immediately 22 customer limit orders in Regulation NMS securities (including the orders' full size and price) in its public quotation, when each such order was at a price that would have improved the firm's bid or offer in each such security; or when the order was priced equal to the firm's bid or offer and the national best bid or offer for each such security, and the size of the order represented more than a *de minimis* change in relation to the size associated with the firm's bid or offer in each such security. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes separate and distinct violations of SEC Rule 604 of Regulation NMS.

In connection with Matter Nos. 20120337081, 20130367180, and 20130390808

4. 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 or more of the four above-cited minimum requirements for adequate written supervisory procedures for Limit Order Display [(b)]. The conduct described in this paragraph constitutes violations of Nasdaq Rules 2110 (for conduct prior to November 21, 2012), 2010A (for conduct on or after November 21, 2012), and 3010.

OTHER FACTORS

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

Censure;

A fine of \$36,000 (consisting of \$5,000 for SEC Rule 604 violations in Matter 20120337081, \$7,500 for SEC Rule 604 violations in Matter 20130367180, \$10,000 for SEC Rule 604 violations in Matter 20130390808, and \$13,500 for supervision violations); and

An undertaking to revise the firm's written supervisory procedures with respect to the area described in paragraph I.A.4. Within 30 business days of acceptance of this AWC by the Nasdaq Review Council, 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.4; and (3) the date the revised procedures were implemented.



The firm agrees to pay the monetary sanction(s) in accordance with its executed Election of Payment Form.

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's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Formal Complaint issued specifying the allegations against the firm;
- B. To be notified of the Formal 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. Nasdaq may release this AWC or make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with Nasdaq Rule 8310 and IM-8310-3; and
 - 3. 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 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.

7/7/2015
Date

VFinance Investments, Inc
Respondent

By: 
Name: Bruce GREENFIELD
Title: CEO

Reviewed by:

Counsel for Respondent

Accepted by Nasdaq:

July 16, 2015
Date



James J. Nixon
Chief Litigation Counsel
Department of Market Regulation

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

ELECTION OF PAYMENT FORM

The firm intends to pay the fine proposed in the attached Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent by the following method (check one):

- A firm check or bank check for the full amount;
- Wire transfer;
- The installment payment plan.¹
 - Monthly
 - Quarterly

Respectfully submitted,

Respondent
VFinance Investments, Inc

7/7/15
Date

By: [Signature]
Name: Brian Grossnickel
Title: CEO

¹ The installment payment plan is only available for a fine of \$50,000 or more. Certain requirements apply.