

12-115

TO: Clearing Member Firms
FROM: CME Clearing
SUBJECT: **CDX North American Investment Grade Index Series 18**
DATE: March 19, 2012

CME Clearing will expand its Credit Default Swap product offering to include the CDX North American Investment Grade Index Series 18 (CDXIG18) in 3, 5, 7, and 10 year tenors. The production launch date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

Series 18 has the following Reference Entity changes from Series 17:

- Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. is added;
- Exelon Corporation replaces Constellation Energy Group, Inc. as a result of the merger between the entities;
- The Black & Decker Corporation is removed.

Please note that the Reference Entity changes above are conditional and can be changed by Markit through Monday March 19th.

Below is the full set of CDX North American Investment Grade Series with corresponding clearing codes available to clear at CME Clearing (each available in 3, 5, 7, and 10 year tenors except as specified below):

- Series 9V4 (CDXIG9V4.SR.XR.USD) – CG9V4
- Series 10V4 (CDXIG10V4.SR.XR.USD)-CG10V4 (no 3 year tenor)
- Series 11V2 (CDXIG11V2.SR.XR.USD)-CG11V2 (no 3 year tenor)
- Series 12V2 (CDXIG12.SR.XR.USD)-CG12V2
- Series 13 (CDXIG13.SR.XR.USD)-CG13
- Series 14 (CDXIG14.SR.XR.USD)-CG14
- Series 15 (CDXIG15.SR.XR.USD)-CG15
- Series 16 (CDXIG16.SR.XR.USD)-CG16
- Series 17 (CDXIG17.SR.XR.USD)-CG17
- Series 18 (CDXIG18.SR.XR.USD)-CG18 - NEW

Participants that wish to test before launch may do so in CME Clearing's New Release (UAT) environment beginning Friday, March 16th. However, on March 16th only the 3, 5 and 7 year tenors will be available with all tenors to be available for clearing on Monday, March 19th in the New Release environment. Please keep in mind that CME Clearing will be using mock settlement prices for the Series 18 Index in New Release on March 16th and 19th. Production settlement prices will be applied to the Index in the New Release environment beginning March 20th.

Please note that the CDX North American High Yield Index Series 18 (CDXHY18) has a production launch date of Tuesday, March 27th. CME Clearing will distribute an advisory with both the new release and production launches for CDX HY 18 in the near future.

Should you have questions, please contact the CDS onboarding team at Onboarding@cmegroup.com.