

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Registered Entity Identifier Code (optional): 2021-P-07 Date: **April 12, 2021**

IMPORTANT: CHECK BOX IF CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS REQUESTED.

☐

ORGANIZATION

Bloomberg SEF LLC

FILING AS A: ☐ DCM ☒ SEF ☐ DCO ☐ SDR ☐ ECM/SPDC

TYPE OF FILING

- **Rules and Rule Amendments**

- ☐ Certification under § 40.6 (a) or § 41.24 (a)
- ☐ “Non-Material Agricultural Rule Change” under § 40.4 (b)(5)
- ☐ Notification under § 40.6 (d)
- ☐ Request for Approval under § 40.4 (a) or § 40.5 (a)
- ☐ Advance Notice of SIDCO Rule Change under § 40.10 (a)

- **Products**

- ☒ Certification under § 39.5(b), § 40.2 (a), or § 41.23 (a)
- ☐ Swap Class Certification under § 40.2 (d)
- ☐ Request for Approval under § 40.3 (a)
- ☐ Novel Derivative Product Notification under § 40.12 (a)

RULE NUMBERS

None Applicable

DESCRIPTION

GBP UK Retail Prices Index Fixed-to-Floating (Inflation Zero Coupon) Swap Contract (“Contract”)

Bloomberg SEF LLC
New Contract Submission 2021-P-07
April 12, 2021

1. The Contract's terms and conditions are provided in Attachment A.
2. The intended listing date is April 15, 2021.
3. Attached, please find a certification that, concurrent with this submission, Bloomberg SEF LLC ("BSEF") posted on its website: (a) a notice of pending certification of this Contract with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission"); and (b) a copy of this submission.
4. Attached, please find a certification that the Contract complies with the Commodity Exchange Act (the "Act") and the Commission regulations thereunder.
5. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the BSEF Rulebook.

**EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRACT'S COMPLIANCE WITH
APPLICABLE CORE PRINCIPLES AND COMMISSION REGULATIONS**

As required by Commission Regulation § 40.2(a), the following analysis demonstrates that the Contract is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the Commission regulations and policies thereunder (in particular, Appendix B to Part 37 and Appendix C to Part 38, respectively).

Appendix B to Part 37—Demonstration of Compliance That a Contract Is Not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation

Core Principle 3 of Section 5h of the Act—Swaps Not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation. The swap execution facility shall permit trading only in swaps that are not readily susceptible to manipulation.

(a) Guidance.

(1) In general, a swap contract is an agreement to exchange a series of cash flows over a period of time based on some reference price, which could be a single price, such as an absolute level or a differential, or a price index calculated based on multiple observations. Moreover, such a reference price may be reported by the swap execution facility itself or by an independent third party. When listing a swap for trading, a swap execution facility shall ensure a swap's compliance with Core Principle 3, paying special attention to the reference price used to determine the cash flow exchanges. Specifically, Core Principle 3 requires that the reference price used by a swap not be readily susceptible to manipulation. As a result, when identifying a reference price, a swap execution facility should either: Calculate

its own reference price using suitable and well-established acceptable methods or carefully select a reliable third-party index.

(2) The importance of the reference price's suitability for a given swap is similar to that of the final settlement price for a cash-settled futures contract. If the final settlement price is manipulated, then the futures contract does not serve its intended price discovery and risk management functions. Similarly, inappropriate reference prices cause the cash flows between the buyer and seller to differ from the proper amounts, thus benefitting one party and disadvantaging the other. Thus, careful consideration should be given to the potential for manipulation or distortion of the reference price.

Calculation of United Kingdom Retail Prices Index (“UK RPI”)

The UK RPI was initially developed as a compensation index, derived from an index designed as an aid to protect ordinary workers from price increases associated with the First World War. The RPI provides estimates of inflation from 1947 onwards with the first official release of consumer price inflation being produced in January 1956. Until the introduction of the UK Consumer Prices Index (“CPI”) in 1996, the UK RPI and its derivatives, were the only measures of UK consumer price inflation available to users. Prices are published on a monthly basis in the website of the UK Office for National Statistics.¹

The UK RPI measures the average change from month to month in the prices of consumer goods and services purchased in the UK, although there are differences in coverage and methodology. The most significant differences in coverage relate to the treatment of housing costs, particularly owner-occupier costs, which are included in the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers’ housing costs (CPIH) and RPI but excluded from the CPI. There are also differences in the population covered, RPI covers only private households but excludes the top 4% of households by income and pensioner households who receive at least three-quarters of their income from benefits. The CPIH and CPI, by contrast, cover the expenditure of all private households, institutional households and visitors to the UK.²

The UK RPI is produced monthly. Data refer to prices at a set point in time, which is usually the second or third Tuesday of each month. Publication takes place four or five weeks later and has never been delayed or missed. Publication dates are pre-announced on the website of the Office for National Statistics, the UK’s largest independent producer of official statistics and the UK’s recognised national statistical institute. For information on how the UK RPI is calculated, please see the website of the Office of National Statistics.³

(3) For swaps that are settled by physical delivery or by cash settlement refer to the guidance in appendix C to part 38 of this chapter—Demonstration of Compliance That a

¹ See <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/chaw/mm23>

² See <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices>

³ See <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/methodologies/consumerpriceinflationincludesall3indicespihpcpiandrpqmi>

Contract is not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation, section b(2) and section c(4), respectively.

Appendix C to Part 38 - Demonstration of Compliance That a Contract Is Not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation

(c) Futures Contracts Settled by Cash Settlement.

(1) Cash settlement is a method of settling certain futures or option contracts whereby, at contract expiration, the contract is settled by cash payment in lieu of physical delivery of the commodity or instrument underlying the contract. An acceptable specification of the cash settlement price for commodity futures and option contracts would include rules that fully describe the essential economic characteristics of the underlying commodity (e.g., grade, quality, weight, class, growth, issuer, maturity, source, rating, description of the underlying index and index's calculation methodology, etc.), as well as how the final settlement price is calculated. In addition, the rules should clearly specify the trading months and hours of trading, the last trading day, contract size, minimum price change (tick size) and any limitations on price movements (e.g., price limits or trading halts).

Essential Economic Characteristics of the Contract

Terms

The terms of the Contract are provided in Attachment A. The Contract is composed of both fixed and variable terms. This combination of standard and flexible terms allows the Contract to have a basic consistent form, while allowing counterparties to tailor the Contract to their economic needs. The structure follows industry convention; the terms of the Contract match the terms of interest rate swaps that are commonly offered in the market.

Contract Not Readily Susceptible to Manipulation

The Contract is not readily susceptible to manipulation for a number of reasons. First, the UK RPI is a statistical measure calculated by the UK Office for National Statistics. This Office is responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels and also conduct the census in England and Wales every 10 years. Second, inflation products are liquid, making manipulation very difficult to achieve. Third, BSEF has a market surveillance program that is designed to effectively be able to surveil this market, detect uncommon activity, and investigate any such activity for signs of manipulation.

Calculation of Cash Settlement Price

The cash settlement price will be calculated in the following manner:

- I. Fixed Leg – The payment amount is based on the following: Notional, Compounding Frequency, Payment Frequency, Day Count Convention and Fixed Interest Rate.

- II. Floating Leg – The payment amount is based on the following: Notional, Payment Frequency, Day Count Convention, Floating Interest Rate Index and Floating Index Reset Dates.

All payments are settled in accordance with the payment frequency of the swap.

(2) Cash settled contracts may be susceptible to manipulation or price distortion. In evaluating the susceptibility of a cash-settled contract to manipulation, a designated contract market should consider the size and liquidity of the cash market that underlies the listed contract in a manner that follows the determination of deliverable supply as noted above in (b)(1). In particular, situations susceptible to manipulation include those in which the volume of cash market transactions and/or the number of participants contacted in determining the cash-settlement price are very low. Cash-settled contracts may create an incentive to manipulate or artificially influence the data from which the cash-settlement price is derived or to exert undue influence on the cash-settlement price's computation in order to profit on a futures position in that commodity.

The utility of a cash-settled contract for risk management and price discovery would be significantly impaired if the cash settlement price is not a reliable or robust indicator of the value of the underlying commodity or instrument. Accordingly, careful consideration should be given to the potential for manipulation or distortion of the cash settlement price, as well as the reliability of that price as an indicator of cash market values. Appropriate consideration also should be given to the commercial acceptability, public availability, and timeliness of the price series that is used to calculate the cash settlement price. Documentation demonstrating that the settlement price index is a reliable indicator of market values and conditions and is commonly used as a reference index by industry/market agents should be provided. Such documentation may take on various forms, including carefully documented interview results with knowledgeable agents.

As noted above, the Contract operates in a liquid market with numerous participants. Also, the cash settlement price is not easily susceptible to manipulation or distortion, as the method of determining the price is based on factors that are fixed at the start of the Contract (i.e., payment frequency, day count conventions, fixed interest rate, floating index reset dates) and the UK RPI.

(3) Where an independent, private-sector third party calculates the cash settlement price series, a designated contract market should consider the need for a licensing agreement that will ensure the designated contract market's rights to the use of the price series to settle the listed contract.

(i) Where an independent, private-sector third party calculates the cash settlement price series, the designated contract market should verify that the third party utilizes business practices that minimize the opportunity or incentive to manipulate the cash-settlement price series. Such safeguards may include lock-downs, prohibitions against derivatives trading by employees, or public dissemination of the names of sources and the price quotes they provide. Because a cash-settled contract may create an incentive to manipulate or artificially influence the underlying market from which the cash-settlement price is derived

or to exert undue influence on the cash-settlement computation in order to profit on a futures position in that commodity, a designated contract market should, whenever practicable, enter into an information-sharing agreement with the third-party provider which would enable the designated contract market to better detect and prevent manipulative behavior.

As described above, the cash settlement price is calculated through a cash settlement method that is not easily susceptible to manipulation.

(ii) Where a designated contract market itself generates the cash settlement price series, the designated contract market should establish calculation procedures that safeguard against potential attempts to artificially influence the price. For example, if the cash settlement price is derived by the designated contract market based on a survey of cash market sources, the designated contract market should maintain a list of such entities which all should be reputable sources with knowledge of the cash market. In addition, the sample of sources polled should be representative of the cash market, and the poll should be conducted at a time when trading in the cash market is active.

Please see above.

(iii) The cash-settlement calculation should involve computational procedures that eliminate or reduce the impact of potentially unrepresentative data.

Please see above.

(iv) The cash settlement price should be an accurate and reliable indicator of prices in the underlying cash market. The cash settlement price also should be acceptable to commercial users of the commodity contract. The registered entity should fully document that the settlement price is accurate, reliable, highly regarded by industry/market agents, and fully reflects the economic and commercial conditions of the relevant designated contract market.

Please see above.

(v) To the extent possible, the cash settlement price should be based on cash price series that are publicly available and available on a timely basis for purposes of calculating the cash settlement price at the expiration of a commodity contract. A designated contract market should make the final cash settlement price and any other supporting information that is appropriate for release to the public, available to the public when cash settlement is accomplished by the derivatives clearing organization. If the cash settlement price is based on cash prices that are obtained from non-public sources (e.g., cash market surveys conducted by the designated contract market or by third parties on behalf of the designated contract market), a designated contract market should make available to the public as soon as possible after a contract month's expiration the final cash settlement price as well as any other supporting information that is appropriate or feasible to make available to the public.

The UK RPI is readily available via a number of sources – the website of the UK Office for National Statistics is one of the public sources.

(4) Contract terms and conditions requirements for futures contracts settled by cash settlement.

(i) An acceptable specification of the terms and conditions of a cash-settled commodity contract will also set forth the trading months, last trading day, contract size, minimum price change (tick size) and daily price limits, if any.

The Contract's terms are provided in Attachment A. As noted above, while there are common terms such as the trading hours and the reference rate, many of the terms are flexible. Nevertheless, the terms of the Contract are all within commonly accepted market norms.

(A) Commodity Characteristics: The terms and conditions of a commodity contract should describe the commodity underlying the contract.

The reference to the UK RPI is included in the Contract's terms and conditions.

(B) Contract Size and Trading Unit: An acceptable specification of the trading unit would be a contract size that is consistent with customary transactions in the cash market. A designated contract market may opt to set the contract size smaller than that of standard cash market transactions.

The size of the Contract is consistent with the customary size of similar transactions in the market.

(C) Cash Settlement Procedure: The cash settlement price should be reliable, acceptable, publicly available, and reported in a timely manner as described in paragraphs (c)(3)(iv) and (c)(3)(v) of this appendix C.

The cash settlement procedure and an explanation of how, in the context of this Contract, it is not readily susceptible to manipulation, is described above.

(D) Pricing Basis and Minimum Price Fluctuation (Minimum Tick): The minimum price increment (tick) should be set a level that is equal to, or less than, the minimum price increment commonly observed in cash market transactions for the underlying commodity. Specifying a futures' minimum tick that is greater than the minimum price increment in the cash market can undermine the risk management utility of the futures contract by preventing hedgers from efficiently establishing and liquidating futures positions that are used to hedge anticipated cash market transactions or cash market positions.

As agreed by the counterparties.

(E) Maximum Price Fluctuation Limits: Designated contract markets may adopt price limits to: (1) Reduce or constrain price movements in a trading day that may not be reflective of true market conditions but might be caused by traders overreacting to news; (2) Allow additional time for the collection of margins in times of large price movements; and (3) Provide a “cooling-off” period for futures market participants to respond to bona fide changes in market supply and demand fundamentals that would lead to large cash and futures price changes. If price-limit provisions are adopted, the limits should be set at levels that are not overly restrictive in relation to price movements in the cash market for the commodity underlying the futures contract. For broad-based stock index futures contracts, rules should be adopted that coordinate with New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) declared Circuit Breaker Trading Halts (or other market coordinated Circuit Breaker mechanism) and would recommence trading in the futures contract only after trading in the majority of the stocks underlying the index has recommenced.

As agreed by the counterparties.

(F) Last Trading Day: Specification of the last trading day for expiring contracts should be established such that it occurs before publication of the underlying third-party price index or determination of the final settlement price. If the designated contract market chooses to allow trading to occur through the determination of the final settlement price, then the designated contract market should show that futures trading would not distort the final settlement price calculation.

The last trading day will be the maturity date of each contract, which is set by the counterparties.

(G) Trading Months: Trading months should be established based on the risk management needs of commercial entities as well as the availability of price and other data needed to calculate the cash settlement price in the specified months. Specification of the last trading day should take into consideration whether the volume of transactions underlying the cash settlement price would be unduly limited by occurrence of holidays or traditional holiday periods in the cash market. Moreover, a contract should not be listed past the date for which the designated contract market has access to use a proprietary price index for cash settlement.

Payments are settled at maturity.

(H) Speculative Limits: Specific rules and policies for speculative position limits are set forth in part 150 and/or part 151, as applicable, of the Commission's regulations.

None required by Parts 150 or 151 of the Commission's regulations.

(I) Reportable Levels: Refer to § 15.03 of the Commission's regulations.

BSEF will adhere to the applicable reporting levels set forth in § 15.03 of the Commission's regulations.

(J) Trading Hours: Should be set by the designated contract market to delineate each trading day.

The Contract is traded twenty-four hours a day (00:01 – 24:00), Sunday to Friday Eastern Time.

CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5c OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE
ACT, 7 U.S.C. §7A-2 AND COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION
REGULATION 40.2, 17 C.F.R. §40.2

I hereby certify that: 1) the Contract complies with the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. §1 *et seq.* and regulations thereunder; and 2) concurrent with this submission, Bloomberg SEF LLC posted on its website: (a) a notice of pending certification of this Contract with the Commission; and (b) a copy of this submission.



By: Devi Shanmugham
Title: Chief Compliance Officer

Attachment A
Terms and Conditions

GBP UK Retail Prices Index Fixed-to-Floating (Inflation Zero Coupon) Swap Contract

Contract Overview	An agreement to transfer inflation risk from one party to another through an exchange of cash flows. In a zero coupon inflation swap, only one payment is due at maturity where one party pays a fixed rate on a notional principal amount and the other party pays a floating rate linked to an inflation index.
Ticker	GBP ZC Inflation Swap vs UKRPI [tenor] GBP ZC Inflation Swap vs UKRPI [maturity date]
Currency	GBP
Floating Rate Index	United Kingdom Retail Prices Index (UK RPI)
Fixed Rate	Par Coupon, Custom Coupon
Contract Size	As agreed by the counterparties
Minimum Size	As agreed by the counterparties
Trading Conventions	Buy = Pay Fixed, Receive Floating Sell = Receive Fixed, Pay Floating
Swap Conventions	<u>Fixed Leg</u> Payment: At maturity Compounding: Annual Day Count Conventions: 1/1 Holiday Calendar: England Business Day Conventions: Modified Following with adjustment to period end dates. <u>Inflation Leg</u> Payment: At Maturity Resets: 2 Months before Effective Date and 2 Months before Maturity Date Day Count Conventions: 1/1 Holiday Calendar: England Business Day Conventions: Modified Following with adjustment to period end dates.
Swap Tenor	The duration of time from the effective date to the maturity date. A contract can have a tenor from 1 year to up to 50 years.
Effective Date	The date on which parties begin calculating accrued obligations such as fixed rate and inflation payments (i.e., the start date of the swap).
Maturity Date	The final date on which the obligations no longer accrue and the final payment occurs.
Periodic Settlement: Payment and Resets	Fixed Leg: The payment amount of the Fixed Leg is based on the following: Notional, Compounding Frequency, Payment Frequency, Day Count and Fixed Interest Rate. Floating Leg: The payment amount of the Inflation Leg is based on the following: Notional, Payment Frequency, Day Count, Floating Rate Index and Reset Dates. Payments are settled in accordance with the payment frequency of the swap.
First Fixing Date	The first UK RPI Fixing Date is observed 2 months prior to the effective date of the swap.
Trade Start Types	<u>Spot</u>: A new swap where the Effective Date is 15th of the month of the trade date. <u>Non-Spot</u>: Any 15th of a month, as long as the Initial Fixing Index is known.
Settlement Procedure	As determined by the Clearing House
Trading Hours	00:01 -24:00 Sunday-Friday (Eastern Time)
Clearing Venue	LCH.Clearnet Ltd, Eurex Clearing AG or Bilateral
Block Size	As set forth in Appendix F to Part 43 of CFTC Regulations.
Speculative Limits	As set forth in Part 150 of CFTC Regulations
Reportable Levels	As set forth in CFTC Regulation 15.03