I. Introduction

On September 9, 2013, the operating committee (“Operating Committee” or “Committee”) 1 of the Joint Self-Regulatory Organization Plan Governing the Collection, Consolidation, and Dissemination of Quotation and Transaction Information for Nasdaq-Listed Securities Traded on Exchanges on an Unlisted Trading Privilege Basis (“Nasdaq/UTP Plan” or “Plan”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”), 2 and Rule 608 thereunder, 3 a proposal to amend the Plan. 4 The proposal represents Amendment No. 30 to the Plan (“Amendment”) and reflects changes unanimously adopted by the Participants. 5 The Amendment was published for comment in the Federal Register on September 23, 2013. 6 No comment letters were received in response to the Notice. The Amendment would require that odd-lot transactions be reported to the consolidated tape. The Plan was amended to remove odd-lots from the list of transactions that are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape. This order approves the Amendment to the Plan.

II. Description of the Proposal

Currently, Section XIII(B) (Transaction Reports) of the Nasdaq/UTP Plan provides that “Each Participant shall, during the time it is open for trading, be responsible promptly to collect and transmit to the Processor Transaction Reports in Eligible Securities executed in its Market by means prescribed herein.” However, that section also provides a list of transactions that “are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape.” That list includes odd-lot transactions. According to the Participants, “because odd-lot transactions account for a not insignificant percentage of trading volume, the Participants have determined that including odd-lot transactions on the consolidated tape of Nasdaq/UTP last sale prices would add post-trade transparency to the marketplace.” 7 Accordingly, the Amendment proposes to add odd-lot transactions to the consolidated tape by removing them from Section XIII(B)’s list of transactions that are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape.

Due to the lack of economic significance of many individual odd-lot orders, the Participants did not propose to include odd-lot transactions in calculations of last sale prices. Therefore, odd-lot transactions would not be included in calculations of high and low prices and would not be subject to the Limit Up-Limit Down Plan 8 (i.e., the National Market System Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility). Moreover, including odd-lot transactions on the consolidated tape would not trigger short sale restrictions or trading halts. However, odd-lot transactions would be included in calculations of daily consolidated volume.

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3 17 CFR 242.608.

4 The Plan governs the collection, processing, and dissemination on a consolidated basis of quotation information and transaction reports in Eligible Securities for each of its Participants. This consolidated information informs investors of the current quotation and recent trade prices of Nasdaq securities. It enables investors to ascertain from one data source the current prices in all the markets trading Nasdaq securities. The Plan serves as the required transaction reporting plan for its Participants, which is a prerequisite for their trading Eligible Securities. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55647 (April 19, 2007), 72 FR 20891 (April 26, 2007).

5 The proposal was originally designated as Amendment No. 31. See Letter from Thomas P. Knorring, Chairman, Nasdaq/UTP Plan Operating Committee to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Commission, dated September 9, 2013. On September 17, 2013, the Participants filed a letter to re-designate the proposal as Amendment No. 30 and to correct a marking error in the Plan language. See Letter from Thomas P. Knorring, Chairman, Nasdaq/UTP Plan Operating Committee to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, dated September 17, 2013.


7 Id. at 58362.


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Additional Information or Comments:

To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, contact Dana Hickman at (312) 751–4981 or Dana.Hickman@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Charles Mierzwa, Railroad Retirement Board, 644 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611–2092 or emailed to Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa, Chief of Information Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 2013–26538 Filed 11–5–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905–01–P

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ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

(The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows)

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–70793; File No. S7–24–89]

For purposes of allocating revenue among the Participants under the Nasdaq/UTP Plan, the Participants would include odd-lot transactions in the Security Income Allocation for each Eligible Security under Paragraph 2 (Security Income Allocation) of Exhibit 1 to the Nasdaq/UTP Plan. Just as with round lot transactions, an odd-lot transaction with a dollar value of $5000 or more would constitute one qualified transaction report and an odd-lot transaction with a dollar value of less than $5000 would constitute a fraction of a qualified transaction report that equals the dollar value of the transaction report divided by $5000. The Participants do not anticipate that this would produce a significant shift in revenue allocation among the Participants. According to the Participants, this treatment of odd-lot transactions for revenue allocation purposes does not require a change to the language of Exhibit 1 to the Nasdaq/UTP Plan.

III. Discussion and Commission’s Findings

After careful review, the Commission finds that the Amendment to the Nasdaq/UTP Plan is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, and, in particular, Section 11A(a)(1)(C)(iii) of the Act and Rule 608 thereunder in that it is in the public interest and appropriate for the protection of investors and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets to assure the availability to brokers, dealers, and investors of information with respect to transactions in securities. As the Participants stated in the proposal, odd-lot transactions comprise a noteworthy percentage of total trading volume. Thus, including odd-lot transactions on the consolidated tape will enhance post-trade transparency, as well as price discovery, and consequently would further the goals of the Act. The Commission believes that information about odd-lot transactions would provide important information to investors and other market participants and therefore represents a positive development in the provision of market data.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 11A of the Act, and the rules thereunder, that the proposed amendment to the Nasdaq/UTP Plan (S7–24–89), be, and hereby is approved. For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.

Kevin M. O’Neill.
Deputy Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Consolidated Tape Association; Order Approving the Eighteenth Substantive Amendment to the Second Restatement of the CTA Plan

October 31, 2013.

I. Introduction

On September 9, 2013, the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA") Plan participants ("Participants") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") pursuant to Section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 608 thereunder, a proposal to amend the Second Restatement of the CTA Plan ("CTA Plan"). The proposal represents the eighteenth substantive amendment to the CTA Plan ("Amendment") and reflects changes unanimously adopted by the Participants. The Amendment was published for comment in the Federal Register on September 23, 2013. No comment letters were received in response to the Notice. The Amendment would require that odd-lot transactions be reported to the consolidated tape. The Plan was amended to remove odd-lot transactions from the list of transactions that are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape. This order approves the Amendment to the CTA Plan.

II. Description of the Proposal

Currently, Section VIII(a) (Responsibility of Exchange Participants) of the CTA Plan provides that each Participant will "collect and report to the Processor all last sale price information to be reported by it relating to transactions in Eligible Securities taking place on its floor." However, Section VII(d) (Transactions not reported (related messages)) provides a list of transactions that "are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape." That list includes odd-lot transactions. According to the Participants, "because odd-lot transactions account for a not insignificant percentage of trading volume, the Participants have determined that including odd-lot transactions on the consolidated tape of CTA last sale prices would add post-trade transparency to the marketplace." Accordingly, the Amendment proposes to add odd-lot transactions to the consolidated tape by removing them from Section VII(d)’s list of transactions that are not to be reported for inclusion on the consolidated tape.

Due to the lack of economic significance of many individual odd-lot orders, the Participants did not propose to include bids and offers for odd-lots in the best bid and best offer calculations that the Participants make available under the Consolidated Quotation Plan. Additionally, the Participants did not propose to include odd-lot transactions in calculations of last sale prices. Therefore, odd-lot transactions would not be included in calculations of high and low prices and would not be subject to the Limit Up-Limit Down Plan (i.e., the National Market System Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility). Moreover, including odd-lot transactions on the consolidated tape would not trigger short sale restrictions or trading halts. However, odd-lot transactions would be included in calculations of daily consolidated volume.

For purposes of allocating revenue among the Participants under the CTA Plan, the Participants would include odd-lot transactions in the Security Income Allocation for each Eligible Security under Section XII(a)(ii) (Security Income Allocation) of the CTA Plan.

10 17 CFR 242.608.
14 17 CFR 240.608.
16 17 CFR 242.608.