with Reserve Size. The proposed changes are intended to facilitate compliance with the Trade-at-Prohibition.\footnote{39 In Partial Amendment No. 3, the Exchange clarified that it would not apply the Trade-at-Prohibition outside of Regular Trading Hours. The Commission notes that this is consistent with the Plan. See Plan Section I(LL).}

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend provisions related to two exceptions to the Trade-at-Prohibition. First, the Exchange proposes to amend the definition of TA ISO to reflect that ISOs may be routed to the full displayed size of a Protected Quotation that is traded-at and to make the corresponding change to the applicable Trade-at-Prohibition exception. Second, the Exchange proposes to amend the Trade-at-Prohibition exception for Block Size Orders to allow such Orders to be executed on multiple Trading Centers. Further, the Exchange proposes that for purposes of the Block Size Order exception to the Trade-at-Prohibition, the Order must have a size of 5,000 shares and the resulting execution upon entry must have a size of 5,000 shares or more in aggregate.\footnote{40 See also Exchange Rule 4770(c)(3)(D)(iii)(c).}

The Commission believes that the proposed changes are reasonably designed to comply with the Plan. Further, the Commission believes that the proposed changes that target particular Test Groups are necessary for compliance with the Plan.\footnote{41 The Commission notes that the Exchange originally proposed to modify the operation of Post to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post Only Orders entered via OUCH and FLITE for Test Group Three Pilot Securities only. In Partial Amendment No. 2, the Exchange proposes to remove the proposed functionality. Thus, the Commission believes that the proposal, as modified, is consistent with the Plan. The Exchange has committed to make the system changes necessary to implement Partial Amendment No. 2. If it appears that the system changes will not be completed by October 17, 2016, the date on which the Participants will begin implementation of Test Group 3, Nasdaq will file a proposed rule change with the Commission to propose any necessary changes to the Exchange’s rules, and provide notice to market participants sufficiently in advance of this date to adequately inform market participants of the current operation of Nasdaq’s systems. See Partial Amendment No. 2.}

Accordingly, the Commission finds that these changes are consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act\footnote{42 17 CFR 240.19b–4.} and Rule 608 of Regulation NMS\footnote{43 17 CFR 242.608.} because they implement the Plan and clarify Exchange Rules.

For these reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3, is consistent with the requirements of the Act\footnote{44 15 U.S.C. 78b(b)(5).} and Rule 608 of Regulation NMS.\footnote{45 17 CFR 242.608.}

V. Solicitation of Comments on Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 to the Proposed Rule Change

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal, as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3, is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments
- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ–2016–126 on the subject line.

Paper Comments
- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NASDAQ–2016–126. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NASDAQ–2016–126 and should be submitted on or before November 4, 2016.

VI. Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3

The Commission finds good cause to approve the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3, prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice of the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 in the Federal Register. As described above, the Exchange proposes to amend its rules to comply with the Plan. The Commission notes that the Pilot started implementation on October 3, 2016, and accelerated approval of the proposal would ensure that the rules of the Exchange would be in place during implementation. Accordingly, the Commission finds good cause, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,\footnote{46 Id.} to approve the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3, on an accelerated basis.

VII. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered that, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,\footnote{47 Id.} that the proposed rule change (SR–NASDAQ–2016–126), as modified by Partial Amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3, be and hereby is approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.\footnote{48 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).}

Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Fees for Use of Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.

October 7, 2016.

Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange filed a proposal to amend the fee schedule applicable to Members and non-members of the Exchange pursuant to BZX Rules 15.1(a) and (c).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at www.batrading.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to modify its fee schedule applicable to the Exchange’s options platform (“BZX Options”) to: (i) Modify the Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers under footnote 9; (ii) remove fee codes PA and NA from footnote 4, NBBO Setter Tiers; (iii) modify the criteria for Tier 5 under footnote 1, Customer Penny Pilot Add; (iv) modify the criteria for the Tier 1 under footnote 3, Non-Customer Penny Pilot Take Volume; and (v) modify the criteria for Tier 1 under footnote 13, Non-Customer Non-Penny Pilot Take Volume.

Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers

The Exchange is proposing to add two new tiers under footnote 9, Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, and Tier 4. Criteria for Professional orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities receive a standard rebate of $0.25 per contract. In addition, Members who qualify for Tier 1 and Tier 2 under footnote 9, Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier, receive for such orders a rebate of $0.40 and $0.43, respectively. Under the proposed new Tier 3, a Member that has a combined ADAV in Customer and Professional orders equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV would receive a $0.46 rebate per contract for each Professional order that adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities. Under the proposed new Tier 4, a Member that has a combined ADAV in Customer and Professional orders equal to or greater than 0.50% of average TCV would receive a $0.48 rebate per contract for each Professional order that adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities. The Exchange is also proposing to modify the criteria necessary to qualify for the Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier 1 and to increase the rebate provided under both Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier 1 and Tier 2 under footnote 9. Currently under Tier 1, a Member must have an ADV equal to or greater than 0.20% of average TCV in order to receive a rebate of $0.40. The Exchange now proposes an increased rebate of $0.42 pursuant to Tier 1 when a Member has an ADV in Customer and Professional Orders equal to or greater than 0.10% of average TCV. Thus, in addition to increasing the rebate this change will align the structure of the criteria of Tier 1 with the structure of existing Tier 2 as well as new proposed Tiers 3 and 4 described above.

Under Tier 2 the Exchange presently provides a rebate of $0.43 for Members who have a combined ADAV in Customer and Professional Orders equal to or greater than 0.20% of average TCV. The Exchange is proposing to increase the rebate under Tier 2 to $0.44. In addition, in order to ensure consistent terminology throughout footnote 9, the Exchange proposes to modify the description of Tier 2 to eliminate the reference to “combined” such that the Tier will apply when a Member has an ADAV in Customer and Professional Orders equal to or greater than 0.20% of average TCV. The Exchange believes the use of the word “combined” in this case is unnecessary and inconsistent with other portions of the fee schedule. The Exchange also notes that changes are required to the Standard Rates table of the fee schedule in connection with the changes to footnote 9 to reflect these changes.

NBBO Setter Tiers

The Exchange’s NBBO Setter Program is a program intended to incentivize aggressive quoting on BZX Options by providing an additional rebate upon execution for all orders that add liquidity that set either the national best bid (“NBBO”) or national best offer (“NBO”), subject to certain volume requirements. The Exchange currently operates four NBBO Setter Tiers that provide an additional rebate of either $0.02, $0.03 or $0.04 per contract to orders from qualifying Members that submit orders that yield fee codes PA, PF, PM, [sic] NA, NF, NM or NN. The Exchange does not propose to modify the criteria necessary to qualify for the NBBO Setter Tiers or the rebates provided thereunder, however the Exchange does propose to limit the applicability of Tier 4 to fee code orders PF, PM, PN, NF, NM, and NN. Thus, NBBO Setter Tiers rebates would no longer be provided to orders yielding fee codes PA or NA. The Exchange also proposes to eliminate references to
Customer Penny Pilot Add Tiers

The Exchange currently offers a total of three tiers under footnote 3, Non-Customer Penny Pilot Take Volume Tiers, which provide discounted fees for Non-Customer orders in Penny Pilot Securities that remove liquidity from BZX Options and yield fee code PY. The Exchange proposes to modify the required criteria for Tier 1 under footnote 13 as set forth below. Presently under Tier 5, the Exchange provides a rebate of $0.53 per contract for a Customer order where a Member: (1) Has an ADAV in Customer orders equal to or greater than 0.60% of average TCV; (2) has an ADAV in Market Maker orders equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV; and (3) has on the Exchange’s affiliated equity securities platform (“BZX Equities”) an ADAV equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV. The Exchange proposes to modify the second prong of these criteria to decrease the ADAV threshold in Market Maker orders from 0.30% to 0.25%. 

Non-Customer Penny Pilot Take Volume Tiers

The Exchange currently offers a total of three tiers under footnote 3, Non-Customer Penny Pilot Take Volume Tiers, which provide discounted fees for Non-Customer orders in Penny Pilot Securities that remove liquidity from BZX Options and yield fee code PY. The Exchange proposes to update the required criteria for Tier 1, as set forth below. The Exchange currently charges $0.44 per contract for Members that qualify for Non-Customer Volume Tier 1, which requires that a Member has (1) an ADAV in Customer orders equal to or greater than 0.60% of average TCV; (2) an ADAV in Market Maker orders equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV; and (3) on BZX Equities an ADAV equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV. The Exchange is proposing to modify the second prong of these criteria to decrease the ADAV threshold in Market Maker orders from 0.30% to 0.25%.

Non-Customer Non-Penny Pilot Take Volume Tiers

The Exchange presently offers a total of three tiers under footnote 13, Non-Customer Non-Penny Pilot Take Volume Tiers, which offer discounted fees for Non-Customer orders in No-Penny Pilot Securities that remove liquidity from BZX Options under fee code NP. The Exchange is proposing to update the required criteria for Tier 1 under footnote 13 as described below. Currently, the Exchange charges $1.02 per contract for Members that qualify for Non-Customer Take Volume Tier 1, which requires that a Member has (1) an ADAV in Customer orders equal to or greater than 0.60% of average TCV; (2) an ADAV in Market Maker orders equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV; and (3) on BZX Equities an ADAV equal to or greater than 0.30% of average TCV. The Exchange is proposing to modify the second prong of these criteria to decrease the ADAV threshold in Market Maker orders from 0.30% to 0.25%.

Implementation Date

The Exchange proposes to implement these amendments to its fee schedule as of October 3, 2016.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 6 of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels to be excessive.

Volume-based rebates such as those currently maintained on the Exchange have been widely adopted by equities and options exchanges and are equitable because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to the value to an exchange’s market quality associated with higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns, and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to add two new Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers and update the required criteria and rebate amounts for Tier 1 and Tier 2 under footnote 9 is reasonable, fair and equitable and non-discriminatory, for the reasons set forth above with respect to volume-based pricing generally. In addition, the Exchange believes the amount of the proposed rebates offered under the new Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, Tier 3 and Tier 4, are equitable and reasonable because they are generally in line with the proposed rebates offered pursuant to Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier 1 and Tier 2. The Exchange believes that the proposed tiers are reasonable, fair and equitable, and non-discriminatory because they, like the Professional Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier generally, are aimed to incentivize active participation on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that its proposal to remove fee codes PA and NA from footnote 4, NBBO Setter Tiers, is reasonable, fair and equitable and non-discriminatory, because the proposal coincides with the addition of new volume tiers and enhanced rebates for transactions that yield fee code PA. Thus, although Professional orders will no longer be able to qualify for NBBO Setter Tiers, there are additional ways to receive enhanced rebates and such rebates have also been increased.

Similar to the pricing tiers discussed above, the Exchange believes this incentive is reasonably related to the value to the Exchange’s market quality associated with higher levels of market activity, including liquidity provision and the introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes.

The proposed modifications to the criteria required to qualify for current Customer (Penny Pilot) Add Tier 5, Non-Customer (Penny Pilot) Take Volume Tier 1, and Non-Customer (Non-Penny Pilot) Take Volume Tier 1, are intended to incentivize additional Members to send Customer orders and/or Market Maker orders to the Exchange in an effort to qualify for the enhanced rebate or lower fee made available by the tiers. The Exchange believes that the proposal to require that the Member have an ADAV in Market Maker orders equal to or greater than 0.25% of average TCV under all three tiers is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because it will make it easier to qualify for enhanced rebates or reduced fees pursuant to such tiers. The

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13 As set forth in the Exchange’s fee schedule, the term “Market Maker” applies to any transaction identified by a Member for clearing in the Market Maker range at the OCC, where such Member is registered with the Exchange as a Market Maker as defined in Rule 16.1(a)[37].

14 In addition to the proposed substantive changes to footnote 13, the Exchange proposes to make the title of the footnote plural, as it currently reads “Non-Customer Non-Penny Pilot Take Volume Tier” even though there is more than one tier.


increased liquidity from this proposal also benefits all investors by deepening the BZX Options liquidity pool, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection. Such pricing programs thereby reward a Member’s growth pattern on the Exchange and such increased volume increases potential revenue to the Exchange, and will allow the Exchange to continue to provide and potentially expand the incentive programs operated by the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposal is reasonable, equitably allocated and non-discriminatory with respect to such Member based on the overall benefit to the Exchange resulting from the success of BZX Options. As noted above, such success allows the Exchange to continue to provide and potentially expand its existing incentive programs to the benefit of all participants on the Exchange. The proposed pricing program is also fair and equitable in that membership in BZX Options is available to all market participants which would provide them with access to the benefits on BZX Options provided by the proposed changes, as described above, even where a member of BZX Options is not necessarily eligible for the proposed increased rebates on the Exchange. Further, the proposed changes will result in Members receiving either the same or an increased rebate than they would currently receive.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange believes the proposed amendments to its fee schedule would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange has designed the proposed amendments to its fee schedule in order to enhance its ability to compete with other exchanges. Also, the Exchange believes that the addition of volume-tiered rebates by the Exchange contributes to rather than burdens competition, as such changes are intended to incentivize participants to increase their participation on the Exchange. Similarly, the modifications to criteria applicable to existing volume-tiered rebates and fees are intended to provide incentives to Members to encourage them to enter orders to the Exchange, and thus are intended to enhance competition. Additionally, Members may opt to disfavor the Exchange’s pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of Members or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets. Additionally, Members may opt to disfavor the Exchange’s pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes to the Exchange’s tiered pricing structure burdens competition, but instead, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of the Exchange. Also, the Exchange believes that the price changes contribute, rather than burden competition, as such changes are broadly intended to incentivize participants to increase their participation on the Exchange, which will increase the liquidity and market quality on the Exchange, which will then further enhance the Exchange’s ability to compete with other exchanges.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any written comments from members or other interested parties.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b–4 thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml);

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BatsBZX–2016–66. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–BatsBZX–2016–66, and should be submitted on or before November 4, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 

Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary.

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