SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Non-Priority Customer License Surcharge


Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,2 notice is hereby given that on June 12, 2017, Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to apply the Non-Priority Customer license surcharge set forth in Section IV.B of the Schedule of Fees to orders that are routed to away markets.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site at www.ise.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 aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to apply the Non-Priority Customer (i.e., Market Maker,3 Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker,4 Firm Proprietary5/Broker-Dealer,6 and Professional Customer7) license surcharge set forth in Section IV.B of the Schedule of Fees to orders in those licensed products8 that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan (the "Plan"). The Exchange initially filed the proposed pricing changes on June 1, 2017 (SR–ISE–2017–50). On June 12, 2017, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this filing.

Today, the Exchange charges Non-Priority Customers route-out fees for orders in Non-Select Symbols9 that are routed to away markets in connection with the Plan. Specifically as set forth in Section IV.F of the Schedule of Fees, Non-Priority Customer orders pay a route-out fee of $0.95 per contract in Non-Select Symbols. The route-out fees offset costs incurred by the Exchange in connection with using unaffiliated broker-dealers to access other exchanges for linkage execution. In addition, as set forth in Section IV.B of the Schedule of Fees, the Exchange presently charges a $0.25 license surcharge for all Non-Priority Customer orders in NDX and a $0.10 license surcharge for all Non-Priority Customer orders in BKX (together, "License Surcharge"). License Surcharge applies to all BKX and NDX orders executed on the Exchange, but is not applied when those orders are routed to away markets in connection with the Plan. The Exchange therefore proposes to apply the License Surcharge to such orders, specifically by adding language in Section IV.B of the Schedule of Fees that the Non-Priority Customer License Surcharge applies to all executions in BKX and NDX, including executions of BKX and NDX orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Plan. For example, all Non-Priority Customer orders in NDX that are routed to away markets would be assessed a $0.25 per contract License Surcharge and a $0.95 per contract route-out fee under this proposal.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,10 in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,11 in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."12 Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission13 ("NetCoalition") the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission’s use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.14 As the court emphasized, the Commission "intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost."15 Further, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S.

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3 The term “Market Makers” refers to “Competitive Market Makers” and “Primary Market Makers” collectively. See Rule 100(a)(25).
4 A “Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker” is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another registered options exchange.
5 A “Firm Proprietary” order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account.
6 A “Broker-Dealer” order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. A “Priority Customer” is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in ISE Rule 1001a(37A).
7 “Professional Customer” is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. A “Priority Customer” is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in ISE Rule 1001a(37A).
8 The Exchange assesses a license surcharge for NDX and BKX. BKX, which represents options on the KBW Bank Index ("BKX"), is currently not traded on the Exchange. NDX represents options on the Nasdaq-100 Index traded under the symbol NDX ("NDX").
9 “Non-Select Symbols” are options overlapping all symbols that are not in the Penny Pilot Program. NDX and BKX are Non-Select Symbols.
11 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).
13 NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).
14 See NetCoalition, at 534–535.
15 Id. at 537.
national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’. . .” 16 Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets. 

The Exchange believes that its proposal to apply the License Surcharge to Non-Priority Customer orders in licensed products that are routed to away markets in connection with the Plan is reasonable and equitable because it offsets both the costs associated with executing orders on away markets as well as the licensing costs associated with listing and trading these products. In particular, the Exchange’s route-out fees are presently not calculated to cover the licensing costs for BKX and NDX. The Exchange notes that a license agreement is required to trade these products regardless of whether the order is executed on the Exchange or routed to another exchange in connection with the Plan. As such, the Exchange believes that extending the License Surcharge to those orders that are routed to away markets (in addition to those orders executed on the Exchange) is a reasonable and equitable means of recovering the costs of the license. Furthermore, the Exchange must pay the actual transaction fees charged by the exchange the order is routed to. 18 The Exchange also believes that its proposal is reasonable and equitable because Non-Priority Customers would be able to avoid paying the License Surcharge by sending the Exchange orders in these licensed products to be routed to another market and only pay the Exchange’s route-out fee. The Exchange would, however, still be required to pay all of the actual transaction fees (including the license surcharge) charged by the exchange the order is routed to. For example, a Non-Priority Customer order in NDX that is routed to CBOE today would only be assessed the $0.95 per contract route-out fee while the Exchange would pay the $0.25 per contract license surcharge on top of the actual transaction fees CBOE would charge for the NDX order. The Exchange therefore believes that it is reasonable and equitable to assess the License Surcharge to orders in those licensed products which are routed to other exchanges in order to avoid this scenario.

Finally, the Exchange believes that the proposed fee change is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will apply the same fee to all similarly situated members. In particular, the License Surcharge would be applied to all Non-Priority Customer orders in those licensed products which are routed to away markets in connection with the Plan. The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess this surcharge to all participants other than Priority Customers because the Exchange seeks to encourage Priority Customer order flow and the liquidity such order flow brings to the marketplace, which in turn benefits all market participants.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition. To the contrary, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants do not readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. In this instance, the proposed application of the License Surcharge to orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Plan does not impose a burden on competition because the Exchange’s execution services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition from other exchanges. If the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal will impair the ability of members to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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)(ii) of the Act 19 and Rule 19b–4(f)(2) 20 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: (i) Necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in the public interest.

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:

16 Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008)).


18 See, e.g., MIAX Options Fee Schedule, (1) Transaction Fees, (c) Fees and Rebates for Customer Orders Routed to Another Options Exchange, at: https://www.miaxoptions.com/sites/default/files/page-files/MIAX_Options_Fee_Schedule_05012017.pdf.


SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Require Listed Companies To Provide Advance Notice of Dividend Announcements to the Exchange


Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that, on June 13, 2017, New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") 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 self-regulatory organization. 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the rule change from interested persons.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the Manual to require listed companies to provide notice to the Exchange at least 10 minutes before making any public announcement with respect to a dividend or stock distribution in all cases, including outside of the hours in which the Exchange’s immediate release policy is in operation.

The Exchange’s immediate release policy, set forth in Sections 202.05 and 202.06 of the Manual, already requires companies releasing material news between 7:00 a.m. ET and the NYSE close (generally 4:00 p.m. ET) to call the Exchange’s Market Watch team at least 10 minutes before issuing their announcement to discuss the content of the announcement and also email a copy of the proposed announcement to Market Watch at least 10 minutes before its release. Listed companies announcing dividends during these hours are required to comply with the immediate release policy in connection with such announcement.

Section 204.12 of the Manual requires listed companies to give prompt notice to the Exchange as to any dividend action or action relating to a stock distribution in respect of a listed stock (including the omission or postponement of a dividend action at the customary time as well as the declaration of a dividend). The notice must be given at least ten days in advance of the record date and is in addition to the requirement to publicly disclose the information pursuant to the immediate release policy. The dividend notice must be given to the Exchange in accordance with Section 204.00.4 Notice must be given as soon as possible after declaration and in any event, no later than simultaneously with the announcement to the news media.

In addition, Section 204.21 of the Manual requires listed companies to give prompt notice to the Exchange of the fixing of a date for the taking of a record of shareholders, or for the closing of transfer books (in respect of a listed security), for any purpose. The notice must state the purpose or purposes for which the record date has been fixed. This notice must be provided to the


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–ISE–2017–54 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–ISE–2017–54. 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 public inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange, at www.nyse.com, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the 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–ISE–2017–54 and should be submitted on or before July 21, 2017.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.21

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

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