

The Nasdaq Exchanges represent that the BX Rule 8000 and 9000 Series are not trading rules. Moreover, the Nasdaq Exchanges state that in each instance, the Nasdaq Exchanges propose to incorporate by reference categories of rules (rather than individual rules within a category) that are regulatory in nature. The Nasdaq Exchanges will, as a condition of this exemption, provide written notice to their members whenever BX proposes a change to its Rule 8000 and 9000 Series.<sup>7</sup> Such notice will alert the members of each Nasdaq Exchange to the proposed rule change and give them an opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Nasdaq Exchanges state that they will also inform members in writing when the Commission approves any such proposed changes.<sup>8</sup>

The Nasdaq Exchanges believe this exemption is necessary and appropriate, because it will result in the Nasdaq Exchanges' rules being consistent with the relevant cross-referenced BX rules at all times, thus ensuring that the Nasdaq Exchanges and BX maintain a harmonious system of investigating, disciplining, and adjudicating the rights of their respective members, associated persons, and other persons subject to their jurisdiction. Without such an exemption, members of the Nasdaq Exchanges and BX could become subject to different standards for investigations and disciplinary actions.<sup>9</sup>

The Commission has issued exemptions similar to the Nasdaq Exchanges' request.<sup>10</sup> In granting one

such exemption in 2010, the Commission repeated a prior, 2004 Commission statement that it would consider similar future exemption requests from other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs"), provided that:

- An SRO wishing to incorporate rules of another SRO by reference has submitted a written request for an order exempting it from the requirement in Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act to file proposed rule changes relating to the rules incorporated by reference, has identified the applicable originating SRO(s), together with the rules it wants to incorporate by reference, and otherwise has complied with the procedural requirements set forth in the Commission's release governing procedures for requesting exemptive orders pursuant to Rule 0-12 under the Exchange Act;<sup>11</sup>

- The incorporating SRO has requested incorporation of categories of rules (rather than individual rules within a category) that are not trading rules (e.g., the SRO has requested incorporation of rules such as margin, suitability, or arbitration); and

- The incorporating SRO has reasonable procedures in place to provide written notice to its members each time a change is proposed to the incorporated rules of another SRO.<sup>12</sup>

The Commission believes that the Nasdaq Exchanges have satisfied each of these conditions. The Commission also believes that granting the Nasdaq Exchanges an exemption from the rule filing requirements under Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act will promote efficient use of Commission and Nasdaq Exchange resources by avoiding duplicative rule filings based on simultaneous changes to identical rule text sought by more than one SRO.<sup>13</sup> The Commission therefore finds it appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors to exempt the Nasdaq Exchanges from the rule filing requirements under Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act with respect to the above-described rules they have incorporated by reference. This exemption is

conditioned upon the Nasdaq Exchanges promptly providing written notice to their members whenever the BX changes a rule that the Nasdaq Exchanges have incorporated by reference.

Accordingly, it is ordered, pursuant to Section 36 of the Exchange Act,<sup>14</sup> that the Nasdaq Exchanges are exempt from the rule filing requirements of Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act solely with respect to changes to the rules identified in their request that incorporate by reference certain BX rules that are the result of changes to such BX rules, provided that the Nasdaq Exchanges promptly provide written notice to their members whenever the BX proposes to change a rule that the Nasdaq Exchanges have incorporated by reference.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>15</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-83876; File No. SR-C2-2018-017]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Options Regulatory Fee

August 17, 2018.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 9, 2018, Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "C2") 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule relating to the Options Regulatory Fee.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's

<sup>7</sup> The Nasdaq Exchanges state that they will provide such notice on their websites in the same section they use to post their own proposed rule change filings pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f) within the timeframe required by such Rule. In addition, the Nasdaq Exchanges state that their website will also include a link to the BX website where the proposed rule change filings are located. *Id.* at 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 80338 (March 29, 2017), 82 FR 16464 (April 4, 2017) (order granting exemptive request from MIAx PEARL, LLC relating to rules of Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC incorporated by reference); 72650 (July 22, 2014), 79 FR 44075 (July 29, 2014) (order granting exemptive requests from NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. and the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC relating to rules of NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC incorporated by reference); 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277, 39286 (July 2, 2012) (order approving SR-BX-2012-030 and granting exemptive request relating to rules incorporated by reference by the BX Options rules); 61534 (February 18, 2010), 75 FR 8760 (February 25, 2010) (order granting BATS Exchange, Inc.'s exemptive request relating to rules incorporated by reference by the BATS Exchange Options Market rules) ("BATS Options Market Order"); and 57478 (March 12, 2008), 73 FR 14521, 14539-40 (March 18, 2008) (order approving SR-NASDAQ-2007-004 and SR-NASDAQ-2007-080, and granting exemptive request relating to rules incorporated by reference by The NASDAQ Options Market).

<sup>11</sup> See 17 CFR 240.0-12 and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 39624 (February 5, 1998), 63 FR 8101 (February 18, 1998) ("Commission Procedures for Filing Applications for Orders for Exemptive Relief Pursuant to Section 36 of the Exchange Act; Final Rule").

<sup>12</sup> See BATS Options Market Order, *supra* note 10 (citing Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49260 (February 17, 2004), 69 FR 8500 (February 24, 2004) (order granting exemptive request relating to rules incorporated by reference by several SROs) ("2004 Order").

<sup>13</sup> See BATS Options Market Order, *supra* note 10, 75 FR at 8761; see also 2004 Order, *supra* note 12, 69 FR at 8502.

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78mm.

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(76).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

website (<http://www.c2exchange.com/Legal/>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

#### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to decrease the Options Regulatory Fee ("ORF") from \$.0014 per contract to \$.0011 per contract in order to help ensure that revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, meets the Exchange's total regulatory costs.<sup>3</sup>

The ORF is assessed by C2 Options to each Trading Permit Holder ("TPH") for options transactions cleared by the TPH that are cleared by the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC) in the customer range, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. In other words, the Exchange imposes the ORF on all customer-range transactions cleared by a TPH, even if the transactions do not take place on the Exchange. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of the Exchange from the Clearing Trading Permit Holder ("CTPH") or non-CTPH that ultimately clears the transaction. With respect to linkage transactions, C2 Options reimburses its routing broker providing Routing Services pursuant to C2 Options Rule 6.15 for options regulatory fees it incurs in connection with the Routing Services it provides.

Revenue generated from ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, is designed to recover a material portion of the regulatory costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of TPH

customer options business. Regulatory costs include direct regulatory expenses and certain indirect expenses for work allocated in support of the regulatory function. The direct expenses include in-house and third party service provider costs to support the day to day regulatory work such as surveillances, investigations and examinations. The indirect expenses include support from such areas as human resources, legal, information technology and accounting. These indirect expenses are estimated to be approximately 6% of C2 Options' total regulatory costs for 2018. Thus, direct expenses are estimated to be approximately 94% of total regulatory costs for 2018. In addition, it is C2 Options' practice that revenue generated from ORF not exceed more than 75% of total annual regulatory costs. These expectations are estimated, preliminary and may change. There can be no assurance that our final costs for 2018 will not differ materially from these expectations and prior practice; however, the Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs.

The Exchange also notes that its regulatory responsibilities with respect to TPH compliance with options sales practice rules have largely been allocated to FINRA under a 17d-2 agreement.<sup>4</sup> The ORF is not designed to cover the cost of that options sales practice regulation.

The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange monitors its regulatory costs and revenues at a minimum on a semi-annual basis. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed or are insufficient to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs, the Exchange will adjust the ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission. The Exchange notifies TPHs of adjustments to the ORF via regulatory circular. The Exchange endeavors to provide TPHs with such notice at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the change.

The Exchange lastly proposes a couple of minor clean up changes to the Fees Schedule. Particularly, the ORF is listed as being \$.0015 per contract through January 31, 2018 and \$.0014

per contract effective February 1, 2018. As these dates have passed and the ORF is now simply \$.0011 per contract, the Exchange proposes to delete the reference to the ORF being \$.0015 per contract through January 31, 2018 and the February 1, 2018 effective date of the \$.0014 per contract ORF.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its TPHs and other persons using its facilities. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>7</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes the proposed fee change is reasonable because it would help ensure that revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. Moreover, the Exchange believes the ORF ensures fairness by assessing higher fees to those TPHs that require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of customer options business they conduct. Regulating customer trading activity is much more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-customer trading activity, which tends to be more automated and less labor-intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are materially higher than the costs associated with administering the non-customer component (*e.g.*, TPH proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange believes the proposed fee change is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in that it is charged to all

<sup>3</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed fee change on August 1, 2018 (SR-C2-2018-016) for August 1, 2018 effectiveness. On business date August 9, 2018, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this filing.

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76309 (October 29, 2015), 80 FR 68361 (November 4, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>8</sup> If the Exchange changes its method of funding regulation or if circumstances otherwise change in the future, the Exchange may decide to modify the ORF or assess a separate regulatory fee on TPH proprietary transactions if the Exchange deems it advisable.

TPHs on all their transactions that clear in the customer range at the OCC.

The Exchange believes the proposal to eliminate obsolete language with respect to past ORF rates maintains clarity in the rules and alleviates potential confusion, thereby protecting investors and the public interest.

#### *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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF applies to all customer activity, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition because it is a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

### **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<sup>9</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>10</sup> 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

### **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>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File No. SR-C2-2018-017 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 No. SR-C2-2018-017. 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 website (<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 website 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 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-C2-2018-017, and should be submitted on or before September 13, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
*Assistant Secretary.*

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### **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-83870; File No. SR-CBOE-2018-056]

#### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt Exchange Rule 6.57, Risk-Weighted Assets ("RWA") Transactions**

August 17, 2018.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 8, 2018, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "Cboe Options") 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange proposes to amend its rules to adopt Rule 6.57 to facilitate the reduction of SPX options positions maintained by Cboe Options Market-Makers.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's website (<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, 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

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.