

public interest, and therefore hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.¹⁶

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 shall 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. Please include File Number SR-CboeBZX-2019-095 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-CboeBZX-2019-095. 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-CboeBZX-2019-095, and should be submitted on or before December 12, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-25208 Filed 11-20-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-87555; File No. SR-NYSEAMER-2019-49]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE American LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Amending Its Annual Listing Fees for Equity Securities

November 15, 2019.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on November 4, 2019, NYSE American LLC ("NYSE American" 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 its annual listing fees for equity securities. The proposed change is available on the Exchange's website at www.nyse.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 self-regulatory organization 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 those 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its annual listing fees for equities set forth in Section 141 of the NYSE American Company Guide (the "Company Guide") with effect from the beginning of the calendar year commencing on January 1, 2020. These amendments only reflect changes in the amounts charged on an annual basis for listed securities and do not reflect any change in the services provided to the issuer in connection with such listing.

Currently, the annual fee schedule in relation to any listed issue of equity securities is as follows: \$45,000 for issues of 50 million shares or fewer; \$60,000 for issues of more than 50 million shares and not more than 75 million shares; and \$70,000 for issues with in excess of 75 million shares outstanding. The Exchange proposes to increase the annual fee for issues of 50 million shares or fewer from \$45,000 to \$50,000. In addition, it proposes to charge \$70,000 for all issues with more than 50 million shares outstanding (*i.e.*, an increase of \$10,000 for issues with more than 50 million shares and not more than 75 million shares outstanding and no increase with respect to any issue with more than 75 million shares outstanding).

The Exchange proposes to make the aforementioned fee increases in Section 141 to reflect increases in the cost of servicing listings and conducting the required associated regulatory oversight. The revised fees will be applied in the same manner to all issuers and the changes will not disproportionately affect any specific category of issuers. The Exchange believes that it is appropriate to adopt a two-tier annual

¹⁶ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12), (59).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

listing fee schedule rather than the current three-tier approach is equitable [sic] because the Exchange has observed that the costs associated with servicing the listings of issuers in the two current higher tiers are generally very similar and the proposed merging of those tiers therefore better aligns the fee structure with the costs associated with listing those issuers.

The Exchange also proposes to remove from Section 141 several references to fee provisions that are no longer relevant, as those fee rates are no longer applicable.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4)⁵ of the Act, in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁶ in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Proposed Change Is Reasonable

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive marketplace for the listing of equity securities. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, 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.”⁷

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges with respect to new listings and the transfer of existing listings

between competitor exchanges demonstrates that issuers can choose different listing markets in response to fee changes. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain exchange listing fees. Stated otherwise, changes to exchange listing fees can have a direct effect on the ability of an exchange to compete for new listings and retain existing listings.

Given this competitive environment, the small increase to the annual fees for equity securities represents a reasonable attempt to address the Exchange’s increased costs in servicing these listings while continuing to attract and retain listings.

The Proposal Is an Equitable Allocation of Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal equitably allocates its fees among its market participants. Adopting a two-tier annual listing fee schedule rather than the current three-tier approach is equitable because the Exchange has observed that the costs associated with servicing the listings of issuers in the two current higher tiers are generally very similar and the proposed merging of those tiers therefore better aligns the fee structure with the costs associated with listing those issuers.

The Proposal Is Not Unfairly Discriminatory

The Exchange believes that the proposal is not unfairly discriminatory because the same fee schedule will apply to all listed issuers. Further, the Exchange operates in a competitive environment and its fees are constrained by competition in the marketplace. Other venues currently list all of the categories of securities covered by the proposed fees and if a company believes that the Exchange’s fees are unreasonable it can decide either not to list its securities or to list them on an alternative venue.

Finally, the Exchange believes that it is subject to significant competitive forces, as described below in the Exchange’s statement regarding the burden on competition.

The proposed removal of text relating to fees that are no longer applicable is ministerial in nature and has no substantive effect.

For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act.

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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The

proposed rule change is designed to ensure that the fees charged by the Exchange accurately reflect the services provided and benefits realized by listed companies. The market for listing services is extremely competitive. Each listing exchange has a different fee schedule that applies to issuers seeking to list securities on its exchange. Issuers have the option to list their securities on these alternative venues based on the fees charged and the value provided by each listing. Because issuers have a choice to list their securities on a different national securities exchange, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee changes impose a burden on competition.

Intramarket Competition

The proposed amended fees will be charged to all listed issuers on the same basis. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed amended fees will have any meaningful effect on the competition among issuers listed on the Exchange.

Intermarket Competition

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which issuers can readily choose to list new securities on other exchanges and transfer listings to other exchanges if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because issuers may change their chosen listing venue, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee changes can impose any burden on intermarket competition.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)⁸ of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4⁹ thereunder, because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁷ See Regulation NMS, 70 FR at 37499.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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 shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)¹⁰ of the Act 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. Please include File Number SR-NYSEAMER-2019-49 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-NYSEAMER-2019-49. 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; 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-NYSEAMER-2019-49 and should be submitted on or before December 12, 2019.

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

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-25210 Filed 11-20-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-87549; File No. SR-ICC-2019-012]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to ICC's Treasury Operations Policies and Procedures

November 15, 2019.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1) and Rule 19b-4, 17 CFR 240.19b-4, notice is hereby given that on November 1, 2019, ICE Clear Credit LLC ("ICC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by ICC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The principal purpose of the proposed rule change is to revise the ICC Treasury Operations Policies and Procedures ("Treasury Policy"). These revisions do not require any changes to the ICC Clearing Rules (the "Rules").

II. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, ICC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. ICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B),

and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

(A) Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Purpose

ICC proposes to revise its Treasury Policy. Specifically, ICC proposes clarification updates related to its use of a committed repurchase ("repo") facility, acceptable forms of United States ("US") Treasury collateral, and its collateral valuation process. ICC believes that such revisions will facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions for which it is responsible. ICC proposes to make such changes effective following Commission approval of the proposed rule change. The proposed revisions are described in detail as follows.

ICC proposes amendments to the 'Funds Management' section with respect to its use of a committed repo facility. Namely, ICC proposes to clarify that the committed repo facility can be used to generate temporary liquidity through the sale and agreement to repurchase securities pledged by ICC Clearing Participants ("CPs") to satisfy their Initial Margin ("IM") and Guaranty Fund ("GF") requirements. ICC proposes to include that, when applicable, the facility can be used to rehypothecate sovereign debt from overnight repo investments in the event of a counterparty default. ICC also proposes to note that the facility can be used to sell, with the agreement to repurchase, sovereign debt securities that are held by ICC pursuant to direct investments in such securities.

ICC proposes to update the 'Custodial Assets' section regarding acceptable forms of US Treasury collateral and ICC's collateral valuation process. Under the Treasury Policy, acceptable forms of non-cash collateral for IM and GF are limited to US Treasury securities. ICC proposes to specify that Floating Rate Notes and STRIPS are not acceptable forms of US Treasury collateral for IM and GF. ICC also proposes to add language stating that, with respect to its collateral valuation process, Euros that are used to cover a US Dollar denominated product requirement will be subject to a haircut.

(b) Statutory Basis

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act¹ requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).