In sum, 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 the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues 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.[8]

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 furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule 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–NASDAQ–2019–101 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–2019–101. 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 Number SR–NASDAQ–2019–101 and should be submitted on or before January 29, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[9]

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020–00060 Filed 1–7–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

[8] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

[9] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–87883; File No. SR–CBOE–2019–126]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rules Regarding Complex Orders

January 2, 2020.

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 December 19, 2019, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (''Exchange'' or ''Cboe Options'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''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 amend its Rules to adopt a new complex order instruction, Index Combo orders, to further facilitate delta neutral transactions for investors that use complex orders to trade index options.

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 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 Exchange proposes to amend its Rules to adopt a new complex order instruction, Index Combo orders, to further facilitate delta neutral transactions for investors that use complex orders to trade index options. Under the Exchange's current Rules, a ''complex order'' is an order involving the concurrent execution of two or more different series in the same class (the ''legs'' or ''components'' of the complex order), for the same account, occurring at or near the same time and for the purpose of executing a particular investment strategy with no more than the applicable number of legs (which number the Exchange determines on a class-by-class basis). For purposes of Rules 5.33 (regarding electronic processing of complex orders) and 5.85(b)(1) (regarding priority of complex orders with respect to open outcry trading), the term ''complex order'' means a complex order with any ratio

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

equal to or greater than one-to-three (.333) and less than or equal to three-to-one (3.00), a stock-option order, or a security future-option order.[3] In other words, the Exchange only accepts for electronic processing complex orders with any ratio equal to or greater than one-to-three (.333) and less than or equal to three-to-one (3.00). The Exchange accepts for manual handling complex orders with any ratio; however, only those with a ratio equal to or greater than one-to-three (.333) and less than or equal to three-to-one (3.00) are eligible for complex order increments and complex order priority.[4] The ratio of a complex order is determined by comparing the size of the smallest-sized option component and the largest-sized option component. For example, a complex order with a leg to buy 30 XYZ May 18 calls and sell 10 XYZ April 16 calls is three-to-one (30:10).

A complex order can also be a ''stock-option order.'' A stock-option order is the purchase or sale of a stated number units of an underlying stock or a security convertible into the stock (''convertible security'') coupled with the purchase or sale of an option contract(s) on the opposite side of the market representing either (1) the same number of units of the underlying stock or convertible security or (2) the number of units of the underlying stock necessary to create a delta neutral position, but in no case in a ratio greater than eight-to-one (8.00), where the ratio represents the total number of units of the underlying stock or convertible security in the option leg(s) to the total number of units of the underlying stock or convertible security in the stock leg.[5]

An option's price can be influenced by a number of different factors. Some of these are known as the ''Greeks'' because they are commonly abbreviated with Greek letters: Delta, Gamma, Theta, and Vega.

• *Delta:* The Delta (Δ) is a measure of the change in an option's price (premium of an option) resulting from a change in the underlying security. The value of Delta ranges from −100 to 0 for puts and 0 to 100 for calls (multiplied by 100 to shift the decimal). Puts generate negative delta because they have a negative relationship with the underlying; that is, put premiums fall when the underlying rises and vice versa. Conversely, call options have a positive relationship with the price of the underlying: If the underlying rises, so does the call premium provided there are no changes in other variables such as implied volatility or time remaining until expiration. If the price of the underlying falls, the call premium will also decline provided all other things remain constant.[6] Delta changes as an option becomes more valuable or in-the-money. In-the-money means that the value of the option increases due to the option's strike price being more favorable to the underlying's price. As the option gets further in the money, Delta approaches 100 on a call and −100 on a put with the extremes eliciting a one-for-one relationship between changes in the option price and changes in the price of the underlying. In effect, at Delta values of −100 and 100, the option behaves like the underlying in terms of price changes.[7]

• *Gamma:* The Gamma (Γ), sometimes referred to as the option's curvature, is the rate of change in the delta as the underlying price changes. The gamma is usually expressed in deltas gained or lost per one-point change in the underlying, with the delta increasing by the amount of gamma when the underlying rises and falling by the amount of the gamma when the underlying falls. If an option has a gamma of five, for each point rise (fall) in the price of the underlying, the option will gain (lose) five deltas. If the option initially has a delta of 25 and the underlying moves up (down) one full point, the new delta will be 30 (20).[8]

• *Theta:* An option's value is made up of intrinsic value[9] and time value.[10] As time passes, the time-value portion gradually disappears until, at expiration, the option is worth exactly its intrinsic value. The theta (Θ), or time decay, is the rate at which an option loses value as time passes, assuming that all other market conditions remain unchanged. It is usually expressed as value lost per one day's passage of time. An option with a theta of 0.05 will lose 0.05 in value for each day that passes with no movement in the underlying. If an option's theoretical value today is 4.00, one day later, it will be worth 3.95. Two days later, it will be worth 3.90.[11]

• *Vega:* Just as option values are sensitive to changes in the underlying price (delta) and to the passage of time (theta), they are also sensitive to changes in volatility. Although the terms delta, gamma, and theta are generally used by all option traders, there is no one generally accepted term for the sensitivity of an option's theoretical value to a change in volatility. The most commonly used term in the trading community is vega.[12] The vega of an option is usually expressed as the change in theoretical value for each one percentage point change in volatility. Because all options gain value with rising volatility, the vega for both calls and puts is positive. If an option has a vega of 0.15, for each percentage point increase (decrease) in volatility, the option will gain (lose) 0.15 in theoretical value. If the option has a theoretical value of 3.25 at a volatility of 20%, then it will have a theoretical value of 3.40 at a volatility of 21% and a theoretical value of 3.10 at a volatility of 19%.[13]

Options can be traded not only for profits attributable to movements in the underlying, but also for profits attributable to changes in other factors such as volatility or the amount of time left until expiration. An investor may seek exposure to the Greeks (*i.e.,* Delta, Gamma, Theta, and Vega) while minimizing exposure to movements in the price of the underlying by creating a delta neutral position. An option position could be hedged with options that exhibit a delta that is opposite to that of the current options holding to maintain a delta neutral position. Delta hedging is an options strategy that aims to reduce or hedge the risk associated with price movements in the underlying asset.[14] Strategies that involve creating a delta neutral position are typically used for one of three main purposes. They can be used to profit from time decay or from volatility, or they can be used to hedge an existing position and protect it against small price movements.[15]

A delta neutral position is one in which the overall delta is approximately zero, which minimizes the options' price movements in relation to the underlying asset. For example, assume an investor holds one call option with a delta of 0.50, which indicates the option is at-the-money and wishes to maintain a delta neutral position. The investor could purchase an at-the-

[3] *See* Rule 1.1 (definition of complex order).

[4] *See id.; see also* Rules 5.4(b) and 5.85(b).

[5] *See* Rule 5.33(b)(5) (definition of stock-option order). The Rules also permit complex orders to be security future-option orders.

[6] *See* John Summa, *Option Greeks: The 4 Factors to Measure Risks,* Investopedia, available at *https://www.investopedia.com/trading/getting-to-know-the-greeks/* (October 11, 2019).

[7] *See id.*

[8] *See* Sheldon Natenberg, Option Volatility & Pricing 105 (McGraw Hill Education, 2nd ed. 2015).

[9] The intrinsic value of an option is the difference between the price of the underlying asset and the strike price.

[10] The time value of an option is equal to the option premium minus its intrinsic value.

[11] *See* Natenberg, *supra* note 9 at 108.

[12] *See id.* at 110.

[13] *See id.*

[14] *See* James Chen, *Delta Hedging,* Investopedia, available at *https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/deltahedging.asp* (May 22, 2019).

[15] *Delta Neutral Options Strategies, OptionsTrading.Org* (December 4, 2019), available at *https://optionstrading.org/strategies/other/delta-neutral/.*

money put option with a delta of -0.50 to offset the positive delta, which would make the position have a delta of zero, thereby minimizing unwanted exposure to the price of the underlying and allowing the investor to focus instead on the desired exposure (*i.e.,* Delta, Gamma, Theta, or Vega). An options position could also be delta hedged using shares of the underlying stock. One share of the underlying stock has a delta of one as the stock's value changes by $1. For example, assume an investor is long one call option on a stock with a delta of 0.75, or 75 since options have a multiplier of 100. In this case, the investor could delta hedge the call option by selling 75 shares of the underlying stock.[16] The following is an example of a delta neutral stock-option order, which provides the investor with volatility exposure.

Example #1

Strategy 1: Buy 8 XYZ May 18 Calls and Sell 100 Shares XYZ Underlying (25 times)

Buy 8 (25x) XYZ May 18 Calls

Sell 100 (25x) Shares XYZ Underlying

Buy 8 XYZ May 18 Calls (12.5 Delta)

Sell 100 XYZ Shares (100 Delta) (where 100 shares of the underlying = 1 option contract) (8 * 12.5 delta) + (−1 * 100 Delta) + 100 Delta − 100 Delta = 0 Delta

Strategy 1 Position = +200 XYZ May 18 Calls −2500 Shares of XYZ

Buying a call on an equity stock and selling a put on an equity stock (or selling a call on an equity stock and buying a put on an equity stock) with the same expiration date and strike price results in the creation of a synthetic stock position. For example, assume a call and put for XYZ have a strike price of $15. Buying a call gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to purchase the stock (XYZ) at the strike price ($15). Selling a put imposes upon the sell the obligation (and not just the right) to purchase the stock (XYZ) at the strike price ($15) should the put be exercised.

If the stock price of XYZ is greater than the strike price of the call option ($15) at expiration, the call option may be exercised and the holder of the call option has the right to purchase XYZ at $15 resulting in a long position of 100 shares of XYZ. If the stock price of XYZ is greater than the strike price of the put option ($15), the put expires worthless as the holder of the put can sell shares on the open market at a price greater than the option's strike price.

If the stock price of XYZ is less than the strike price of the call option ($15), the call option expires worthless as it is cheaper to purchase the stock on the open market. If the stock price of XYZ is less than the strike price of the put option at expiration, the put will be exercised and the seller of the put will be obligated to purchase 100 shares of XYZ.

The net result is that the combination of buying a call and selling a put with the same expiration date and strike price results in an effective (or synthetic) long position of 100 shares of XYZ stock, regardless of whether the stock price is above or below the strike price of the call or put option. Similarly, selling the call and buying the put for the same expiration date and strike price would result in an effective (or synthetic) short position of 100 shares of XYZ stock (−100). The following is an example of a synthetic underlying.

Example #2

Strategy 2: Sell 1 XYZ May 15 Call, Buy 1 XYZ May 15 Put and Buy 100 XYZ Stock (25 times)

Combination:

Sell 1 (25x) XYZ May 15 Calls

Buy 1 (25x) XYZ May 15 Puts

Stock:

Buy 100 (25x) shares XYZ Stock

Sell 1 XYZ May 15 Call (55 delta)

Buy 1 XYZ May 15 Put (45 delta)

Buy 100 XYZ shares (100 delta) (where 100 shares of stock = 1 option)

(−1 * 55 delta) + (1 * −45 delta) + (1 * 100 delta) −55 + (−45) + 100 = 0

Strategy 2 Position = −25 May 15 Calls + 25 May 15 Puts + 2500 XYZ Stock

Example #3

Strategy 1 Position: +200 XYZ May 18 Calls − 2500 XYZ Stock

Strategy 2 Position: −25 XYZ May 15 Calls +25 XYZ May 15 Put + 2500 XYZ Stock

Net Position:

+ 200 XYZ May 18 Calls −25 XYZ May 15 Calls + 25 XYZ May 15 Puts

+2500 deltas (200 × 12.5)

−2500 deltas (−25 × 55) + (25 × −45)

0 net deltas

Combined the equation may be expressed as: (200 × 12.5) + (−25 × 55) + (25 × −45) = 0

The net position that results from combining Strategy 1 from Example #1 above and Strategy 2 from Example #2 above is a long position of 200 May 18 Calls—the May 15 Combination 25x (a short synthetic stock position of 2,500 shares as a result of selling a call and buying a put with the same expiration date and strike price).[17]

The Exchange proposes to adopt a complex order instruction in Rule 5.33(b)(5) to codify and further facilitate delta neutral hedging for all index options listed for trading on the Exchange.[18] Trading Permit Holders that transact in index options currently have the ability to submit for electronic processing complex orders that are delta neutral, so long as the component ratio conforms to the current rule for complex orders of one-to-three/three-to-one. Additionally, Trading Permit Holders have the ability to submit for manual handling complex orders that are delta neutral in any ratio; however, only those with a one-to-three/three-to-one ratio are not eligible for complex order increments or complex order priority.[19] Specifically, the Exchange proposes to adopt a definition of an ''Index Combo'' order as an order to purchase or sell one or more index option series and the offsetting number of Index Combinations defined by the delta. For purposes of an Index Combo Order, the Exchange proposes to adopt a definition of an ''Index Combination'' as a purchase (sale) of an index option call and sale (purchase) of an index option put with the same underlying index, expiration date, and strike price. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to adopt a definition of ''delta'' as the positive (negative) number of Index Combinations that must be sold (purchased) to establish a market neutral hedge with one or more series of the same index option.[20]

As noted above, the Exchange lists multiple index options for trading. MIAX currently only lists options on one index—the SPIKE Index. The primary basis for MIAX's adoption of a SPIKES Combo Order was the lack of an

[16] *See supra* note 15.

[17] Strategy 1 and Strategy 2 may currently be entered and executed on the Exchange under the Exchange's current rules.

[18] The Exchange currently lists options on 24 indexes: Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJX), MSCI EAFE Index (MXEA), MSCI Emerging Markets Index (MXEF), S&P 100 Index (OEX), Russell 1000 Growth Index (RLG), Russell 1000 Value Index (RLV), Russell 1000 Index (RUI), Russell 2000 Index (RUT), S&P Materials Select Sector Index (SIXB), S&P Communication Services Select Sector Index (SIXC), S&P Energy Select Sector Index (SIXE), S&P Industrials Select Sector Index (SIXI), S&P Financial Select Sector (SIXM), S&P Consumer Staples Select Sector Index (SIXR), S&P Real Estate Select Sector Index (SIXRE), S&P Technology Select Sector Index (SIXT), S&P Utilities Select Sector Index (SIXU), S&P Health Care Select Sector Index (SIXV), S&P Consumer Discretionary Select Sector Index (SIXY), S&P 500 Index (SPX), FTSE 100 Index (reduced-value) (UKXM), Cboe Volatility Index (VIX), Mini-S&P 100 Index (XEO), and Mini-S&P 500 Index (XSP).

[19] *See* Rules 5.4(b) and 5.85(b).

[20] *See* Rule 5.33(b)(5).

underlying for the SPIKES Index that investors may use for hedging purposes.[21] There was nothing about the SPIKES Combo Order specific to the SPIKES Index itself. While MIAX adopted a combo order for a single index, all index options, including those the Exchange lists for trading, lack an underlying that investors may use for hedging purposes. Therefore, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to offer investors a combo order for all index options. Additionally, MIAX is an electronic only exchange, while the Exchange has a trading floor for open outcry trading. As noted above, Trading Permit Holders may currently engage in delta neutral hedging for index options electronically or on the trading floor, subject to certain ratio restrictions. The Exchange believes all Trading Permit Holders should be able to use Index Combo orders in the same manner, regardless of whether they choose to submit them for electronic or open outcry trading.

The Exchange also proposes to adopt a provision that states an Index Combo order may not have a ratio greater than eight options to one Index Combination (8.00). The Exchange proposes to use this ratio as it is already a defined conforming ratio in the System[22] used for stock-option orders, and it will allow the Exchange to implement the trading of Index Combo orders in a fashion similar to stock-option orders. Currently, stock-options may be traded in a ratio of eight-to-one, where the ratio represents contracts to the underlying security. Similarly, the Exchange proposes to use the same ratio for Index Combo orders where the ratio would represent contracts to Index Combinations. Lastly, the Exchange proposes to add an internal cross reference to state that Index Combo orders will be subject to all provisions applicable to complex orders (excluding the one-to-three/three-to-one ratio) in the Rules.[23]

Index options do not have an underlying that can serve as a hedge, as the option is based on an index. However, a synthetic underlying position may be created by purchasing a call and selling a put (or selling a call and purchasing a put), as discussed above. An Index Combination creates a synthetic underlying position that is the functional equivalent of the stock leg in stock-option orders. Therefore, the Exchange proposes to amend the ratio from one-to-three/three-to-one to eight-to-one for Index Combo orders to align the treatment of these orders to that of stock-option orders. This will allow for more transactions with better hedging opportunities in all index options.

Below is an example of an index option delta neutral strategy that provides the investor exposure to the Greeks that may be created under the Exchange's proposal to allow Index Combo orders to leverage the eight-to-one ratio afforded stock-option orders.

Example #4

Strategy A: Buy 8 ABC Index May 18 Calls, Sell 1 ABC Index May 15 Calls, and Buy 1 ABC Index May 15 Put (25 times)

Calls: Buy 8 (25) ABC Index May 18 Calls

Combination:
Sell 1 (25) ABC Index May 15 Call
Buy 1 (25) ABC Index May 15 Put
Buy 8 ABC Index May 18 Calls (12.5 Delta)
Sell 1 ABC Index May 15 Call (55 Delta)
Buy 1 ABC Index May 15 Put (45 Delta)
$(8 * 12.5) + (-1 * 55) + (1 * -45)$
$100 - 55 - 45 = 0$

Net Position: + 200 ABC Index May 18 Calls −25 ABC Index May 15 Calls + 25 ABC Index May 15 Puts
+2500 Deltas (200×12.5)
−2500 Deltas $(-25 \times 55) + (25 \times -45)$
0 Net Deltas

Combined, the equation may be expressed as: $(200 \times 12.5) + (-25 \times 55) + (25 \times -45) = 0$

Example #4 illustrates a delta neutral position in an index option which is identical to the net delta neutral position demonstrated in Example #1 for a stock-option order. This position may be accomplished in a single transaction by using the proposed Index Combo order, which includes an Index Combination. The Index Combination (sell call, buy put with the same underlying index, expiration date, and strike price) creates the synthetic underlying position for the index option, similar to the way selling the XYZ call and buying the XYZ put creates the synthetic stock position demonstrated in Example #3.

Under the Exchange's proposal, Index Combinations would be treated similar to the stock-leg component of a stock-option order. As demonstrated in Example #3 above, the stock leg component of a stock-option order can be created synthetically by selling a call and buying a put option with the same expiration date and strike price. The Exchange proposes to define this transaction as an Index Combination and allow Index Combo orders to be treated similarly to stock-option orders by permitting these orders to leverage the eight-to-one ratio defined for stock-option orders. The Exchange believes that a ratio greater than three-to-one, but not greater than eight-to-one, would allow investors the opportunity to create additional delta neutral transactions with index options.

The Exchange represents that it has the System capacity and capability to handle the potential increase in transaction rates. Further, the Exchange represents that it has surveillances in place to surveil for conduct that violates the Exchange's Rules, specifically as it pertains to delta neutral transactions as described herein.

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.[24] Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)[25] requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)[26] requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to and perfects the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system

[21] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87199 (October 2, 2019), 84 FR 53786 (October 8, 2019) (SR–MIAX–2019–37).

[22] The ''System'' means the Exchange's hybrid trading platform that integrates electronic and open outcry trading of option contracts on the Exchange, and includes any connectivity to the foregoing trading platform that is administered by or on behalf of the Exchange, such as a communications hub.

[23] The Exchange makes conforming changes to Rules 1.1 (definition of complex order), 5.4(b), 5.6(c) (definition of complex order), 5.30(a) and (b), 5.83(b), and 5.85(b).

[24] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[25] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[26] *Id.*

and, in general, protects investors and the public interest, by further facilitating the creation of delta neutral transactions in index options. Delta neutral strategies protect investors and the public interest by providing a means to gain exposure to other elements related to the price of an option while reducing the risk associated with changes in the price of the underlying. Permitting additional delta neutral transactions will improve liquidity in the marketplace which will benefit all investors. Additionally, the Exchange's proposal protects investors and the public interest as all the rules applicable to complex orders on the Exchange will apply equally to Index Combo orders, with the exception of the one-to-three/three-to-one ratio limitation.

The proposed eight-to-one ratio for Index Combo orders is already a conforming ratio on the Exchange for stock-option orders. The Exchange's proposal promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to and perfects the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, protects investors and the public interest, by providing similar hedging capabilities as afforded stock-option orders.

Additionally, another options exchange that offers options on an index provides for the creation of delta neutral strategies.[27] Providing investors the ability to create delta neutral transactions similar to those created on another exchange reduces investor confusion and in turn strengthens investor confidence in the marketplace by providing consistency among exchanges.

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 Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition, as it will be applicable to all Trading Permit Holders equally. Any Trading Permit Holder may trade index options and submit Index Combo orders, and all Trading Permit Holders can benefit from the creation of delta neutral transactions as described in this proposal. The System will handle all Index Combo orders in the same manner. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition, because another exchange options offers the same order type for the index option listed on that exchange.[28] The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will relieve any burden on, or otherwise promote, competition, because it will provide index options with similar hedging capabilities currently afforded stock-option orders. Additionally, providing investors the ability to create delta neutral transactions similar to those created on another exchange reduces investor confusion and in turn strengthens investor confidence in the marketplace by providing consistency among exchanges.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act[29] and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)[30] thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b–4(f)(6) under the Act[31] normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act[32] permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing. The Exchange states that waiver of the operative delay would provide investors as soon as possible with similar hedging capabilities for index options that they have currently for stock-option orders. In addition, the Exchange notes that the proposal is not novel or unique because another exchange currently offers the same order type for an index option it lists for trading.[33] The Commission finds that it is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that the proposal will benefit investors by permitting additional delta neutral transactions for index options. The Commission notes that another options exchange currently permits Combo Orders for options on an index.[34] Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.[35]

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 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–CBOE–2019–126 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–CBOE–2019–126. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the

[27] *See* Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (''MIAX'') Rule 518, Interpretation and Policy .07.

[28] *See id.*

[29] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[30] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b–4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

[31] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

[32] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6)(iii).

[33] *See supra* note 21 and MIAX Rule 518, Interpretation and Policy .07.

[34] *See id.*

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

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 Number SR–CBOE–2019–126 and should be submitted on or before January 29, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[36]

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020–00061 Filed 1–7–20; 8:45 am]

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[36] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–87881; File No. SR–LCH SA–2019–009]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; LCH SA; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Relating to Amendments to CDSClear Reference Guide To Allow Index Basis Packages Margining

January 2, 2020.

I. Introduction

On October 29, 2019, Banque Centrale de Compensation, which conducts business under the name LCH SA (''LCH SA'' or ''CDSClear''), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'')[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder[2] a proposed rule change relating to amendments to the CDSClear Reference Guide (the ''CDSClear Risk Methodology'') to allow Index Basis Packages margining. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on November 19, 2019.[3] The Commission did not receive comments regarding the proposed rule change. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is approving the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

LCH SA is proposing to amend its CDSClear Risk Methodology in order to allow Index Basis Packages margining as a single instrument.[4] LCH SA CDSClear currently clears CDS on a number of indices such as iTraxx Main, iTraxx Cross-over, iTraxx Senior Financials as well as all the Single Name constituents of these indices. Indices and their constituents are currently managed and margined as independent instruments. However, market participants may execute Index Basis Packages consisting of an Index CDS trade and individual Single Name CDS trades on each of the reference entities constituents of such Index perfectly offsetting the Index.

A transaction would need to satisfy the following criteria to constitute an Index Basis Package:

- The package is constituted of an Index CDS and Single Name CDS on all the entities constituting the index;
- The position (Long/Short) on the Index offsets the positions on the Single Names (Short/Long);
- The notional of the Index and across all the Singles Names match exactly;
- All the Single Names CDS trades have the same currency, coupon, and maturity as constituents of the Index CDS; and
- All the Single Name CDS trades have the same Seniority, ISDA Definition and Restructuring Clause as constituents of the Index CDS.

Clearing Members and/or Clients would be required to identify all trades being part of an Index Basis Package and to notify LCH SA CDSClear. CDSClear would then perform controls to ensure all principles and requirements stated above for qualifying the trades as an Index Basis Package are satisfied and would flag them with a common ID number. These trades would continue to be margined as different trades until LCH SA completes these controls and confirms the qualification as an Index Basis Package.

Once an Index Basis Package is validated as complete, the margin enhancement proposed in the current rule change would then be applied as part of the overnight margin calculation.

In order to ensure that the trades continue to meet the criteria of an Index Basis Package, controls would be performed every day at the start of the overnight batch process.

Index Basis Packages identified and flagged as such would be excluded from compression runs with the rest of the portfolio in order to avoid breaking any packages.

Index Basis Packages could be un-flagged as such at the Clearing Member and/or Client's request. The Index CDS and the Single Name CDS would then be treated and margined separately as per the current framework.

In case of a Clearing Member's default, CDSClear would have the ability to liquidate Index Basis Packages in a dedicated auction should it be advised to do so by the Default Management Group in order to minimize the liquidation costs.

A. Proposed Changes to CDSClear Risk Methodology

In order to take into account the specific risk created by Index Basis Packages positions, LCH SA proposes to amend the calculation of the Spread Margin and the calculation of the Liquidity Charge Margin as described in its Reference Guide, *CDSClear Margin Framework.*

1. Spread Margin

LCH SA CDSClear currently considers an Index Basis Package as multiple instruments in the calculation of its Spread Margin. In accordance with the portfolio margining requirements under Article 27 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 153/2013[5] (the ''RTS''), LCH SA CDSClear applies a cap of 80% to the possible margin offsets reduction. Therefore, the Spread Margin of an Index Basis Package is calculated as the maximum between the expected shortfall of the package and 20% of the sum of the expected shortfalls

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] Self-Regulatory Organizations; LCH SA; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Amendments to CDSClear Reference Guide To Allow Index Basis Packages Margining; Exchange Act Release No. 87522 (Nov. 13, 2019); 84 FR 63912 (Nov. 19, 2019) (''Notice'').

[4] The description herein is substantially excerpted from the Notice, 84 FR 63912.

[5] *See https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:052:0041:0074:EN:PDF.*