

All submissions should refer to File Number 4–618. 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 plan that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed plan 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 plan also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Participating Organizations. 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 4–618 and should be submitted on or before July 7, 2020.

V. Discussion

The Commission finds that the Plan, as amended, is consistent with the factors set forth in Section 17(d) of the Act²¹ and Rule 17d–2(c) thereunder²² in that the proposed amended Plan is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, fosters cooperation and coordination among SROs, and removes impediments to and fosters the development of the national market system. In particular, the Commission believes that the proposed amended Plan should reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication by allocating to the applicable DREA certain examination and enforcement responsibilities, and to the applicable DCSA certain surveillance, investigation, and enforcement responsibilities, for Common Members that would otherwise be performed by multiple Parties. Accordingly, the proposed amended Plan promotes efficiency by reducing costs to Common Members. Furthermore, because the

Parties will coordinate their regulatory functions in accordance with the proposed amended Plan, the amended Plan should promote investor protection.

The Commission is hereby declaring effective a plan that allocates regulatory responsibility for certain provisions of the federal securities laws, rules, and regulations as set forth in Exhibit A to the Plan. The Commission notes that any amendment to the Plan must be approved by the relevant Parties as set forth in Paragraph 24 of the Plan and must be filed with and approved by the Commission before it may become effective.²³

Under paragraph (c) of Rule 17d–2, the Commission may, after appropriate notice and comment, declare a plan, or any part of a plan, effective. In this instance, the Commission believes that appropriate notice and comment can take place after the proposed amendment is effective. In particular, the purpose of the amendment is to add MEMX as a Participating Organization. The Commission notes that the most recent prior amendment to the Plan was published for comment and the Commission did not receive any comments thereon.²⁴ The Commission believes that the current amendment to the Plan does not raise any new regulatory issues that the Commission has not previously considered, and therefore believes that the amended Plan should become effective without any undue delay.

VI. Conclusion

This Order gives effect to the Plan filed with the Commission in File No. 4–618. The Parties shall notify all members affected by the Plan of their rights and obligations under the Plan.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 17(d) of the Act, that the Plan in File No. 4–618 is hereby approved and declared effective.

It is further ordered that the Parties who are not the DREA or DCSA as to a particular Common Member are relieved of those regulatory responsibilities allocated to the Common Member’s DREA or DCSA under the Plan to the extent of such allocation.

²³ See Paragraph 24 of the Plan. The Commission notes, however, that changes to Exhibit B to the Plan (the allocation of Common Members to DREAs) are not required to be filed with, and approved by, the Commission before they become effective.

²⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88366 (March 12, 2020), 85 FR 15238 (March 17, 2020).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁵

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–89040; File No. SR–Phlx–2020–27]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Phlx Options 5, Section 4

June 10, 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 May 28, 2020, Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“Phlx” or “Exchange”) 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 Options 5, Section 4, Order Routing.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <http://nasdaqphlx.cchwallstreet.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.

²⁵ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(34).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q(d).

²² 17 CFR 240.17d–2(c).

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

1. Purpose

In 2019, Phlx filed a rule proposal to define the term “Public Customer” within Rule 1000(b)(56) to provide, “Public Customer shall mean a person or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities and is not a professional as defined within Phlx Rule 1000(b)(14).”³ This defined term was later relocated to Options 1, Section 1(b)(46).⁴ Within the Defined Term Rule Change, the Exchange replaced the term “customer” in various rules to either the defined term “Public Customer” or both the defined terms “Public Customer” and “Professional.”⁵

While converting various terms within the Phlx Rules, the Exchange inadvertently failed to revise Phlx Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(C). This particular reference was not contained within the Defined Term Rule Change. The Exchange should have added “and Professional” to Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(C) within the Defined Term Rule Change. Both Public Customers and Professional SRCH Orders may route. The Exchange has permitted market participants to route both Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders for some time. During the Opening Process, Phlx only permits Public Customer and Professional orders to route.⁶ The Exchange noted within the Defined Term Rule Change that, “the Exchange is not amending any provision of the rules, rather the Exchange is making clear where a Public Customer order is intended and where the term Professional is intended to avoid confusion.”⁷

The Exchange proposes to add the words “and Professional” within Phlx Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(C) to make clear that Professional SRCH Orders may route, in addition to Public Customer SRCH Orders to conform the

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86959 (September 13, 2019), 84 FR 49362 (September 19, 2019) (SR-Phlx-2019-33) (“Defined Term Rule Change”).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88213 (February 14, 2020), 85 FR 9859 (February 20, 2020) (SR-Phlx-2020-03) (“Phlx Rulebook Relocation Rule Change”).

⁵ The term “Professional” is defined within Options 1, Section 1(b)(45) as “The term ‘professional’ means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Member organizations must indicate whether orders are for Professionals.”

⁶ See Options 3, Section 8(k)(C)(6) and Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(B)(1).

⁷ See note 3 above.

rule text with the functionality of the System.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to correct a typo within Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(B)(9) to change the word “designed” to “designated.”

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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. The Exchange’s proposal to correct Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(C) to add the words “and Professional” to make clear that Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders may route is consistent with the Act. Today, the System permits both Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders to route. Also, the Exchange believes that it is not unfairly discriminatory to limit the routing of SRCH Orders to Public Customers and Professionals. The Exchange has traditionally routed non-broker-dealer orders because the Exchange believes those market participants do not have the same capabilities as broker-dealers in terms of an ability to route to other options markets. Broker-dealers typically have memberships at other exchanges, unlike non-broker-dealers.

Previously, Phlx did not define the term “public customer.” The addition of the term “Public Customer” in the Rulebook, excluded professionals, which are separately defined. The Exchange’s proposal will correct its error and make clear that Professional SRCH Orders may route. For purposes of the Order Protection and Locked and Crossed Markets Plan, a “customer” is defined as an individual or organization that is not a Broker/Dealer.¹⁰ This would include a Professional. Phlx routes Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders that are not automatically executed because there is a displayed bid or offer on another exchange trading the same options contract that is better than the best bid or offer on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that ensuring that “customer” orders, as that term is defined within Options 5, Section 1(f), are routed subject to the customer’s routing instructions, is

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ See Phlx Options 5, Section 1(f). The term “customer” as utilized within Options 5, Section 1(f) is equivalent to the combination of Phlx’s defined terms Public Customer and Professional.

consistent with the Exchange Act and provides for the protection of these market participants to ensure that they are executed at the best bid or offer.

The Exchange noted in the Defined Term Rule Change that, “The Exchange desires to make clear where a customer order means a Public Customer order or both a Public Customer and a Professional order. By distinguishing the use of these terms, market participants will better understand Exchange Rules.”¹¹ The Exchange has permitted market participants to route both Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders for some time. During the Opening Process, Phlx only permits Public Customer and Professional orders to route.¹² The Exchange noted within the Defined Term Rule Change that, “the Exchange is not amending any provision of the rules, rather the Exchange is making clear where a Public Customer order is intended and where the term Professional is intended to avoid confusion.”¹³

Finally, the Exchange’s proposal to correct a typo within Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(B)(9) to change the word “designed” to “designated” is non-substantive and will clarify the Rule.

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. The Exchange’s proposal to correct Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(C) to add the words “and Professional” to make clear that Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders may route does not impose an undue burden on competition. Today, the System permits Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders to route. During the Opening Process, Phlx only permits Public Customer and Professional orders to route.¹⁴ The Exchange does not believe that limiting the routing of SRCH Orders to Public Customers and Professionals imposes an undue burden on competition. The Exchange has traditionally routed non-broker-dealer orders because the Exchange believes those market participants do not have the same capabilities as broker-dealers in terms of an ability to route to other options markets. Broker-dealers typically have memberships at other exchanges, unlike non-broker-dealers.

¹¹ See note 3 above.

¹² See note 5 above.

¹³ See note 3 above.

¹⁴ *Id.*

The addition of the words “and Professional” will bring greater transparency to the Rulebook.

The Exchange’s proposal to correct a typo within Options 5, Section 4(a)(iii)(B)(9) to change the word “designed” to “designated” is non-substantive.

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

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 from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹⁵ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁶

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁷ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁸ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay so that it may immediately correct an omission in its rules and specify that both Public Customer and Professional SRCH Orders may route. The Exchange believes that the proposed amendment will bring greater clarity to its rules. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change operative upon filing.¹⁹

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁹ 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).

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-Phlx-2020-27 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-Phlx-2020-27. 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-Phlx-2020-27 and should be submitted on or before July 7, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-89036; File No. SR-FINRA-2020-016]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Implementation of FINRA Rule 4240 (Margin Requirements for Credit Default Swaps)

June 10, 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 June 2, 2020, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) 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 FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. 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

FINRA is proposing to extend to September 1, 2021 the implementation of FINRA Rule 4240. FINRA Rule 4240 implements an interim pilot program with respect to margin requirements for certain transactions in credit default swaps that are security-based swaps.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA’s website at

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).