

information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: June 29, 2015.

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-75326; File No. SR-BX-2015-037]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Extension of the Exchange's Penny Pilot Program and Replacement of Penny Pilot Issues That Have Been Delisted

June 29, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4<sup>2</sup> thereunder, notice is hereby given that on June 19, 2015, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("Exchange" or "BX") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

### I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

BX is filing with the Commission a proposal to amend Chapter VI, Section 5 (Minimum Increments) to extend through June 30, 2016 or the date of permanent approval, if earlier, the Penny Pilot Program in options classes in certain issues ("Penny Pilot" or "Pilot"), and to change the date when delisted classes may be replaced in the Penny Pilot.<sup>3</sup>

The text of the amended Exchange rule is set forth immediately below.

Proposed new language is *in italics* and proposed deleted language is [bracketed].

### NASDAQ OMX BX Rules

#### Options Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Chapter VI Trading Systems

\* \* \* \* \*

### Sec. 5 Minimum Increments

(a) The Board may establish minimum quoting increments for options contracts traded on BX Options. Such minimum increments established by the Board will be designated as a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the administration of this Section within the meaning of Section 19 of the Exchange Act and will be filed with the SEC as a rule change for effectiveness upon filing. Until such time as the Board makes a change in the increments, the following principles shall apply:

(1)-(2) No Change.

(3) For a pilot period scheduled to expire on June 30, [2015]2016 or the date of permanent approval, if earlier, if the options series is trading pursuant to the Penny Pilot program one (1) cent if the options series is trading at less than \$3.00, five (5) cents if the options series is trading at \$3.00 or higher, unless for QQQs, SPY and IWM where the minimum quoting increment will be one cent for all series regardless of price. A list of such options shall be communicated to membership via an Options Trader Alert ("OTA") posted on the Exchange's Web site.

The Exchange may replace any pilot issues that have been delisted with the next most actively traded multiply

<sup>3</sup> The Penny Pilot was established in June 2012 and extended in 2014. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277 (July 2, 2012) (SR-BX-2012-030) (order approving BX option rules and establishing Penny Pilot); and 73689 (November 25, 2014), 79 FR 71488 (December 2, 2014) (SR-BX-2014-057) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness extending the Penny Pilot through June 30, 2015).

listed options classes that are not yet included in the pilot, based on trading activity in the previous six months. The replacement issues may be added to the pilot on the second trading day following July 1, 2015 and January 1, [2015]2016.

(4) No Change.

(b) No Change.

\* \* \* \* \*

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange's Web site at <http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallasstreet.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

##### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to amend Chapter VI, Section 5 to extend the Penny Pilot through June 30, 2016 or the date of permanent approval, if earlier, and to change the date when delisted classes may be replaced in the Penny Pilot. The Exchange believes that extending the Penny Pilot will allow for further analysis of the Penny Pilot and a determination of how the program should be structured in the future.

Under the Penny Pilot, the minimum price variation for all participating options classes, except for the Nasdaq-100 Index Tracking Stock ("QQQQ"), the SPDR S&P 500 Exchange Traded Fund ("SPY") and the iShares Russell 2000 Index Fund ("IWM"), is \$0.01 for all quotations in options series that are quoted at less than \$3 per contract and \$0.05 for all quotations in options series that are quoted at \$3 per contract or greater. QQQQ, SPY and IWM are quoted in \$0.01 increments for all options series. The Penny Pilot is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015.

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

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

The Exchange proposes to extend the time period of the Penny Pilot through June 30, 2016 or the date of permanent approval, if earlier, and to provide a revised date for adding replacement issues to the Penny Pilot. The Exchange proposes that any Penny Pilot Program issues that have been delisted may be replaced on the second trading day following July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016. The replacement issues will be selected based on trading activity in the previous six months.<sup>4</sup>

This filing does not propose any substantive changes to the Penny Pilot Program; all classes currently participating in the Penny Pilot will remain the same and all minimum increments will remain unchanged. The Exchange believes the benefits to public customers and other market participants who will be able to express their true prices to buy and sell options have been demonstrated to outweigh the potential increase in quote traffic.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it is 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 facilitating transactions in securities, and 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.

In particular, the proposed rule change, which extends the Penny Pilot for an additional twelve months through June 30, 2016 or the date of permanent approval, if earlier, and changes the date for replacing Penny Pilot issues that were delisted to the second trading day following July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016, will enable public customers and other market participants to express their true prices to buy and sell options

<sup>4</sup> The replacement issues will be announced to the Exchange's membership via an Options Trader Alert (OTA) posted on the Exchange's Web site. The Exchange proposes in its Penny Pilot rule that replacement issues will be selected based on trading activity in the previous six months. The replacement issues would be identified based on The Options Clearing Corporation's trading volume data. For example, for the July replacement, trading volume from December 1, 2014 through May 30, 2015 would be analyzed. The month immediately preceding the replacement issues' addition to the Pilot Program (*i.e.*, June) would not be used for purposes of the six-month analysis.

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

for the benefit of all market participants. This 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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary, this proposal is pro-competitive because it allows Penny Pilot issues to continue trading on the Exchange. Moreover, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will allow for further analysis of the Pilot and a determination of how the Pilot should be structured in the future; and will serve to promote regulatory clarity and consistency, thereby reducing burdens on the marketplace and facilitating investor protection. The Pilot is an industry-wide initiative supported by all other option exchanges. The Exchange believes that extending the Pilot will allow for continued competition between market participants on the Exchange trading similar products as their counterparts on other exchanges, while at the same time allowing the Exchange to continue to compete for order flow with other exchanges in option issues trading as part of the Pilot.

## 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 Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6).<sup>8</sup> Because the 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 prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>9</sup> of the Act and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>11</sup> normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing.<sup>12</sup> However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>13</sup> the Commission may 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 Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because doing so will allow the Pilot Program to continue without interruption in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's prior approval of the extension and expansion of the Pilot Program and will allow the Exchange and the Commission additional time to analyze the impact of the Pilot Program. Accordingly, the Commission designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>14</sup>

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 under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>15</sup> 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:

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's intent to file the proposed rule change along with a brief description and the text of 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 pre-filing requirement.

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>14</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

*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 Number SR-BX-2015-037 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-BX-2015-037. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing will also 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-BX-2015-037 and should be submitted on or before July 27, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>16</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-16416 Filed 7-2-15; 8:45 am]

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-75323; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2015-17]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Amending Rule 6.35 to Modify the Appointment Process Utilized by the Exchange**

June 29, 2015.

**I. Introduction**

On March 20, 2015, NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to modify the Market Maker appointment and withdrawal process used by the Exchange. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on April 8, 2015.<sup>3</sup> On May 21, 2015, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup> The Commission received no comment letters on the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change.

**II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 6.35 to modify the options Market Maker appointment and withdrawal process used by the Exchange. Under the proposal, once an option trading permit ("OTP") holder has been approved as a Market Maker under Exchange Rule 6.33,<sup>6</sup> the Market Maker would, subject to certain conditions, be permitted to register rather than apply for an appointment in one or more option classes, and would be permitted to select or withdraw option issues included in its appointment using an Exchange-approved electronic interface. The Exchange also proposes to include a Market Maker's available financial

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74635 (April 2, 2015), 80 FR 18909 ("Notice").

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 75032, 80 FR 30511 (May 28, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> See Rule 6.33 ("Registration of Market Makers"). See also Rule 6.32(a) (defining "Market Maker"). The Exchange is not proposing any changes to Rule 6.33.

resources and operational capability as considerations in its periodic evaluation of Market Maker performance, which factors currently are considered when a Market Maker applies for an appointment.

*A. Background*

Currently, a registered Market Maker may seek an appointment in one or more option classes pursuant to Rule 6.35. Specifically, Rule 6.35(a) provides that "[o]n a form or forms prescribed by the Exchange, a Market Maker must apply for an appointment in one or more classes of option contracts."<sup>7</sup> In addition to having the authority to appoint one Lead Market Maker ("LMM") per option class,<sup>8</sup> Rule 6.35(b) provides that "[t]he Exchange may appoint an unlimited number of Market Makers in each class unless the number of Market Makers appointed to a particular option class should be limited" based on the Exchange's judgment.<sup>9</sup> Further, current Rule 6.35(c) provides that "Market Makers may select from among any option issues traded on the Exchange for inclusion in their appointment, subject to the approval of the Exchange."<sup>10</sup> In considering the approval of the appointment of a Market Maker in each security, "the Exchange will consider the Market Maker's preference; the financial resources available to the Market Maker; the Market Maker's experience, expertise and past performance in making markets, including the Market Maker's performance in other securities; the Market Maker's operational capability; and the maintenance and enhancement of competition among Market Makers in each security in which they are appointed."<sup>11</sup> Current Rule 6.35 also sets forth the number of OTPs that the Market Maker must have in order to have a specified number of option issues included in the Market Maker's appointment.<sup>12</sup>

Under current Rule 6.35, "Market Makers may change the option issues in their appointment, subject to the approval of the Exchange," provided such requests are "made in a form and

<sup>7</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3, at 18909.

<sup>8</sup> See Rule 6.82(a)(1) (defining "LMM"). Any OTP Holder or OTP Firm registered as a Market Maker with the Exchange is eligible to be qualified as an LMM. *Id.* The Exchange is not proposing to change Rule 6.82.

<sup>9</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3, at 18909.

<sup>10</sup> See *id.*

<sup>11</sup> See *id.*

<sup>12</sup> See *id.* For example, 1 OTP affords a Market Maker up to 100 option issues included in their appointment, whereas 4 OTPs would enable a Market Maker to have all option issues traded on the Exchange included in their appointment. See *id.*

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).