

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-80161; File No. SR-BX-2017-015)

March 6, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Related to Billing Ports and Other Services

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 February 21, 2017, NASDAQ BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”) 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

The Exchange proposes to clarify that BX Options Market port fees and other services in Chapter VX, Section 3 of BX Rules are not prorated.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 the proposed rule change is to include language within Chapter XV, Section 3 to clarify that the port fees and other services noted in this section are not subject to proration.

Chapter XV, Section 3, entitled "BX Options Market - Ports and other Services" includes pricing for TradeInfo BX,³ various port fees and an Extranet Access Fee.⁴ The port fees include

³ TradeInfo allows a BX Options Participant to scan for all orders it submitted to BX Options in a particular security or all orders of a particular type, regardless of their status (open, canceled, executed, etc.) [sic] Also, it permits a participant to cancel open orders at the port or firm mnemonic level. TradeInfo allows a BX Options Participant to manage its order flow and mitigate risk by giving users the ability to view its orders and executions, as well as the ability to perform cancels at the port or firm mnemonic level. Finally, TradeInfo BX has the ability download records of orders and executions for recordkeeping purposes.

⁴ The Extranet Access Fee is a monthly access fee per recipient Customer Premises Equipment ("CPE") Configuration. A "Customer Premises Equipment Configuration" means any line, circuit, router package, or other technical configuration used by an extranet provider to provide a direct access connection to the Exchange market data feeds to a recipient's site.

Order Entry Ports,⁵ CTI Ports,⁶ BX Depth Ports,⁷ BX TOP Ports,⁸ Order Entry DROP Ports⁹ and SQF Ports.¹⁰ Today, the Exchange does not prorate any of these per month fees. The Exchange

⁵ The Order Entry Port Fee is a connectivity fee in connection with routing orders to the Exchange via an external order entry port. BX Options Market Participants access the Exchange's network through order entry ports. A BX Options Market Participant may have more than one order entry port.

⁶ CTI offers real-time clearing trade updates. A real-time clearing trade update is a message that is sent to a member after an execution has occurred and contains trade details. The message containing the trade details is also simultaneously sent to The Options Clearing Corporation. The trade messages are routed to a member's connection containing certain information. The administrative and market event messages include, but are not limited to: system event messages to communicate operational-related events; options directory messages to relay basic option symbol and contract information for options traded on the Exchange; complex strategy messages to relay information for those strategies traded on the Exchange; trading action messages to inform market participants when a specific option or strategy is halted or released for trading on the Exchange; and an indicator which distinguishes electronic and non-electronically delivered orders.

⁷ A BX Depth Port provides access to BX Depth, which is a data feed that provides quotation information for individual orders on the BX book, last sale information for trades executed on BX, and Order Imbalance Information as set forth in BX Options Rules Chapter VI, Section 8. BX Depth is the options equivalent of the BX TotalView/ITCH data feed that BX offers under BX Rule 7023 with respect to equities traded on BX. As with TotalView, members use BX Depth to "build" their view of the BX book by adding individual orders that appear on the feed, and subtracting individual orders that are executed. See Chapter VI, Section 1(a)(3)(A).

⁸ BX TOP Port is a data feed that provides the BX Best Bid and Offer ("BBO") and last sale information for trades executed on BX. The BBO and last sale information are identical to the information that BX sends to the Options Price Regulatory Authority ("OPRA") and which OPRA disseminates via the consolidated data feed for options. BX TOP Port is the options equivalent of the BX Basic data feed offered for equities under BX Rule 7047. See Chapter VI, Section 1(a)(3)(B).

⁹ The DROP interface provides real time information regarding orders sent to the BX Options Market and executions that occurred on the BX Options Market. The DROP interface is not a trading interface and does not accept order messages.

¹⁰ SQF is an interface that allows BX Market Makers to connect and send quotes and sweeps into the System. Data includes the following: (1) Options Auction Notifications (e.g., opening imbalance, market exhaust, PRISM Auction information, or other information); (2) Options Symbol Directory Messages; (3) System Event Messages (e.g., start of messages, start of system hours, start of quoting, start of opening); (4) Option Trading Action Messages (e.g., halts, resumes); and (5) Quote Messages (quote/sweep

proposes to add a clarifying sentence to make clear that fees are assessed in full month increments and are not prorated, to avoid any confusion.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,¹¹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹² 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, by clearly specifying in Chapter XV, Section 3 that the Exchange's pricing regarding ports and other services is not prorated. The Exchange believes that its decision to not prorate is consistent with the Act because prorating billing results in complexity and increased costs associated with the billing process.

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 will uniformly assess the fees in Chapter XV, Section 3 to all Options Participants in a uniform manner.

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.

messages, risk protection triggers or purge notifications). An Active Purge Port may be configured as a "Purge-only" port of purging option interest from the Exchange's system and allowing entry of underlying-level purges for a specified range of options and delivery of Purge Notification messages identifying the identification of who submitted the purge and the underlying symbol.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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 Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴ 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 for 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) of the Act¹⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) 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 has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative immediately. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) so that the Exchange may implement the change upon filing specifying that the fees in Chapter XV, Section 3 of the Exchange's Options Pricing rule will not be prorated. The Commission believes that adding the sentence to Chapter XV, Section 3 of the Exchange's Options Pricing rule to state that fees are assessed in full-month increments, i.e., they are not prorated, will avoid confusion and thus serve to protect investors and the public interest.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

For this reason, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.¹⁹

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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BX-2017-015 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-2017-015. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your

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).

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-BX-2017-015 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

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

Eduardo A. Aleman
Assistant Secretary

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).