

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 39	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	File No.* SR - 2017 - * 01 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)
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Filing by International Securities Exchange  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>			Rule		
Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
Date Expires * <input type="text"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 806(e)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>
	Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposal to amend the Exchange fee schedule to eliminate the per contract fee applicable to Professional Customers for the initiating or contra side of Qualified Contingent Cross.

**Contact Information**

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name \* Brett Last Name \* Kitt  
 Title \* Senior Associate General Counsel  
 E-mail \* Brett.Kitt@nasdaq.com  
 Telephone \* (301) 978-8132 Fax

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title \*)  
 Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Date 01/03/2017  
 By Edward S. Knight  
 (Name \*)

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFF website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

Add Remove View

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) The International Securities Exchange, LLC (“ISE” or “Exchange”), 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> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to amend the Exchange’s Schedule of Fees, as described in further detail below.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached as Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on August 15, 2016. This action constitutes the requisite approval under the Exchange’s Certificate of Formation, Operating Agreement, and Constitution. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Brett Kitt  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Nasdaq, Inc.  
301-978-8132.

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

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

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

a. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Schedule of Fees to eliminate, for all symbols other than FX symbols, the \$0.20 per contract fee applicable to Professional Customers<sup>3</sup> for the initiating or contra side of Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") orders or orders executed in the Solicitation Mechanism ("Solicitation" orders). The proposed rule change will lower the rebates that the Exchange provides to members acting as agent when Professional Customers trade with other Professional Customers and when they trade with Priority Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders<sup>4</sup> to the same per contract rates and volume tiers that the Exchange presently provides to members acting as agent when Priority Customers<sup>5</sup> trade with other Priority Customers for such orders.

As set forth in ISE Rule 715(j), a QCC is an option order type that allows members to cross at least 1,000 contracts without exposure, as long as: (i) the agency/originating side of the trade consists of an order of at least 1,000 contracts and (ii) the order is part of a Qualified Contingent Trade ("QCT"). As is further set forth in the Supplementary Material to ISE Rule 715, a QCT is a transaction consisting of two or

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<sup>3</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See ISE Rule 100(37C).

<sup>4</sup> As used herein, the phrase "other solicited crossing orders" refers to solicited crossing orders executed in the Solicitation, Facilitation, and Price Improvement Mechanisms.

<sup>5</sup> Under ISE Rule 100(37A), a "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that: (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities; and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Pursuant to ISE Rule 713, Priority Customer orders are executed before other trading interest at the same price.

more component orders, executed as agent or principal, where: (a) at least one component is an NMS Stock, as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Exchange Act of 1934; (b) all the components are effected with a product or price contingency that either has been agreed to by all respective counterparties or arranged for by a broker-dealer as principal or agent; (c) the execution of one component is contingent upon the execution of all other components at or near the same time; (d) the specific relationship between the component orders (e.g., the spread between the prices of the component orders) is determined by the time the contingent order is placed; (e) the component orders bear a derivative relationship to one another, represent different classes of shares of the same issuer, or involve the securities of participants in mergers or with intentions to merge that have been announced or cancelled; and (f) the transaction is fully hedged (without regard to any prior existing position) as a result of other components of the contingent trade.

The Commission first approved the QCC order type for ISE on February 24, 2011.<sup>6</sup>

Today, the Exchange assesses a fee of \$0.20 per contract to Professional Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders.<sup>7</sup> It does not assess a fee for such orders to Priority Customers.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange proposes to eliminate the fee it charges to Professional Customers for QCC and Solicitation orders.

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<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63955 (Feb. 24, 2011), 76 FR 11533 (Mar. 2, 2011) (SR-ISE-2010-73).

<sup>7</sup> See ISE Schedule of Fees, updated Nov. 1, 2016, at 6, available at [https://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/ISE\\_fee\\_schedule.pdf](https://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/ISE_fee_schedule.pdf) (“ISE Fee Schedule”).

<sup>8</sup> See id.

The Exchange also pays rebates on QCC and other solicited crossing orders once specified volume thresholds are met during each month.<sup>9</sup> The existing rebate schedule and corresponding explanatory notes are as follows:

**A. QCC and Solicitation Rebate**

- Members using the Qualified Contingent Cross (QCC) and/or other solicited crossing orders, including solicited orders executed in the Solicitation, Facilitation or Price Improvement Mechanisms, will receive rebates according to the table below for each originating contract side in all symbols traded on the Exchange. Once a Member reaches a certain volume threshold in QCC orders and/or solicited crossing orders during a month, the Exchange will provide rebates to that Member for all of its QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts for that month. The applicable rebates will be applied on QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts once the volume threshold is met. Members will receive the Non-“Customer to Customer” rebate for all QCC and/or other solicited crossing orders except for QCC and solicited orders between two Priority Customers. QCC and solicited orders between two Priority Customers will receive the “Customer to Customer” rebate or “Customer to Customer” Rebate PLUS, respectively. The volume threshold and corresponding rebates are as follows:
- Non-“Customer to Customer” and “Customer to Customer” volume will be aggregated in determining the applicable volume tier.

Originating Contract Sides	Non-“Customer to Customer” Rebate	“Customer to Customer” Rebate	“Customer to Customer” Rebate PLUS*
0 to 99,999	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
100,000 to 199,999	(\$0.05)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
200,000 to 499,999	(\$0.07)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
500,000 to 699,999	(\$0.08)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
700,000 to 999,999	(\$0.09)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
1,000,000+	(\$0.11)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)

\*PLUS rebate is for Members with total monthly unsolicited originating Facilitation contract side volume of 175,000 or more.

As set forth in this schedule, the Exchange presently provides rebates to members acting as agents for QCC trades involving Professional Customers (both Professional-to-Professional and Professional-to-Priority trades) in accordance with the “Non-‘Customer to Customer’” schedule for all qualifying executed QCC and solicited crossing orders, while it provides rebates to members acting as agents for such trades involving all Priority Customers (Priority-to-Priority trades) in accordance with the “Customer to

<sup>9</sup> See id. at 12.

Customer” or “Customer to Customer Rebate Plus” schedules.<sup>10</sup> The Exchange proposes to modify its rebate schedule to state that QCC and other solicited crossing orders between Professional Customers or between Professional Customers and Priority Customers will qualify for rebates in accordance with the “Customer to Customer” or “Customer to Customer Rebate Plus” schedules.

The proposed changes would treat Professional Customers and Priority Customers the same with respect to fees for QCC and Solicitation orders. It would also treat QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving all Professional Customers, all Priority Customers, and a mix of Priority and Professional Customers the same with respect to rebates. The Exchange believes that it is not necessary to differentiate Professional Customers and Priority Customers for these purposes because QCC and Solicitation orders are not executed pursuant to a priority scheme.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, because of the size of these orders, the sophistication of the investors involved, and the complexity of the transactions, there is little practical difference between Priority Customers and Professional Customers with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

The Exchange also proposes to eliminate transaction fees for Professional Customers engaged in QCC and Solicitation orders as a means of attracting more such orders to the Exchange and to retain the business of Professional Customers vis-à-vis

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<sup>10</sup> See id.

<sup>11</sup> ISE Rules provide that if, at the time a QCC or Solicitation order is entered, a Priority Customer order exists on the Exchange’s order book, then in certain instances, the QCC or Solicitation order will be cancelled or the order will be executed against the Priority Customer order. See Rules 716(e) & 721. These Rules do not suggest that in this instance, the Priority Customer would receive execution priority because such a trade would be executed outside of the QCC or Solicitation Mechanism. We also note that the transaction fee schedule applicable to QCC and Solicitation orders would not apply to this trade.

competing exchanges that do not presently charge Professional Customers such fees.<sup>12</sup>

The Exchange notes that a recent modification to the ISE Rules caused many of its Priority Customers to be re-classified as Professional Customers.<sup>13</sup> Whereas these Customers, as Priority Customers, previously incurred no fees for executing QCC and Solicitation orders, they will incur such fees going forward as Professional Customers absent the proposed rule change.

To the extent that the Exchange proposes to eliminate fees for its Professional Customers that execute QCC and Solicitation orders, the rationale for providing rebates is diminished for QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving Professional Customers trading with other Professional Customers and with Priority Customers. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to reduce the levels of rebates it provides for QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving Professional Customers trading with other Professional Customers and with Priority Customers to the same levels as it provides to such trades involving two Priority Customers.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> See NYSE AMEX Options Fee Schedule, effective Dec. 15, 2016, at [https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/amex-options/NYSE\\_Amex\\_Options\\_Fee\\_Schedule.pdf](https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/amex-options/NYSE_Amex_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf); NYSE Arca Options Fees and Charges, effective Nov. 3, 2016, at [https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/arca-options/NYSE\\_Arca\\_Options\\_Fee\\_Schedule.pdf](https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/arca-options/NYSE_Arca_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf); NASDAQ PHLX LLC Pricing Schedule, at <http://www.nasdaqtrader.com/Micro.aspx?id=phlxpricing>.

<sup>13</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-78788 (Sept. 8, 2016), 81 FR 63252 (Sept. 14, 2016) (SR-ISE-2016-19).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>16</sup>

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission (“NetCoalition”),<sup>17</sup> the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission’s use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.<sup>18</sup> As the court emphasized, the Commission “intended in Regulation NMS that ‘market forces, rather than regulatory requirements’ play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.”<sup>19</sup>

Further, “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ . . . As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and

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<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>16</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37497, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

<sup>17</sup> See id. at 534-535.

<sup>18</sup> See id. at 534.

<sup>19</sup> See id. at 537.

the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’ ....”<sup>20</sup> Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

It is reasonable to no longer assess a transaction fee for Professional Customer QCC and Solicitation orders and to pay a reduced rebate on Professional Customer orders because the distinction that necessitated the differentiation as between Priority Customer and Professional Customer orders is not meaningful with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

QCC orders are orders to buy or sell at least 1,000 contracts.<sup>21</sup> These large-sized contingent orders are complex in nature and have a stock-tied component, which requires the option leg to be executed at the NBBO or better. The parties to a contingent trade are focused on the spread or ratio between the transaction prices for each of the component instruments (i.e., the net price of the entire contingent trade), rather than on the absolute price of any single component. Also, no Priority Customer priority exists with respect to QCC Orders as with orders transacted within the order book. Permitting Professional Customer orders to be treated similar to Priority Customer orders with respect to this order type may attract more QCC and Solicitation orders to the Exchange because the

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<sup>20</sup> See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21).

<sup>21</sup> See ISE Rule 715(j).

Exchange would no longer assess a QCC or Solicitation order transaction fee for Professional Customer orders.

Further, the Exchange recently amended its definition of a Professional Customer to add specificity with respect to the manner in which the volume threshold will be calculated to determine if orders should be treated as Professional Customer.<sup>22</sup> Currently, members are required to review their Customers' activity on at least a quarterly basis to determine whether orders that are not for the account of a broker-dealer should be represented as Priority Customer orders or Professional Customer orders.<sup>23</sup> The Exchange anticipates that the specificity added to the Professional Customer definition may cause current market participants that mark orders as "Priority Customer" to be required to mark those orders as "Professional Customer" instead as the calendar quarter comes to a close. Thus, orders that these market participants would have marked as "Priority Customer," and that would not have been subject to a QCC transaction fee, would, in absence of this proposal, be marked "Professional Customer" and incur a QCC transaction fee. With this proposal, such Professional Customer orders would not be assessed a QCC transaction fee.

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<sup>22</sup> See supra note 13.

<sup>23</sup> Orders for any customer that had an average of more than 390 orders per day during any month of a calendar quarter must be represented as Professional Orders for the next calendar quarter. Members will be required to conduct a quarterly review and make any appropriate changes to the way in which they are representing orders within five days after the end of each calendar quarter. While Members only will be required to review their accounts on a quarterly basis, if during a quarter the Exchange identifies a customer for which orders are being represented as Priority Customer Orders but that has averaged more than 390 orders per day during a month, the Exchange will notify the Member and the Member will be required to change the manner in which it is representing the customer's orders within five days. See 81 FR at 63253, n.4.

The Exchange believes that no longer assessing a QCC transaction fee for Professional Customer orders and paying a reduced QCC rebate on Professional Customer-to-Professional Customer and Professional Customer-to-Priority Customer orders is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because QCC and Solicitation orders are distinctive from transactions executed within the order book. Whereas orders executed within the order book grant Priority Customers execution priority over other market participants, QCC and Solicitation orders do not grant execution priority.<sup>24</sup> Insofar as the rationale for distinguishing between Priority Customers and Professional Customers was to prevent market professionals, which have access to sophisticated trading systems with functionality unavailable to retail Customers, from taking advantage of retail Customers' execution priority over non-retail Customer orders,<sup>25</sup> this rationale does not apply to QCC or Solicitation orders. As the Commission noted when it approved the QCC order type on the Exchange:

The Commission believes that those customers participating in QCC Orders will likely be sophisticated investors who should understand that, without a requirement of exposure for QCC Orders, their order would not be given an opportunity for price improvement on the Exchange. These customers should be able to assess whether the net prices they are receiving for their QCC Order are competitive, and who will have the ability to choose among broker-dealers if they believe the net price one broker-dealer provides is not competitive. Further, broker-dealers are subject to a duty of best execution for their customers' orders, and that duty does not change for QCC Orders.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> See supra note 11.

<sup>25</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57254 (Feb. 1, 2008), 73 FR 7345, 7346 n.7 (Feb. 7, 2008).

<sup>26</sup> See Securities and Exchange Act Release No. 63955 (February 24, 2011), 76 FR 11533 (March 2, 2011) (SR-ISE-2010-73).

Thus, because of the size of the orders, the sophistication of the investors involved, and the complexity of the transactions, pricing differentiation between Priority Customer and Professional Customer orders is unnecessary with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

With respect to distinguishing Professional Customer orders from other Non-Customer participant orders, the Exchange notes that these other market participants are distinct from Professional Customers for purposes of assessing QCC transaction fees. With respect to Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Makers, for example, these market participants are eligible for a Crossing Fee Cap of \$75,000 per month.<sup>27</sup> These participants are not subject to QCC transaction fees once the Crossing Fee Cap is met in a given month.<sup>28</sup> Market Makers are eligible for fee discounts, on a tiered basis, for regular orders in non-select symbols.<sup>29</sup>

Insofar as the Exchange proposes to eliminate the fees it charges to Professional Customers for QCC and Solicitation orders, the Exchange believes that it would no longer be equitable to pay rebates at existing levels to members acting as agent when Professional Customers trade with Priority Customers and other Professional Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders. Thus, the Exchange proposes to reduce these rebates to the same levels as those it pays for QCC orders involving Priority Customers trading with other Priority Customers.

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<sup>27</sup> See ISE Fee Schedule, *supra* note 7, at 17.

<sup>28</sup> See *id.*

<sup>29</sup> See *id.* at 6-7, 12-13.

Finally, the Exchange notes that the Commission recently approved a similar proposal by Phlx to eliminate its QCC transactions fees and rebates for its professional customers.<sup>30</sup>

4. 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. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

The initial purpose of the distinction between a Priority Customer order and a Professional Customer order was to prevent market professionals, which have access to sophisticated trading systems that contain functionality not available to retail Customers, from taking advantage of Priority Customer priority, where retail Customer orders are

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<sup>30</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-77673 (Apr. 14, 2016), 81 FR 249009 (Apr. 21, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-51).

given execution priority over Non-Customer orders. Professional Customer orders are identified based upon the average number of orders entered for a beneficial account.<sup>31</sup>

QCC orders are by definition large-sized contingent orders that have a stock-tied component. The parties to a contingent trade are focused on the spread or ratio between the transaction prices for each of the component instruments (i.e., the net price of the entire contingent trade), rather than on the absolute price of any single component. Treating Priority Customer orders and Professional Customer orders in the same manner in terms of pricing with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders does not provide any advantage to a Professional Customer. The distinction does not create an opportunity to burden competition, for the reasons stated herein with respect to execution priority as well as the reasons below.

With respect to distinguishing Professional Customer orders from other Non-Customer participant orders, the Exchange notes that these other market participants are distinct from Professional Customers for purposes of assessing QCC transaction fees. With respect to Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Makers, for example, these market participants are eligible for a Crossing Fee Cap of \$75,000 per month.<sup>32</sup> These participants are not subject to QCC transaction fees once the Crossing Fee Cap is met in a given month.<sup>33</sup> Market Makers are eligible for fee discounts, on a tiered basis, for regular orders in non-select symbols.<sup>34</sup> Also, Priority Customer-to-Professional Customer orders

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<sup>31</sup> See supra note 25.

<sup>32</sup> See ISE Fee Schedule, supra note 7, at 17.

<sup>33</sup> See id.

<sup>34</sup> See id. at 6-7, 12-13.

do not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition for the reasons explained herein.

The Exchange's proposal does not place an undue burden on inter-market competition because the QCC order type is similar on other options exchanges and these exchanges may also file to eliminate the distinction between Priority Customers and Professionals for the QCC order type.<sup>35</sup> The Exchange notes that the Commission recently approved a similar proposal by Phlx to eliminate both its QCC transactions fees and its rebates for its professional customers.<sup>36</sup>

5. 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.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>37</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

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

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<sup>35</sup> See supra note 12.

<sup>36</sup> See supra note 30.

<sup>37</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

**EXHIBIT 1**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. \_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-ISE-2017-01)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Schedule of Fees

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> notice is hereby given that on January 3, 2017, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (“ISE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, 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 the Schedule of Fees as described in more detail below.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <http://www.ise.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

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

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

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 the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Schedule of Fees to eliminate, for all symbols other than FX symbols, the \$0.20 per contract fee applicable to Professional Customers<sup>3</sup> for the initiating or contra side of Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") orders or orders executed in the Solicitation Mechanism ("Solicitation" orders). The proposed rule change will lower the rebates that the Exchange provides to members acting as agent when Professional Customers trade with other Professional Customers and when they trade with Priority Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders<sup>4</sup> to the same per contract rates and volume tiers that the Exchange presently provides to members acting as agent when Priority Customers<sup>5</sup> trade with other Priority Customers for such orders.

As set forth in ISE Rule 715(j), a QCC is an option order type that allows members to cross at least 1,000 contracts without exposure, as long as: (i) the

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<sup>3</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See ISE Rule 100(37C).

<sup>4</sup> As used herein, the phrase "other solicited crossing orders" refers to solicited crossing orders executed in the Solicitation, Facilitation, and Price Improvement Mechanisms.

<sup>5</sup> Under ISE Rule 100(37A), a "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that: (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities; and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Pursuant to ISE Rule 713, Priority Customer orders are executed before other trading interest at the same price.

agency/originating side of the trade consists of an order of at least 1,000 contracts and (ii) the order is part of a Qualified Contingent Trade (“QCT”). As is further set forth in the Supplementary Material to ISE Rule 715, a QCT is a transaction consisting of two or more component orders, executed as agent or principal, where: (a) at least one component is an NMS Stock, as defined in Rule 600 of Regulation NMS under the Exchange Act of 1934; (b) all the components are effected with a product or price contingency that either has been agreed to by all respective counterparties or arranged for by a broker-dealer as principal or agent; (c) the execution of one component is contingent upon the execution of all other components at or near the same time; (d) the specific relationship between the component orders (e.g., the spread between the prices of the component orders) is determined by the time the contingent order is placed; (e) the component orders bear a derivative relationship to one another, represent different classes of shares of the same issuer, or involve the securities of participants in mergers or with intentions to merge that have been announced or cancelled; and (f) the transaction is fully hedged (without regard to any prior existing position) as a result of other components of the contingent trade. The Commission first approved the QCC order type for ISE on February 24, 2011.<sup>6</sup>

Today, the Exchange assesses a fee of \$0.20 per contract to Professional Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders.<sup>7</sup> It does not assess a fee for such

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<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63955 (Feb. 24, 2011), 76 FR 11533 (Mar. 2, 2011) (SR-ISE-2010-73).

<sup>7</sup> See ISE Schedule of Fees, updated Nov. 1, 2016, at 6, available at [https://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/ISE\\_fee\\_schedule.pdf](https://www.ise.com/assets/documents/OptionsExchange/legal/fee/ISE_fee_schedule.pdf) (“ISE Fee Schedule”).

orders to Priority Customers.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange proposes to eliminate the fee it charges to Professional Customers for QCC and Solicitation orders.

The Exchange also pays rebates on QCC and other solicited crossing orders once specified volume thresholds are met during each month.<sup>9</sup> The existing rebate schedule and corresponding explanatory notes are as follows:

**A. QCC and Solicitation Rebate**

- Members using the Qualified Contingent Cross (QCC) and/or other solicited crossing orders, including solicited orders executed in the Solicitation, Facilitation or Price Improvement Mechanisms, will receive rebates according to the table below for each originating contract side in all symbols traded on the Exchange. Once a Member reaches a certain volume threshold in QCC orders and/or solicited crossing orders during a month, the Exchange will provide rebates to that Member for all of its QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts for that month. The applicable rebates will be applied on QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts once the volume threshold is met. Members will receive the Non-“Customer to Customer” rebate for all QCC and/or other solicited crossing orders except for QCC and solicited orders between two Priority Customers. QCC and solicited orders between two Priority Customers will receive the “Customer to Customer” rebate or “Customer to Customer” Rebate PLUS, respectively. The volume threshold and corresponding rebates are as follows:
- Non-“Customer to Customer” and “Customer to Customer” volume will be aggregated in determining the applicable volume tier.

Originating Contract Sides	Non-“Customer to Customer” Rebate	“Customer to Customer” Rebate	“Customer to Customer” Rebate PLUS*
0 to 99,999	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
100,000 to 199,999	(\$0.05)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
200,000 to 499,999	(\$0.07)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
500,000 to 699,999	(\$0.08)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
700,000 to 999,999	(\$0.09)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
1,000,000+	(\$0.11)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)

\*PLUS rebate is for Members with total monthly unsolicited originating Facilitation contract side volume of 175,000 or more.

As set forth in this schedule, the Exchange presently provides rebates to members acting as agents for QCC trades involving Professional Customers (both Professional-to-Professional and Professional-to-Priority trades) in accordance with the “Non-‘Customer to Customer’” schedule for all qualifying executed QCC and solicited crossing orders,

<sup>8</sup> See id.

<sup>9</sup> See id. at 12.

while it provides rebates to members acting as agents for such trades involving all Priority Customers (Priority-to-Priority trades) in accordance with the “Customer to Customer” or “Customer to Customer Rebate Plus” schedules.<sup>10</sup> The Exchange proposes to modify its rebate schedule to state that QCC and other solicited crossing orders between Professional Customers or between Professional Customers and Priority Customers will qualify for rebates in accordance with the “Customer to Customer” or “Customer to Customer Rebate Plus” schedules.

The proposed changes would treat Professional Customers and Priority Customers the same with respect to fees for QCC and Solicitation orders. It would also treat QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving all Professional Customers, all Priority Customers, and a mix of Priority and Professional Customers the same with respect to rebates. The Exchange believes that it is not necessary to differentiate Professional Customers and Priority Customers for these purposes because QCC and Solicitation orders are not executed pursuant to a priority scheme.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, because of the size of these orders, the sophistication of the investors involved, and the complexity of the transactions, there is little practical difference between Priority Customers and Professional Customers with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

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<sup>10</sup> See id.

<sup>11</sup> ISE Rules provide that if, at the time a QCC or Solicitation order is entered, a Priority Customer order exists on the Exchange’s order book, then in certain instances, the QCC or Solicitation order will be cancelled or the order will be executed against the Priority Customer order. See Rules 716(e) & 721. These Rules do not suggest that in this instance, the Priority Customer would receive execution priority because such a trade would be executed outside of the QCC or Solicitation Mechanism. We also note that the transaction fee schedule applicable to QCC and Solicitation orders would not apply to this trade.

The Exchange also proposes to eliminate transaction fees for Professional Customers engaged in QCC and Solicitation orders as a means of attracting more such orders to the Exchange and to retain the business of Professional Customers vis-à-vis competing exchanges that do not presently charge Professional Customers such fees.<sup>12</sup> The Exchange notes that a recent modification to the ISE Rules caused many of its Priority Customers to be re-classified as Professional Customers.<sup>13</sup> Whereas these Customers, as Priority Customers, previously incurred no fees for executing QCC and Solicitation orders, they will incur such fees going forward as Professional Customers absent the proposed rule change.

To the extent that the Exchange proposes to eliminate fees for its Professional Customers that execute QCC and Solicitation orders, the rationale for providing rebates is diminished for QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving Professional Customers trading with other Professional Customers and with Priority Customers. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to reduce the levels of rebates it provides for QCC and other solicited crossing orders involving Professional Customers trading with other Professional Customers and with Priority Customers to the same levels as it provides to such trades involving two Priority Customers.

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<sup>12</sup> See NYSE AMEX Options Fee Schedule, effective Dec. 15, 2016, at [https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/amex-options/NYSE\\_Amex\\_Options\\_Fee\\_Schedule.pdf](https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/amex-options/NYSE_Amex_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf); NYSE Arca Options Fees and Charges, effective Nov. 3, 2016, at [https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/arca-options/NYSE\\_Arca\\_Options\\_Fee\\_Schedule.pdf](https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/arca-options/NYSE_Arca_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf); NASDAQ PHLX LLC Pricing Schedule, at <http://www.nasdaqtrader.com/Micro.aspx?id=phlxpricing>.

<sup>13</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-78788 (Sept. 8, 2016), 81 FR 63252 (Sept. 14, 2016) (SR-ISE-2016-19).

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>16</sup>

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission (“NetCoalition”),<sup>17</sup> the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission’s use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.<sup>18</sup> As the court emphasized, the Commission “intended in Regulation NMS that ‘market forces, rather than regulatory requirements’

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>16</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37497, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

<sup>17</sup> See id. at 534-535.

<sup>18</sup> See id. at 534.

play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.”<sup>19</sup>

Further, “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ . . . As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’ . . .”<sup>20</sup> Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

It is reasonable to no longer assess a transaction fee for Professional Customer QCC and Solicitation orders and to pay a reduced rebate on Professional Customer orders because the distinction that necessitated the differentiation as between Priority Customer and Professional Customer orders is not meaningful with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

QCC orders are orders to buy or sell at least 1,000 contracts.<sup>21</sup> These large-sized contingent orders are complex in nature and have a stock-tied component, which requires the option leg to be executed at the NBBO or better. The parties to a contingent trade are focused on the spread or ratio between the transaction prices for each of the component instruments (i.e., the net price of the entire contingent trade), rather than on the absolute

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<sup>19</sup> See id. at 537.

<sup>20</sup> See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

<sup>21</sup> See ISE Rule 715(j).

price of any single component. Also, no Priority Customer priority exists with respect to QCC Orders as with orders transacted within the order book. Permitting Professional Customer orders to be treated similar to Priority Customer orders with respect to this order type may attract more QCC and Solicitation orders to the Exchange because the Exchange would no longer assess a QCC or Solicitation order transaction fee for Professional Customer orders.

Further, the Exchange recently amended its definition of a Professional Customer to add specificity with respect to the manner in which the volume threshold will be calculated to determine if orders should be treated as Professional Customer.<sup>22</sup> Currently, members are required to review their Customers' activity on at least a quarterly basis to determine whether orders that are not for the account of a broker-dealer should be represented as Priority Customer orders or Professional Customer orders.<sup>23</sup> The Exchange anticipates that the specificity added to the Professional Customer definition may cause current market participants that mark orders as "Priority Customer" to be required to mark those orders as "Professional Customer" instead as the calendar quarter comes to a close. Thus, orders that these market participants would have marked as "Priority Customer," and that would not have been subject to a QCC transaction fee,

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<sup>22</sup> See supra note 13.

<sup>23</sup> Orders for any customer that had an average of more than 390 orders per day during any month of a calendar quarter must be represented as Professional Orders for the next calendar quarter. Members will be required to conduct a quarterly review and make any appropriate changes to the way in which they are representing orders within five days after the end of each calendar quarter. While Members only will be required to review their accounts on a quarterly basis, if during a quarter the Exchange identifies a customer for which orders are being represented as Priority Customer Orders but that has averaged more than 390 orders per day during a month, the Exchange will notify the Member and the Member will be required to change the manner in which it is representing the customer's orders within five days. See 81 FR at 63253, n.4.

would, in absence of this proposal, be marked “Professional Customer” and incur a QCC transaction fee. With this proposal, such Professional Customer orders would not be assessed a QCC transaction fee.

The Exchange believes that no longer assessing a QCC transaction fee for Professional Customer orders and paying a reduced QCC rebate on Professional Customer-to-Professional Customer and Professional Customer-to-Priority Customer orders is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because QCC and Solicitation orders are distinctive from transactions executed within the order book. Whereas orders executed within the order book grant Priority Customers execution priority over other market participants, QCC and Solicitation orders do not grant execution priority.<sup>24</sup> Insofar as the rationale for distinguishing between Priority Customers and Professional Customers was to prevent market professionals, which have access to sophisticated trading systems with functionality unavailable to retail Customers, from taking advantage of retail Customers’ execution priority over non-retail Customer orders,<sup>25</sup> this rationale does not apply to QCC or Solicitation orders. As the Commission noted when it approved the QCC order type on the Exchange:

The Commission believes that those customers participating in QCC Orders will likely be sophisticated investors who should understand that, without a requirement of exposure for QCC Orders, their order would not be given an opportunity for price improvement on the Exchange. These customers should be able to assess whether the net prices they are receiving for their QCC Order are competitive, and who will have the ability to choose among broker-dealers if they believe the net price one broker-dealer provides is not competitive. Further,

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<sup>24</sup> See supra note 11.

<sup>25</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57254 (Feb. 1, 2008), 73 FR 7345, 7346 n.7 (Feb. 7, 2008).

broker-dealers are subject to a duty of best execution for their customers' orders, and that duty does not change for QCC Orders.<sup>26</sup>

Thus, because of the size of the orders, the sophistication of the investors involved, and the complexity of the transactions, pricing differentiation between Priority Customer and Professional Customer orders is unnecessary with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders.

With respect to distinguishing Professional Customer orders from other Non-Customer participant orders, the Exchange notes that these other market participants are distinct from Professional Customers for purposes of assessing QCC transaction fees. With respect to Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Makers, for example, these market participants are eligible for a Crossing Fee Cap of \$75,000 per month.<sup>27</sup> These participants are not subject to QCC transaction fees once the Crossing Fee Cap is met in a given month.<sup>28</sup> Market Makers are eligible for fee discounts, on a tiered basis, for regular orders in non-select symbols.<sup>29</sup>

Insofar as the Exchange proposes to eliminate the fees it charges to Professional Customers for QCC and Solicitation orders, the Exchange believes that it would no longer be equitable to pay rebates at existing levels to members acting as agent when Professional Customers trade with Priority Customers and other Professional Customers for QCC and other solicited crossing orders. Thus, the Exchange proposes to reduce these rebates to the same levels as those it pays for QCC orders involving Priority Customers trading with other Priority Customers.

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<sup>26</sup> See Securities and Exchange Act Release No. 63955 (February 24, 2011), 76 FR 11533 (March 2, 2011) (SR-ISE-2010-73).

<sup>27</sup> See ISE Fee Schedule, supra note 7, at 17.

<sup>28</sup> See id.

<sup>29</sup> See id. at 6-7, 12-13.

Finally, the Exchange notes that the Commission recently approved a similar proposal by Phlx to eliminate its QCC transactions fees and rebates for its professional customers.<sup>30</sup>

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. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

The initial purpose of the distinction between a Priority Customer order and a Professional Customer order was to prevent market professionals, which have access to sophisticated trading systems that contain functionality not available to retail Customers, from taking advantage of Priority Customer priority, where retail Customer orders are

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<sup>30</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-77673 (Apr. 14, 2016), 81 FR 249009 (Apr. 21, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-51).

given execution priority over Non-Customer orders. Professional Customer orders are identified based upon the average number of orders entered for a beneficial account.<sup>31</sup>

QCC orders are by definition large-sized contingent orders that have a stock-tied component. The parties to a contingent trade are focused on the spread or ratio between the transaction prices for each of the component instruments (i.e., the net price of the entire contingent trade), rather than on the absolute price of any single component. Treating Priority Customer orders and Professional Customer orders in the same manner in terms of pricing with respect to QCC and Solicitation orders does not provide any advantage to a Professional Customer. The distinction does not create an opportunity to burden competition, for the reasons stated herein with respect to execution priority as well as the reasons below.

With respect to distinguishing Professional Customer orders from other Non-Customer participant orders, the Exchange notes that these other market participants are distinct from Professional Customers for purposes of assessing QCC transaction fees. With respect to Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Makers, for example, these market participants are eligible for a Crossing Fee Cap of \$75,000 per month.<sup>32</sup> These participants are not subject to QCC transaction fees once the Crossing Fee Cap is met in a given month.<sup>33</sup> Market Makers are eligible for fee discounts, on a tiered basis, for regular orders in non-select symbols.<sup>34</sup> Also, Priority Customer-to-Professional Customer orders

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<sup>31</sup> See supra note 25.

<sup>32</sup> See ISE Fee Schedule, supra note 7, at 17.

<sup>33</sup> See id.

<sup>34</sup> See id. at 6-7, 12-13.

do not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition for the reasons explained herein.

The Exchange's proposal does not place an undue burden on inter-market competition because the QCC order type is similar on other options exchanges and these exchanges may also file to eliminate the distinction between Priority Customers and Professionals for the QCC order type.<sup>35</sup> The Exchange notes that the Commission recently approved a similar proposal by Phlx to eliminate both its QCC transactions fees and its rebates for its professional customers.<sup>36</sup>

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, 20 and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>21</sup> because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by ISE. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such 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.

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<sup>35</sup> See supra note 12.

<sup>36</sup> See supra note 30.

#### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-ISE-2017-01 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2017-01. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 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-ISE-2017-01 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.<sup>37</sup>

Robert W. Errett  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>37</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**EXHIBIT 5**

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined.

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
RULES**

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**I. Regular Order Fees and Rebates**

<b>Select Symbols</b>							
<b>Market Participant</b>	<b>Maker Rebate / Fee</b>	<b>Taker Fee</b>	<b>Fee for Crossing Orders<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>Fee for PIM Orders of 100 or Fewer Contracts<sup>(1)(2)(12)(13)</sup></b>	<b>Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders</b>	<b>PIM Break-up Rebate<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Facilitation and Solicitation Break-up Rebate<sup>(4)</sup></b>
Tier 1 Market Maker Plus <sup>(5)</sup>	(\$0.10) <sup>(10)</sup>	\$0.44	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A	N/A
Tier 2 Market Maker Plus <sup>(5)</sup>	(\$0.18) <sup>(10)(14)</sup>	\$0.44	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A	N/A
Tier 3 Market Maker Plus <sup>(5)</sup>	(\$0.22) <sup>(10)(14)</sup>	\$0.44	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A	N/A
Market Maker <sup>(8)</sup>	\$0.10 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$0.44	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A	N/A
Non-ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.10 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$0.45	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.35)	(\$0.15)
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.10	\$0.45	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.35)	(\$0.15)
Professional Customer	\$0.10	\$0.45	\$0.20 <sup>(16)</sup>	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.35)	(\$0.15)
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.31 <sup>(7)</sup>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.50	(\$0.35)	(\$0.15)

<b>Non-Select Symbols</b>					
<b>Market Participant</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee for Crossing Orders<sup>(1)(2)</sup></b>	<b>Fee for PIM Orders of 100 or Fewer Contracts<sup>(1)(2)(12)(13)</sup></b>	<b>Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders</b>	<b>PIM Break-up Rebate<sup>(3)</sup></b>
Market Maker	\$0.25 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$0.25 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A
Market Maker (for orders sent by Electronic Access)	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	N/A

Members)					
Non-ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.72	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.15)
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.72	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.15)
Professional Customer	\$0.72	\$0.20 <sup>(16)</sup>	\$0.05	\$0.50	(\$0.15)
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.50	(\$0.15)

1. Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Maker contracts traded are subject to the Crossing Fee Cap, as provided in Section IV.H.
2. Fees apply to the originating and contra order.
3. Rebate provided for contracts that are submitted to PIM that do not trade with their contra order. The applicable fee is applied to any contracts for which a rebate is provided.
4. Rebate provided for contracts that are submitted to the Facilitation and Solicited Order Mechanisms that do not trade with their contra order except when those contracts trade against pre-existing orders and quotes on the Exchange's orderbooks. The fee for Crossing Orders is applied to any contracts for which a rebate is provided.
5. A Market Maker Plus is a Market Maker who is on the National Best Bid or National Best Offer a specified percentage of the time for series trading between \$0.03 and \$3.00 (for options whose underlying stock's previous trading day's last sale price was less than or equal to \$100) and between \$0.10 and \$3.00 (for options whose underlying stock's previous trading day's last sale price was greater than \$100) in premium in each of the front two expiration months. The specified percentage is at least 80% but lower than 85% of the time for Tier 1, at least 85% but lower than 95% of the time for Tier 2, and at least 95% of the time for Tier 3. A Market Maker's single best and single worst quoting days each month based on the front two expiration months, on a per symbol basis, will be excluded in calculating whether a Market Maker qualifies for this rebate, if doing so will qualify a Market Maker for the rebate.
6. Market Maker fees are subject to tier discounts, as provided in Section IV.C.
7. This fee is \$0.26 per contract for Members with a total affiliated Priority Customer ADV that equals or exceeds 200,000 contracts. See footnote 9 below.
8. This fee applies to Market Maker orders sent to the Exchange by Electronic Access Members.
9. Priority Customer ADV includes all volume in all symbols and order types. All eligible volume from affiliated Members will be aggregated in determining total affiliated Priority Customer ADV, provided there is at least 75% common ownership between the Members as reflected on each Member's Form BD, Schedule A. For purposes of determining Priority Customer ADV, any day that the regular order book is not open for the entire trading day or the Exchange instructs members in writing to route their orders to other markets may be excluded from such calculation; provided that the Exchange will only remove the day for members that would have a lower ADV with the day included.

10. A \$0.30 per contract fee applies when trading against Priority Customer complex orders that leg into the regular order book. There will be no fee charged or rebate provided when trading against non-Priority Customer complex orders that leg into the regular order book.
11. A \$0.30 per contract fee applies when trading against Priority Customer complex orders that leg into the regular order book. The regular \$0.10 per contract fee applies when trading against non-Priority Customer complex orders that leg into the regular order book.
12. PIM orders of more than 100 contracts will pay the Fee for Crossing Orders.
13. Other than for Priority Customer orders, this fee is \$0.03 per contract for orders executed by Members that have an ADV of 20,000 or more Priority Customer contracts in a given month executed in the PIM. See footnote 9 above. This discounted fee is applied retroactively to all eligible PIM volume in that month once the threshold has been reached.
14. This rebate is \$0.16 per contract in SPY and QQQ, except when trading against complex orders that leg into the regular book under footnote 10 above. A Market Maker that achieves Tier 2 Market Maker Plus in either SPY or QQQ will receive this rebate in both SPY and QQQ.
15. This rebate is \$0.20 per contract in SPY and QQQ, except when trading against complex orders that leg into the regular book under footnote 10 above. A Market Maker that achieves Tier 3 Market Maker Plus in either SPY or QQQ will receive this rebate in both SPY and QQQ.
16. Transaction fees applicable to Professional Customers for an order submitted as a Qualified Contingent Cross order and orders executed in the Exchange's Solicited Order Mechanism will be \$0.00 per contract.

## II. Complex Order Fees and Rebates

Rebates						Facilitation and Solicitation Break-up
Market Participant	Rebate for Select Symbols <sup>(1)</sup>	Rebate for Non-Select Symbols <sup>(1)</sup>	PIM Break-up Rebate for Select Symbols <sup>(2)</sup>	PIM Break-up Rebate for Non-Select Symbols <sup>(2)</sup>		Rebate for Select Symbols <sup>(2)</sup>
Market Maker	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
Non-ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	N/A	N/A	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	N/A	N/A	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Professional Customer	N/A	N/A	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 0-29,999 <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.30)	(\$0.63)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 30,000-59,999 <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.35)	(\$0.71)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 60,000-99,999 <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.41)	(\$0.79)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 100,000-149,999 <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.44)	(\$0.81)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 150,000-199,999 <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.46)	(\$0.83)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)
Priority Customer Complex ADV 200,000+ <sup>(7)(13)</sup>	(\$0.47)	(\$0.84)	(\$0.35)	(\$0.80)		(\$0.15)

Maker Fees				
Market Participant	Maker Fee for Select Symbols	Maker Fee for Non-Select Symbols	Maker Fee for Select Symbols when trading against Priority Customer <sup>(5)</sup>	Maker Fee for non-Select Symbols when trading against Priority Customer <sup>(5)</sup>
Market Maker	\$0.10	\$0.20	\$0.47 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0.86
Non-ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.48	\$0.88
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.10	\$0.20	\$0.48	\$0.88
Professional Customer	\$0.10	\$0.20	\$0.48	\$0.88
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Taker and other Fees						
Market Participant	Taker Fee for Select Symbols <sup>(5)</sup>	Taker Fee for Non-Select Symbols <sup>(5)</sup>	Fee for Crossing Orders <sup>(6)(10)</sup>	Fee for PIM Orders of 100 or Fewer Contracts <sup>(8)(9)</sup>	Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders for Select Symbols	Fee for Responses to Crossing Orders for non-Select Symbols
Market Maker	\$0.47 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0.86	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.48	\$0.91
Non-ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.48	\$0.88	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.48	\$0.96
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.48	\$0.88	\$0.20	\$0.05	\$0.48	\$0.96
Professional Customer	\$0.48	\$0.88	\$0.20 <sup>(14)</sup>	\$0.05	\$0.48	\$0.96
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.48	\$0.96

1. Rebate provided per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book or trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book.
2. Rebate provided per contract per leg for contracts that are submitted to PIM, Facilitation and Solicitation Mechanisms that do not trade with their contra order except when those contracts trade against pre-existing orders and quotes on the Exchange's orderbooks. The applicable fee is applied to any contracts for which a rebate is provided.

3. This fee is \$0.44 per contract for Market Makers with total affiliated Priority Customer Complex ADV of 150,000 or more contracts. All eligible volume from affiliated Members will be aggregated in determining total affiliated Priority Customer Complex ADV, provided there is at least 75% common ownership between the Members as reflected on each Member's Form BD, Schedule A. For purposes of determining Priority Customer Complex ADV, any day that the complex order book is not open for the entire trading day or the Exchange instructs members in writing to route their orders to other markets may be excluded from such calculation; provided that the Exchange will only remove the day for members that would have a lower ADV with the day included.
4. Reserved.
5. ISE Market Makers making or taking liquidity receive a discount of \$0.02 when trading against Priority Customer orders preferenced to them in the Complex Order Book in equity options that are able to be listed and traded on more than one options exchange. This discount does not apply to FX Options Symbols or to option classes designated by the Exchange to receive a guaranteed allocation pursuant to ISE Rule 722(b)(3)(i)(B).
6. Firm Proprietary and Non-ISE Market Maker contracts traded are subject to the Crossing Fee Cap, as provided in Section IV.H.
7. The rebate for the highest tier volume achieved is applied retroactively to all eligible Priority Customer Complex volume once the threshold has been reached. For purposes of determining Priority Customer Complex ADV, any day that the complex order book is not open for the entire trading day or the Exchange instructs members in writing to route their orders to other markets may be excluded from such calculation; provided that the Exchange will only remove the day for members that would have a lower ADV with the day included.
8. PIM orders of more than 100 contracts will pay the Fee for Crossing Orders.
9. Other than for Priority Customer orders, this fee is \$0.03 per contract for orders executed by Members that have an ADV of 20,000 or more Priority Customer contracts in a given month executed in the PIM. This discounted fee is applied retroactively to all eligible PIM volume in that month once the threshold has been reached.
10. Fee charged for all legs.
11. Fees apply to the originating and contra order.
12. The Exchange will charge a stock handling fee of \$0.0010 per share (capped at \$50 per trade) for the stock leg of stock-option orders executed against other stock-option orders in the complex order book.
13. Members will not receive rebates for net zero complex orders entered on behalf of originating market participants that execute an ADV of at least 10,000 net zero complex orders in a given month. For purposes of determining which complex orders qualify as "net zero" the Exchange will count all complex orders that leg in to the regular order book and are executed at a net price that is within a range of \$0.01 credit and \$0.01 debit.
14. Transaction fees applicable to Professional Customers for an order submitted as a Qualified Contingent Cross order and orders executed in the Exchange's Solicited Order Mechanism will be \$0.00 per contract.

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**IV. Other Options Fees and Rebates**

**A. QCC and Solicitation Rebate**

- Members using the Qualified Contingent Cross (QCC) and/or other solicited crossing orders, including solicited orders executed in the Solicitation, Facilitation or Price Improvement Mechanisms, will receive rebates according to the table below for each originating contract side in all symbols traded on the Exchange. Once a Member reaches a certain volume threshold in QCC orders and/or solicited crossing orders during a month, the Exchange will provide rebates to that Member for all of its QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts for that month. The applicable rebates will be applied on QCC and solicited crossing order traded contracts once the volume threshold is met. Members will receive the Non-“Customer to Customer” rebate for all QCC and/or other solicited crossing orders except for QCC and solicited orders between two Priority and/or Professional Customers. QCC and solicited orders between two Priority and/or Professional Customers will receive the “Customer to Customer” rebate or “Customer to Customer” Rebate PLUS, respectively. The volume threshold and corresponding rebates are as follows:
- Non-“Customer to Customer” and “Customer to Customer” volume will be aggregated in determining the applicable volume tier.

Originating Contract Sides	Non-“Customer to Customer”	“Customer to Customer”	“Customer to Customer”
	Rebate	Rebate	Rebate PLUS*
0 to 99,999	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
100,000 to 199,999	(\$0.05)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
200,000 to 499,999	(\$0.07)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.05)
500,000 to 699,999	(\$0.08)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
700,000 to 999,999	(\$0.09)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)
1,000,000+	(\$0.11)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.05)

\*PLUS rebate is for Members with total monthly unsolicited originating Facilitation contract side volume of 175,000 or more.

**B. – K. No changes**

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