SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Customer Rebates in Penny Pilot Options


Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that, on June 29, 2012, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“NASDAQ” 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

NASDAQ proposes to modify Chapter XV, entitled “Option Pricing,” at Section 2(1) governing the rebates and fees assessed for option orders entered into NOM. Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to modify the five tier structure for paying Customer Rebates to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options. The Exchange proposes to amend the qualifications for a Tier 4 Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity to further incentivize NOM Participants to route Customer orders in Penny Pilot Options to the Exchange by providing NOM Participants another means of achieving a certain volume criteria to qualify for a rebate. The Exchange believes that incentivizing NOM Participants to send additional Customer orders in Penny Pilot Options to the Exchange will benefit all market participants by adding liquidity to the market.

Specifically, the Exchange currently pays a Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options based on the following tier structure:

Currently, Tier 4 firms that add Customer liquidity of 75,000 or more contracts per day in a month of Customer order liquidity in Penny Pilot Options receive a rebate of $0.44 per contract. The Exchange proposes to amend the Tier 4 Customer rebate by also paying the $0.44 per contract Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options when a Participant has a total volume of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month. Therefore, in order to qualify for the Tier 4 Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Options, a Participant that add Customer liquidity of 75,000 or more contracts per day in a month or has total volume of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month would receive a rebate of $0.44 per contract. The Exchange also proposes to add this definition of Total Volume in Chapter XV, Section 2(1).

The Exchange also proposes a minor technical amendment to redesignate note “a” currently referencing Tier 5 with “b” and insert a new note “a” related to Tier 4.

2. Statutory Basis

NASDAQ believes that the proposed rule changes are consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, in general, and with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act, 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 or system which NASDAQ operates or controls.

The Exchange believes that the proposed amended pricing tier is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it is part of an existing program to encourage broker-dealers acting as agent for Customer orders to select the Exchange as a venue to post Customer orders. The Exchange believes that its success at attracting Customer order flow benefits all market participants by improving the quality of order interaction and executions at the Exchange. The Exchange believes the existing monthly volume thresholds have incentivized firms that route Customer orders to the Exchange to increase Customer order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange desires to continue to encourage firms that route Customer orders to increase Customer order flow to the Exchange by providing an additional opportunity to qualify for a Customer Rebate and earn a rebate.

The Exchange believes that amending Tier 4 to provide that NOM Participants that have total volume of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month may also qualify for the Tier 4 rebate of $0.44 per contract in addition to those NOM Participants that add Customer liquidity of 75,000 or more contracts per day in Penny Pilot Options in a month is reasonable because it allows additional NOM Participants to qualify for the Customer rebate. Total Volume includes a Customer, Professional, Firm, NOM Market Maker and Non-NOM Market Maker Penny Pilot Option that either added or removed liquidity. The Exchange believes that this added incentive would allow additional NOM Participants to qualify and receive the Customer rebate.

The Exchange believes that amending Tier 4 to provide that NOM Participants who have total volume of 100,000 or more contracts per day in a month may also qualify for the Tier 4 rebate of $0.44 per contract in addition to those NOM Participants that add Customer liquidity.10 The Exchange’s proposal to renumber the notes to add a new note referencing Tier 4 is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because these amendments provide greater clarity and accuracy to the Rule text.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market comprised of ten U.S. options exchanges in which sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels at a particular exchange to be excessive or rebate opportunities to be inadequate. The Exchange believes that the proposed rebate scheme is competitive and similar to other fees, rebates and tier opportunities in place on other exchanges. The Exchange believes that this competitive marketplace materially impacts rebates present on the Exchange.

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Tier 1 pays a rebate for NOM Participants that add Customer liquidity of up to 14,999 contracts per day in a month of Penny Options. There is no required minimum volume of Customer orders to qualify for a Customer Rebate to Add Liquidity.

See note 9.
today and substantially influences the proposal set forth above.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASDAQ does not believe that the proposed rule changes will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. To the contrary, NASDAQ has designed its fee to compete effectively for the execution and routing of options contracts and to reduce the overall cost to investors of options trading. The Exchange believes that incentivizing NOM Participants to transact greater Customer volume on the Exchange benefits all market participants because of the increased liquidity to the market.

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.11 At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form [http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml]; or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–NASDAQ–2012–83 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NASDAQ–2012–83. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site [http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml]. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, 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–NASDAQ–2012–83 and should be submitted on or before August 7, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.12

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE–2012–28]

Petition for Exemption; Reopening of Comment Period

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of petition for exemption; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: This action reopens the comment period for a petition for exemption that was published on May 24, 2012. The relief sought in the petition for exemption would permit ICON Aircraft to incorporate a Spin-Resistant Airframe (SRA) in the ICON A5 at a weight above the current Light-Sport Aircraft (LSA) definition. Independent Aircraft Inc. has requested