Proposal to Extend the Pilot Related to Rule 4121, Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form 19b-4 Information *</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies *</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Amendment</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Text of the Proposed Rule Change**

   (a) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)\(^1\) and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,\(^2\) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to extend the pilot related to Rule 4121, Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility, to the close of business on October 18, 2019.

   The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period contained in Exchange Act Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii).\(^3\)

   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) The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any direct effect, or any significant indirect effect, on any other Exchange rule in effect at the time of this filing.

   (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 of the Exchange (the “Board”) on September 26, 2018. 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:

T. Sean Bennett
Principal Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
(301) 978-8499

Alejandro Aguayo
Senior Paralegal
Nasdaq, Inc.
(301) 978-8417

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

   a. Purpose

   Rule 4121 provides a methodology for determining when to halt trading in all stocks due to extraordinary market volatility, i.e., market-wide circuit breakers. The market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 was approved by the Commission to operate on a pilot basis, the term of which was to coincide with the pilot period for the Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility Pursuant to Rule 608 of Regulation NMS (the “LULD Plan”), including any extensions to the pilot period for the LULD Plan. The Commission published an amendment to the LULD Plan for it to operate on a permanent, rather than pilot, basis.

---


The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 4121 to untie the pilot’s effectiveness from that of the LULD Plan and to extend the pilot’s effectiveness to the close of business on October 18, 2019. The Exchange does not propose any additional changes to Rule 4121.

Market-wide circuit breakers under Rule 4121 provide an important, automatic mechanism that is invoked to promote stability and investor confidence during a period of significant stress when securities markets experience extreme broad-based declines. All U.S. equity exchanges have rules relating to market-wide circuit breakers, which are designed to slow the effects of extreme price movement through coordinated trading halts across securities markets when severe price declines reach levels that may exhaust market liquidity. Market-wide circuit breakers provide for trading halts in all equities and options markets during a severe market decline as measured by a single-day decline in the S&P 500 Index.

Pursuant to Rule 4121, a market-wide trading halt will be triggered if the S&P 500 Index declines in price by specified percentages from the prior day’s closing price of that index. Currently, the triggers are set at three circuit breaker thresholds: 7% (Level 1), 13% (Level 2) and 20% (Level 3). A market decline that triggers a Level 1 or Level 2 circuit breaker after 9:30 a.m. ET and before 3:25 p.m. ET would halt market-wide trading for 15 minutes, while a similar market decline at or after 3:25 p.m. ET would not halt market-wide trading. A market decline that triggers a Level 3 circuit breaker, at any time during the trading day, would halt market-wide trading for the remainder of the trading day.
The Exchange intends to file a separate proposed rule change to operate Rule 4121 on a permanent, rather than pilot, basis. Extending the effectiveness of Rule 4121 to the close of business on October 18, 2019 should provide the Commission adequate time to consider whether to approve the Exchange’s separate proposal to operate the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 on a permanent basis.

b. **Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,\(^7\) in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\(^8\) in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change promotes just and equitable principles of trade in that it promotes transparency and uniformity across markets concerning when and how to halt trading in all stocks as a result of extraordinary market volatility. Extending the market-wide circuit breaker pilot under Rule 4121 an additional six months would ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of a consistent mechanism to halt trading across the U.S. markets while the Commission considers whether to approve the pilot on a permanent basis. The proposed rule change would thus promote fair and orderly markets and the protection of investors and the public interest. Based on the foregoing, the Exchange believes the benefits to market participants from the market-wide circuit

---

\(^7\) 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 should continue on a pilot basis while the Commission considers whether to permanently approve Rule 4121.

4. **Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition**

   The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change implicates any competitive issues because the proposal would ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of a consistent mechanism to halt trading across the U.S. markets while the Commission considers whether to permanently approve the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121. Further, the Exchange understands that FINRA and other national securities exchanges will file proposals to extend their rules regarding the market-wide circuit breaker pilot so that the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism may continue uninterrupted while the Commission considers whether to approve its operation on a permanent basis.

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)**

   The Exchange has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act\(^9\) and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.\(^{10}\) The Exchange asserts that the proposed rule change: (1) will not significantly affect the protection of

---


\(^{10}\) See note 2, supra.
investors or the public interest, (2) will not impose any significant burden on competition, and (3) will not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. In addition, the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.\textsuperscript{11}

The market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 is an important, automatic mechanism that is invoked to promote stability and investor confidence during a period of significant stress when securities markets experience extreme broad-based declines. This proposed rule change will not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest because it seeks to extend the protections provided by this pilot without any changes while the Commission considers whether to approve the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 on a permanent basis. This proposed rule change will also not impose any significant burden on competition because the Exchange understands that FINRA and other national securities exchanges will file proposals to extend their rules regarding the market-wide circuit breaker pilot with the Commission so that the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism may continue uninterrupted while the Commission considers whether to approve its operation on a permanent basis. Accordingly, the Exchange has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act\textsuperscript{12} and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4

\textsuperscript{11} See note 3, \textit{supra}.

\textsuperscript{12} See note 9, \textit{supra}.
The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become effective and operative upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act\(^\text{14}\) and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.\(^\text{15}\) Waiver of the 30-day operative delay will allow the Exchange to continue the market-wide circuit breaker pilot through October 18, 2019, independent of whatever action the Commission takes with respect to Amendment 18 to the LULD Plan, which seeks Commission approval of the LULD Plan on a permanent basis. Waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it seeks to extend the protections provided by this pilot without any changes while the Commission considers whether to approve the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 on a permanent basis.

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.

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

The proposed rule change is not based on the rules of another self-regulatory organization, or of the Commission. As discussed above, the Exchange understands that

\(^{13}\) See note 2, supra.

\(^{14}\) See note 9, supra.

FINRA and other national securities exchanges will file proposals to extend their rules regarding the market-wide circuit breaker pilot with the Commission.

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**


   5. Text of the proposed rule change.
Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on April 8, 2019, 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

The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot related to Rule 4121, Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility, to the close of business on October 18, 2019. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

---

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

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

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

1. Purpose

Rule 4121 provides a methodology for determining when to halt trading in all stocks due to extraordinary market volatility, i.e., market-wide circuit breakers. The market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 was approved by the Commission to operate on a pilot basis, the term of which was to coincide with the pilot period for the Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility Pursuant to Rule 608 of Regulation NMS (the “LULD Plan”), including any extensions to the pilot period for the LULD Plan. The Commission published an amendment to the LULD Plan for it to operate on a permanent, rather than pilot, basis.


The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 4121 to untie the pilot’s effectiveness from that of the LULD Plan and to extend the pilot’s effectiveness to the close of business on October 18, 2019. The Exchange does not propose any additional changes to Rule 4121.

Market-wide circuit breakers under Rule 4121 provide an important, automatic mechanism that is invoked to promote stability and investor confidence during a period of significant stress when securities markets experience extreme broad-based declines. All U.S. equity exchanges have rules relating to market-wide circuit breakers, which are designed to slow the effects of extreme price movement through coordinated trading halts across securities markets when severe price declines reach levels that may exhaust market liquidity. Market-wide circuit breakers provide for trading halts in all equities and options markets during a severe market decline as measured by a single-day decline in the S&P 500 Index.

Pursuant to Rule 4121, a market-wide trading halt will be triggered if the S&P 500 Index declines in price by specified percentages from the prior day’s closing price of that index. Currently, the triggers are set at three circuit breaker thresholds: 7% (Level 1), 13% (Level 2) and 20% (Level 3). A market decline that triggers a Level 1 or Level 2 circuit breaker after 9:30 a.m. ET and before 3:25 p.m. ET would halt market-wide trading for 15 minutes, while a similar market decline at or after 3:25 p.m. ET would not halt market-wide trading. A market decline that triggers a Level 3 circuit breaker, at any time during the trading day, would halt market-wide trading for the remainder of the trading day.
The Exchange intends to file a separate proposed rule change to operate Rule 4121 on a permanent, rather than pilot, basis. Extending the effectiveness of Rule 4121 to the close of business on October 18, 2019 should provide the Commission adequate time to consider whether to approve the Exchange’s separate proposal to operate the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 on a permanent basis.

2. **Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change promotes just and equitable principles of trade in that it promotes transparency and uniformity across markets concerning when and how to halt trading in all stocks as a result of extraordinary market volatility. Extending the market-wide circuit breaker pilot under Rule 4121 an additional six months would ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of a consistent mechanism to halt trading across the U.S. markets while the Commission considers whether to approve the pilot on a permanent basis. The proposed rule change would thus promote fair and orderly markets and the protection of investors and the public interest. Based on the foregoing, the Exchange believes the benefits to market participants from the market-wide circuit

---

breaker mechanism under Rule 4121 should continue on a pilot basis while the
Commission considers whether to permanently approve Rule 4121.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change implicates any
competitive issues because the proposal would ensure the continued, uninterrupted
operation of a consistent mechanism to halt trading across the U.S. markets while the
Commission considers whether to permanently approve the market-wide circuit breaker
mechanism under Rule 4121. Further, the Exchange understands that FINRA and other
national securities exchanges will file proposals to extend their rules regarding the
market-wide circuit breaker pilot so that the market-wide circuit breaker mechanism may
continue uninterrupted while the Commission considers whether to approve its operation
on a permanent basis.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed
Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission
Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the
protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on
competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed,
or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant
to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act8 and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.9

---

organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the
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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2019-027 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-NASDAQ-2019-027. 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 proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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-NASDAQ-2019-027 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.10

Eduardo A. Aleman
Assistant Secretary

---

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

The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules

* * * * *

4121. Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility

This Rule shall be in effect during a pilot period that expires at the close of business on October 18, 2019 to coincide with the pilot period for the Regulation NMS Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility. If the pilot is not either extended or approved permanently at the end of the pilot period, the prior version of Rule 4121 shall be in effect.

(a) – (d) No change.

* * * * *