schedule that applies to issuers seeking to list securities on its exchange. Issuers have the option to list their securities on these alternative venues based on the fees charged and the value provided by each listing. Because issuers have a choice to list their securities on a different national securities exchange, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee changes impose a burden on competition.

Intramarket Competition

The proposed amended fees will be charged to all listed issuers on the same basis. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed amended fees will have any meaningful effect on the competition among issuers listed on the Exchange.

Intermarket Competition

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which issuers can readily choose to list new securities on other exchanges and transfer listings to other exchanges if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because issuers may change their chosen listing venue, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change can impose any burden on intermarket competition.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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 (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–NYSE–2021–76 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–NYSE–2021–76. 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 website (https://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 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–NYSE–2021–76 and should be submitted on or before January 19, 2022.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority, J. Matthew DeLesDernier, Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Expiration Date of the Temporary Amendments Concerning Video Conference Hearings

December 22, 2021.

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 December 17, 2021, 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 and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b–4 under the Act, which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. 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


4 If the Exchange seeks to provide additional temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposed rule change beyond March 31, 2022, the Exchange will submit a separate rule filing to further extend the temporary extension of time. The amended Exchange rules will revert to their original form at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and any extension thereof.

4 If the Exchange seeks to provide additional temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposed rule change beyond March 31, 2022, the Exchange will submit a separate rule filing to further extend the temporary extension of time. The amended Exchange rules will revert to their original form at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and any extension thereof.
II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

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

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to continue to harmonize Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 with recent changes by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") to its Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 in response to the COVID–19 global health crisis and the corresponding need to restrict in-person activities. The Exchange originally filed proposed rule change SR–NASDAQ–2020–076, which allows the Exchange’s Office of Hearing Officers ("OHO") and the Exchange Review Council ("ERC") to conduct hearings, on a temporary basis, by video conference, if warranted by the current COVID–19 related public health risks posed by an in-person hearing. In August 2021, the Exchange filed a proposed rule change, SR–NASDAQ–2021–067, to extend the expiration date of the temporary amendments in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076 from August 31, 2021, to December 31, 2021. While there are signs of improvement, much uncertainty remains for the coming months. The presence of the Delta variant, dissimilar vaccination rates throughout the United States, and the uptick in transmissions in many locations indicate that COVID–19 remains an active and real public health concern. Due to the uncertainty and the lack of a clear timeframe for a sustained and widespread abatement of COVID–19 related health concerns and corresponding restrictions, the Exchange believes that there is a continued need for temporary relief beyond December 31, 2021.

Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076 from December 31, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

On November 5, 2020, the Exchange filed, and subsequently extended to December 31, 2021, to temporarily amend Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830 to grant OHO and the ERC authority to conduct hearings in connection with appeals of Membership Application Program decisions, disciplinary actions, eligibility proceedings and temporary and permanent cease and desist orders by video conference, if warranted by the COVID–19 related public health risks posed by an in-person hearing.5

The Exchange proposes to continue to harmonize Exchange Rules 1015, 9261, 9524 and 9830, this temporary proposed rule change grants discretion to the Exchange to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets—while also protecting the health and safety of hearing participants.

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so the Exchange can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

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 Sections 6(b)(5) of the Act,12 in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by continuing to provide greater harmonization between the Exchange rules and FINRA rules of similar


6 For example, President Joe Biden on July 28, 2021, announced several measures to increase the number of people vaccinated against COVID-19 and to slow the spread of the Delta variant, including strengthening safety protocols for federal government employees and contractors. See https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/28/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-get-more-americans-vaccinated-and-slow-the-spread-of-the-delta-variant/. Thereafter, President Biden announced on November 4, 2021, details of two major vaccination policies to further help fight COVID–19. See https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/04/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-details-of-two-major-vaccination-policies/. Most recently, President Biden announced several new actions to help protect Americans against the Delta and Omicron variants. See https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/02/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-protect-americans-against-the-delta-and-omicron-variants-as-we-battle-covid-19-this-winter/. For instance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recently announced that the first confirmed case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant was detected in the United States. See https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1201-omicron-variant.html. The CDC also recommends that people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission and noted that fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID–19. See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/full-vaccinated-guidance.html. Furthermore, numerous states currently have COVID–19 restrictions in place. Six states (Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington) require most people to wear masks in indoor public places regardless of vaccination status, and three states (California, Connecticut, and New York) have mask mandates in indoor public places for those individuals who are unvaccinated. Several other states have mask mandates in certain settings, such as healthcare facilities, schools, and correctional facilities.


8 As set forth in the previous filings, the Exchange also relies on COVID–19 data and the guidance issued by public health authorities to determine whether the current public health risks presented by an in-person hearing may warrant a hearing by video conference.10 Based on that data and guidance, the Exchange does not believe the COVID–19-related health concerns necessitating this relief will meaningfully subside by December 31, 2021, and believes that there will be a continued need for this temporary relief beyond that date. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the expiration date of the temporary rule amendments originally set forth in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076 from December 31, 2021, to March 31, 2022. The extension of these temporary amendments allowing for specified OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference will allow the Exchange’s critical adjudicatory functions to continue to operate effectively in these extraordinary circumstances—enabling the Exchange to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets—while also protecting the health and safety of hearing participants.

9 For OHO hearings under Exchange Rules 9261 and 9830, the proposed rule change temporarily grants authority to the Chief or Deputy Chief Hearing Officer to order that a hearing be conducted by video conference. For ERC hearings under Exchange Rules 1015 and 9524, this temporary authority is granted to the ERC or relevant Subcommittee.

10 As noted in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076, the temporary proposed rule change grants discretion to OHO and the ERC to order a video conference hearing. In deciding whether to schedule a hearing by video conference, OHO and the ERC may consider a variety of other factors in addition to COVID–19 trends.


purposes resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance.

The proposed rule change, which extends the expiration date of the temporary amendments to the Exchange rules set forth in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076, will continue to aid the Exchange’s efforts to timely conduct hearings in connection with its core adjudicatory functions. Given the current and frequently changing COVID–19 conditions and the uncertainty around when those conditions will see meaningful, widespread, and sustained improvement, without this relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference, the Exchange might be required to postpone some or almost all hearings indefinitely. The Exchange must be able to perform its critical adjudicatory functions to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets. As such, this relief is essential to the Exchange’s ability to fulfill its statutory obligations and allows hearing participants to avoid the serious COVID–19-related health and safety risks associated with in-person hearings. Among other things, this relief will allow OHO to conduct temporary cease and desist proceedings by video conference so that the Exchange can take immediate action to stop ongoing customer harm and will allow the ERC to timely provide members, disqualified individuals and other applicants an approval or denial of their applications. As set forth in detail in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076, this temporary relief allowing OHO and ERC hearings to proceed by video conference accounts for fair process considerations and will continue to provide fair process while avoiding the COVID–19-related public health risks for hearing participants. Accordingly, the proposed rule change extending this temporary relief is in the public interest and consistent with the Act’s purpose.

The Exchange does not believe that the temporary proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As set forth in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076, the proposed rule change is intended solely to extend temporary relief necessitated by the continued impacts of the COVID–19 outbreak and the related health and safety risks of conducting in-person activities. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will prevent unnecessary impediments to its operations, including its critical adjudicatory processes, and its ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets that would otherwise result if the temporary amendments were to expire on December 31, 2021.

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 Act and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b–4 thereunder. A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b–4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii), the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing. The Exchange has indicated that the proposed rule change to extend the expiration date will continue to prevent unnecessary impediments to its operations, including its critical adjudicatory processes, and its ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets that would otherwise result if the temporary amendments were to expire on December 31, 2021. Importantly, the Exchange has also stated that extending the temporary relief provided in SR–NASDAQ–2020–076 immediately upon filing and without a 30-day operative delay will allow the Exchange to continue critical adjudicatory and review processes in a reasonable and fair manner and meet its critical investor protection goals, while also following best practices with respect to the health and safety of its employees. The Commission also notes that this proposal extends without change the temporary relief previously provided by SR–NASDAQ–2020–076. As proposed, the temporary changes would be in place through March 31, 2022 and the amended rules will revert back to their original state at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and, if applicable, any extension thereof. For these reasons, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay for this proposal is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative 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 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:

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13 See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 93758 (December 13, 2021) [86 FR 71665, 71666 (December 17, 2021) (noting the same in granting FINRA’s request to waive the 30-day operative delay so that SR–FINRA–2021–031 would become operative immediately upon filing).]

14 See supra note 9.

15 See supra note 4. As noted above, the Exchange states that if it requires temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposal beyond March 31, 2022, it may submit a separate rule filing to extend the effectiveness of the temporary relief under these rules.

16 For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule change’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).
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–2021–104 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–2021–104. 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 website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change.

Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit 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.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.23

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021–28247 Filed 12–28–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Proposes To Amend the Provisions of Rule 7.35B

December 22, 2021.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)2 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,3 notice is hereby given that, on December 14, 2021, New York Stock Exchange LLC (“NYSE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 provisions of Rule 7.35B relating to the cancellation of MOC, LOC, and Closing IO Orders before the Closing Auction. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.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 self-regulatory organization 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 those 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 several significant parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.35B (DDM-Facilitated Closing Auction). Specifically, the Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7.35B(0)(2) which sets forth rules pertaining to the cancellation of MOC, LOC, and Closing IO Orders before the Closing Auction Imbalance Freeze, and make conforming changes to Rule 7.35B(1)(2)(B).

Rule 7.35B(f) provides that the Acquisition Imbalance Freeze for the Closing Auction will begin at the Closing Auction Imbalance Freeze Time and specifies how order entry and cancellation will be processed during the Closing Auction Imbalance Freeze.4 Rule 7.35B(0)(2)(A) currently provides that, between the beginning of the Acquisition Imbalance Freeze and two minutes before the scheduled end of the Core Trading Hours, MOC, LOC, and Closing IO Orders 5 may be cancelled or reduced in size only to correct a legitimate error.6 Rule 7.35B(0)(2)(B) currently specifies that, except as provided for in Rule 7.35B(1)(2)(B), 7 a request to cancel, cancel and replace, or reduce in size a MOC, LOC, or Closing IO Order entered two minutes or less before the scheduled end of the Core Trading Hours will be rejected.

The Exchange proposes to modify Rule 7.35B(0)(2) to provide that any requests to cancel, cancel and replace, or reduce in size a MOC, LOC, or Closing IO Order that are entered between the beginning of the Acquisition Imbalance Freeze and the scheduled end of Core Trading Hours would be rejected. That is, requests to cancel, cancel and replace, or reduce in size a MOC, LOC, or Closing IO Order must be received prior to the beginning of the Acquisition Imbalance Freeze (i.e., 10

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2 The “Acquisition Imbalance Freeze” is the period that begins before the scheduled time for an Auction. See Rule 7.35(a)(3). “Auction” means the process for the opening, reopening, or closing of the trading of Auction-Eligible Securities on the Exchange, and an “Auction-Eligible Security” is a security for which the Exchange is the primary listing market. See Rules 7.35(a)(1) and 7.35(a)(2). The “Closing Auction” is the Auction that closes trading at the end of the Core Trading Session, and the “Closing Auction Imbalance Freeze Time” is 10 minutes before the scheduled end of Core Trading Hours. See Rules 7.35(a)(1)(C) and 7.35(a)(8).

3 A “MOC Order” or “Market-on-Close Order” is a Market Order that is to be traded only during a closing auction. See Rule 7.31(c)(2)(B). A “LOC Order” or “Limit-on-Close Order” is a Limit Order that is to be traded only during a closing auction. See Rule 7.31(c)(2)(A). A “Closing IO Order” or “Closing Imbalance Offset Order” is a Limit Order to buy (sell) an in an Auction-Eligible Security that it to be traded only in a Closing Auction. See Rule 7.33(c)(2)(D).

4 The “Legitimate Error” means an error in any term of an order, such as price, number of shares, side of the transaction (buy or sell), or identification of the security. See Rule 7.35(a)(13).

5 Rule 7.35B(0)(2)(B) currently specifies the circumstances under which the Exchange may temporarily suspend the prohibition on canceling an MOC or LOC Order in connection with the Closing Auction.