

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-66093; File No. SR-BX-2011-086)

January 4, 2012

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposal to Amend the Definition of Theoretical Price

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on December 22, 2011, NASDAQ OMX BX (the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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 Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act,³ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with 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

The Exchange proposes to amend Chapter V, Section 20 (Obvious and Catastrophic Errors) of the Rules of the Boston Options Exchange Group, LLC (“BOX”) to amend the definition of theoretical price.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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 is proposing a change to Chapter V, Section 20 (Obvious and Catastrophic Errors). Under the current rule, an obvious error occurs when the execution price of a transaction is above or below the Theoretical Price for the series by a specified amount. Currently, the “Theoretical Price” of an option series is defined in the rule, if the series is traded on at least one other options exchange, as the “National Best Bid with respect to an erroneous sell transaction, and National Best Offer with respect to an erroneous buy transaction, just prior to the trade in question.” If there are no quotes for comparison, the Theoretical Price is determined by the Market Regulation Center (“MRC”).⁴

The Exchange is now proposing to amend the definition of Theoretical Price so that when the series is traded on at least one other options exchange, the Theoretical Price will be the mid-point of the National Best Bid or Offer (“NBBO”), just prior to the trade in question. Alternatively, if there are no quotes for comparison, the Theoretical Price will continue to be determined by the MRC. This proposed rule change would amend this provision to be substantially similar to Chapter V, Section 6(c)(i) of the NASDAQ Options Market (“NOM”) and Rule 20.6(c)(1) of BATS Options.

⁴ MRC is defined in the BOX Rules to mean the Exchange's facilities for surveilling and regulating the conduct of business for options on BOX. MRC personnel are employees of BOXR and are not affiliated with BOX Options Participants.

2. Statutory Basis

This proposed rule change is designed to allow personnel of the MRC (i.e., BOXR) an alternative solution in reviewing a transaction in order to provide the opportunity for potential relief to a party affected by an obvious error. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.⁵ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)⁶ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and 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 improving the obvious error process on BOX.

Using the mid-point of the NBBO as the Theoretical Price should reduce the risk to parties trading on BOX. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will incorporate an objective approach in determining obvious errors that is consistent with other options exchanges. The Exchange believes that the change would benefit investors and market participants that are members of multiple exchanges by more closely aligning the Exchange’s rules with respect to obvious errors with those of other electronic options exchanges, while continuing to utilize an objective standard when making adjustment decisions. As such, the Exchange believes that its process for rendering and reviewing trade adjustment determinations is consistent with the Act,

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

and with the maintenance of a fair and orderly market and the protection of investors and the public interest.

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.

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

This proposed rule change is filed pursuant to paragraph (A) of section 19(b)(3) of the Exchange Act⁷ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁸

This proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, does not impose any significant burden on competition, and, by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.⁹

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.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁹ As required under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change along with a brief description and the text of 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.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BX-2011-086 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-BX-2011-086. 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 website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the

Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2011-086 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

Kevin M. O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).