

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-80650; File No. SR-IEX-2017-12)

May 10, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Investors Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to amend Exchange Rule 11.340 to modify the date of Appendix B website data publication pursuant to the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on April 28, 2017, the Investors Exchange LLC (“IEX” or 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 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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),⁴ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,⁵ Investors Exchange LLC (“IEX” or “Exchange”) is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend Exchange Rule 11.340 to modify the date of Appendix B website data publication pursuant to the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (“Plan”). The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be the date of filing.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s website at www.iextrading.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 the 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 these statement may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Rule 11.340(b) (Compliance with Data Collection Requirements)⁶ implements the data collection and website publication requirements of the Plan.⁷ Supplementary Material .09 to IEX Rule 11.340 currently provides, among other things, that the requirement that the Exchange or Designated Examining Authority (“DEA”) make certain data for the Pre-Pilot Period and Pilot Period⁸ publicly available on the Exchange’s or DEA’s website pursuant to Appendix B to the

⁶ See Exchange Rule 11.340(b). See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 77418 (March 22, 2016), 81 FR 17213 (March 28, 2016); and 78795 (September 9, 2016), 81 FR 63508 (September 15, 2016).

⁷ The Participants filed the Plan to comply with an order issued by the Commission on June 24, 2014. See Letter from Brendon J. Weiss, Vice President, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., to Secretary, Commission, dated August 25, 2014 (“SRO Tick Size Plan Proposal”). See Securities Exchange Act Release No 72460 (June 24, 2014), 79 FR 36840 (June 30, 2014); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74892 (May 6, 2015), 80 FR 27513 (May 13, 2015).

⁸ Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms have the meaning ascribed to them in Rule 11.340.

Plan shall commence on April 28, 2017.⁹ IEX is proposing to further delay the website publication of Appendix B data until August 31, 2017 to permit additional time to consider a methodology to mitigate concerns raised in connection with the publication of Appendix B data.¹⁰

Pursuant to this proposed amendment, FINRA [sic]¹¹ or the DEA would publish the required Appendix B data for the Pre-Pilot Period through April 30, 2017, by August 31, 2017. Thereafter, Appendix B data for a given month would be published within 120 calendar days following month end.¹² Thus, for example, Appendix B data for May 2017 would be made available on the FINRA [sic]¹³ or DEA website by September 28, 2017, and data for the month of June 2017 would be made available on the FINRA [sic]¹⁴ or DEA website by October 28, 2017.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, IEX has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date of the proposed rule change will be the date of filing.

2. Statutory Basis

⁹ See IEX Rule 11.340.09. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80218 (March 10, 2017), 82 FR 14054 (March 16, 2017). See also Letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Robert L.D. Colby, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, FINRA, dated February 28, 2017.

¹⁰ On March 3, 2017, FINRA filed a proposed rule change to implement an anonymous, grouped masking methodology for Appendix B.I, B.II. and B.IV. data. The comment period ended on April 5, 2017, and the Commission received three comment letters. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80193 (March 9, 2017) 82 FR 13901 (March 15, 2017).

¹¹ The Commission notes IEX Rule 11.340.09 states that the “Exchange or DEA” will conduct this function.

¹² FINRA also is submitting an exemptive request to the SEC on behalf of the Participants in connection with the instant filing.

¹³ See supra note 11.

¹⁴ Id.

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁶ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, 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, and Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,¹⁷ which requires that IEX rules not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate.

The Plan is designed to allow the Commission, market participants, and the public to study and assess the impact of increment conventions on the liquidity and trading of the common stock of small-capitalization companies. The Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with the Act because it is in furtherance of the objectives of Section VII(A) of the Plan in that it is designed to provide additional time to consider a methodology to mitigate concerns raised in connection with the publication of Appendix B data.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change implements the provisions of the Plan.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

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) of the Act¹⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁹

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19(b)-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 filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the Commission waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing so that it may become operative on the date of filing.

The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change is intended to mitigate confidentiality concerns raised in connection with Section VII(A) of the Plan, which provides that the data made publicly available will not identify the Trading Center that generated the data. The Exchange states that the additional time would allow consideration of a methodology to mitigate concerns related to the publication of Appendix B data.²⁰

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

²⁰ The Commission recently approved a FINRA proposal to implement an aggregated, anonymous grouped masking methodology for the publication of Appendix B data related to OTC trading activity. See Securities Exchange Release No. 80551, (April 28, 2017), 82 FR 20948 (May 4, 2017). See also Letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Marcia E. Asquith, Executive Vice President FINRA, dated April 28, 2017.

The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it will synchronize the timing for publication of Appendix B data for all Participants, which should enhance the consistency and usefulness of the data.²¹ Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change to be operative on the date of filing.²²

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:

²¹ The Commission recently granted exemptive relief to the Participants to delay the publication of their Appendix B data until August 31, 2017. See Letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Jennifer Piorko Mitchell, Vice President and Deputy Corporate Secretary, FINRA, dated April 28, 2017. The Commission notes that other Participants have submitted proposed rule changes to delay the publication of Appendix B data until August 31, 2017. See e.g., SR-BatsBYX-2017-10; SR-BatsBZX-2017-31; SR-BatsEDGA-2017-10; SR-BatsEDGX-2017-19; SR-BX-2017-022; SR-CHX-2017-07; SR-FINRA-2017-010; SR-NASDAQ-2017-044; SR-Phlx-2017-33; SR-NYSE-2017-19; SR-NYSEArca-2017-49; SR-NYSEMKT-2017-24.

²² For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

- 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-IEX-2017-12 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-IEX-2017-12. This file number should be included in 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 Section, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the IEX’s principal office and on its Internet website at www.iextrading.com. 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-IEX-2017-12 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.²³

Eduardo A. Aleman
Assistant Secretary

²³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).