

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-62945; File No. SR-BATS-2010-025)

September 20, 2010

Self-Regulatory Organizations; BATS Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend BATS Rule 11.8, entitled “Obligations of Market Makers”

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on September 17, 2010, BATS Exchange, Inc. (“BATS” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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 is proposing to amend BATS Rule 11.8, which relates to the obligations of market makers registered with BATS (“Market Makers”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at <http://www.batstrading.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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts 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 adopt rules to enhance minimum quotation requirements for market makers. Under the proposal, the Exchange will require market makers for each stock in which they are registered to continuously maintain a two-sided quotation within a designated percentage of the National Best Bid (“NBB”) and National Best Offer (“NBO”) (or, if there is no NBB or NBO, the last reported sale). These enhanced market maker quotation requirements are intended to eliminate trade executions against market maker placeholder quotations traditionally priced far away from the inside market, commonly known as “stub quotes.” They are also intended to augment and work in relation to the single stock pause standards already in place on a pilot basis for stocks in the S&P 500[®] Index,³ the Russell 1000[®] Index, as well as a pilot list of Exchange Traded Products.⁴

Under the proposal, the Exchange will require registered market makers to enter and maintain quotes priced at no more than a certain percentage away from the national inside bid and offer. Permissible quotes are determined by the individual character of the security, the time of day in which the quote is entered, and other factors which are summarized below.

For issues subject to an individual stock trading pause, a permissible quote is determined by first looking at the applicable individual stock pause trigger percentage of the security and

³ See Exchange Act Release No. 62340 (June 21, 2010), 75 FR 36768 (June 28, 2010) (SR-BATS-2010-014).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62884 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 56618 (September 16, 2010) (SR-BATS-2010-018).

then reducing that number by 2%. Since currently the individual stock pause trigger percentage utilized by the primary listing markets is 10%, a market maker's quote in a such a security may not be more than 8% away from the NBBO as appropriate. Once a compliant quote is entered, it may rest without adjustment until such time as it moves to within ½ of 1% of the applicable stock pause trigger percentage (i.e., currently 9.5%) whereupon the market maker must immediately move its quote back to at least the permissible default level of 8% away from the NBBO. During times in which a stock pause trigger percentage is not applicable (e.g., before 9:45 a.m. and after 3:35 p.m.), a market maker must maintain a quote no further than 20% away from the inside (*i.e.*, it may rest without adjustment until it reaches 21.5%). In the absence of a NBB or NBO, the above calculations will remain the same, but will use the national last sale instead of the absent bid or offer.

For securities not subject to any individual stock trading pause, the proposal will assume a hypothetical 32% stock pause trigger percentage, apply a 2% reduction, and require market makers in those issues to maintain quotes no more than 30% away from the NBBO. Like securities subject to stock trading pauses, once a compliant quote is entered, it may rest without adjustment until such time as it moves to within ½ of 1% of its applicable pause trigger percentage (31.5%) whereupon the market maker must immediately move its quote back to at least the permissible default level of 30%. These requirements shall apply to Regulation NMS securities during normal market hours.

Nothing in the above precludes a market maker from voluntarily quoting at price levels that are closer to the NBBO than required under the proposal.

The Exchange proposes to offer optional functionality to Exchange Market Makers to assist such Market Makers with the quotation obligations proposed by this filing.⁵ Specifically, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time, the Exchange will extract information submitted by the Market Maker that provides specific quote instructions for the Exchange to enter a quote on the Market Maker's behalf consistent with proposed paragraph (d). The Exchange proposes to enter the initial bid and offer at the Designated Percentage and to cancel and replace the bid or offer if it drifts away from the NBBO to the Defined Limit or away from the Designated Percentage towards the NBBO by a number of percentage points determined by the Exchange. The Exchange will determine and publish this percentage in a circular distributed to Members from time to time; the Exchange wishes to retain this flexibility in the event it wishes to modify the number periodically in the future, for instance, to mitigate the amount of quotation information resulting from Exchange generated Market Maker quotes. If a bid or offer entered pursuant to proposed paragraph (e) is executed, the Exchange will re-enter a new bid or offer on behalf of a Market Maker. Bids and offers entered by the Exchange consistent with proposed paragraph (e) to replace a cancelled or executed quotation will be entered at the Designated Percentage away from the NBBO. Such orders will be posted by the Exchange as BATS Only Orders,⁶ and will be maintained on the Exchange during Regular Trading Hours⁷ unless cancelled by the Market Maker pursuant to the Exchange's Rules. In the event a Market Maker cancels the quotations entered by the Exchange in accordance with proposed paragraph (e), such Market Maker remains responsible for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (d).

⁵ See e-mail from Anders Franzon, Associate General Counsel, BATS, to David Liu, Senior Special Counsel, and Andrew Madar, Special Counsel, Commission, dated September 17, 2010.

⁶ As defined in Rule 11.9(c)(4).

⁷ Defined in Rule 1.5(w) as 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

In order to adopt the above-described market maker quotation obligations, the Exchange proposes to modify Rule 11.18(a)(1), which currently contains a two-sided quotation obligation, to cross-reference the above-described market maker quotation obligations in new paragraph (d). In addition, because proposed paragraph (d) makes clear that the obligations of that paragraph apply during Regular Trading Hours, the Exchange proposes to delete paragraph (b) of current Rule 11.8 related to the when the current quoting obligations apply. Finally, the Exchange proposes deletion of current Rule 11.8(e), related to temporary withdrawal, because Exchange Rule 11.5(d) already provides a Market Maker with the ability to withdraw his or her status as a Market Maker and Rule 11.7(b) already provides a Market Maker with the ability to terminate his or her registration in a security. The Exchange believes that these mechanisms are sufficient for a Market Maker to withdraw or terminate its registration in a security or as a Market Maker without the need for an additional provision related to withdrawal.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.⁸ In particular, the proposed change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ because it would promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change is also designed to support the principles of Section 11A(a)(1)¹⁰ of the Act in that it seeks to assure fair competition among brokers and dealers and among exchange

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

markets. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule meets these requirements in that it promotes uniformity across markets concerning minimum market maker quotation requirements. The Exchange believes that the proposed optional functionality to assist Exchange Market Makers in maintaining continuous, two-sided limit orders in the securities in which they are registered will encourage Market Makers to remain registered with and trade on the Exchange, thus providing valuable liquidity to the Exchange; at the same time, the Exchange believes that the proposed functionality will keep Exchange generated quotations within reasonable reach of the NBBO and that the elimination of “stub quotes” is important for 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 imposes any burden on competition.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on 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 within such longer period 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BATS-2010-025 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BATS-2010-025. 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 inspection and copying 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 such 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 publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BATS-2010-025 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.¹¹

Florence E. Harmon
Deputy Secretary

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).