

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-72041; File No. SR-BX-2014-022)

April 29, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Rule Text Related to Acceptable Trade Range in Chapter VI, Section 10 of the BX Options Rules

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 April 23, 2014, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. (“BX” 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend rule text related to Acceptable Trade Range in Chapter VI, Section 10 of the BX Options rules. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <http://nasdaqomxbx.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

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 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend rule text in Chapter VI, Section 10 entitled “Book Processing” to add additional rule text regarding Acceptable Trade Range. The Acceptable Trade Range is a mechanism to prevent the system³ from experiencing dramatic price swings by creating a level of protection that prevents the market from moving beyond set thresholds. The thresholds consist of a Reference Price plus (minus) set dollar amounts based on the nature of the option and the premium of the option.

Currently, the rule provides that the System will calculate an Acceptable Trade Range to limit the range of prices at which an order will be allowed to execute. The Acceptable Trade Range is calculated by taking the reference price, plus or minus a value to be determined by the Exchange, (i.e., the reference price - (x) for sell orders and the reference price + (x) for buy orders).⁴ Upon receipt of a new order, the reference price is the National Best Bid (NBB) for sell orders and the National Best Offer (NBO) for buy orders or the last price at which the order is posted whichever is higher for a buy order or lower for a sell order. If an order reaches the outer limit of the Acceptable Trade Range (the “Threshold Price”) without being fully executed, it will be posted at the Threshold Price for a brief period, not to exceed one second (“Posting Period”), to allow more liquidity to be collected. Upon posting, either the current Threshold Price of the order or an updated NBB for buy orders or the NBO for sell orders (whichever is higher for a

³ The term “System” means the automated system for order execution and trade reporting owned and operated by BX. See BX Rules at Chapter VI, Section 1(a).

⁴ The Acceptable Trade Range settings are tied to the option premium.

buy order/lower for a sell order) then becomes the reference price for calculating a new Acceptable Trade Range. If the order remains unexecuted, a New Acceptable Trade Range will be calculated and the order will execute, route, or post up to the new Acceptable Trade Range Threshold Price. Today, this process will repeat until the order is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price.

The Exchange proposes to amend this rule to provide that this process will repeat until either i) the order/quote is executed, cancelled, or posted at its limit price or ii) the order has been subject to a configurable number of instances of the Acceptable Trade Range as determined by the Exchange.⁵ Once the maximum number of instances has been reached, the order is returned. The Exchange will establish a maximum number of Acceptable Trade Range iterations, until the order is cancelled. The Exchange will update the Trading System Settings page located on the NASDAQTrader.com website to display the maximum number of Acceptable Trade Range iterations and will provide updates to the table via an Options Trader Alert, generally the prior day, to its membership via Options Trader Alerts. The Exchange will provide sufficient advanced notice of changes. This is the same process which currently exists on the NASDAQ Options Market (“NOM”) and NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC (“Phlx”).⁶

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁸ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable

⁵ BX Options Participants may elect to have their orders cancelled by the System after the first iteration.

⁶ See Phlx Rule 1080(p).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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.

The proposed rule change is consistent with these requirements in that it will continue to reduce the negative impacts of sudden, unanticipated volatility in individual options, and serve to preserve an orderly market in a transparent and uniform manner, enhance the price-discovery process, increase overall market confidence, and promote fair and orderly markets and the protection of investors. This functionality should continue to result in greater continuity in prices as it is designed to prevent immediate or rapid executions at far away prices; thereby protecting investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that the addition of configurable number of iterations when the Acceptable Trade Range would apply will provide BX Participants with more certainty as to the application of the Rule. Overall the Acceptable Trade Range Rule should reduce the negative impacts of sudden, unanticipated volatility in and enhance the price-discovery process.

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

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes this proposed rule change would provide BX Participants greater certainty when transacting orders on the Exchange and continue to reduce the negative impacts of sudden, unanticipated volatility in and enhance the price-discovery process.

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)(ii) [sic] of the Act⁹ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁰

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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(ii).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file 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.

- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BX-2014-022 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-BX-2014-022. 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices 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-2014-022, 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

Kevin M. O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).