

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-78187; File No. SR-C2-2016-009)

June 28, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Professionals Order Counting

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on June 23, 2016, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (the “Exchange” or “C2”) 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 filed the proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁴ 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 its definition of “Professional” in Rule 1.1 to include guidance on how orders should be counted for Professional order counting purposes. The text of the proposed rule change is provided below.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

(additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed])

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C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated

Rules

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CHAPTER 1

Definitions

Rule 1.1. Definitions

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Professional

The term "Professional" means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). A Professional will be treated in the same manner as a broker or dealer in securities for purposes of Rules 6.11, 6.12, 6.13(b)(1), 6.13(c)(5), 6.14, 6.15, 6.51, 6.52 and 8.13. All Professional orders shall be marked with the appropriate origin code as determined by the Exchange.

... Interpretations and Policies:

.01 Except as noted below, each order of any order type counts as one order for Professional order counting purposes.

(a) Complex Orders:

- (1) A complex order comprised of eight (8) legs or fewer counts as a single order.**
- (2) A complex order comprised of nine (9) legs or more counts as multiple orders with each option leg counting as its own separate order.**

(b) "Parent"/"Child" Orders:

- (1) Same Side and Same Series: A "parent" order that is placed for the beneficial account(s) of a person or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities that is broken into multiple "child" orders on the same side (buy/sell) and series as the "parent" order by a broker or dealer, or by an algorithm housed at a broker or dealer or by an algorithm licensed from a broker or dealer, but which is housed with the customer, counts as one order even if the "child" orders are routed across multiple exchanges.**

(2) Both Sides and/or Multiple Series: A “parent” order (including a strategy order) that is broken into multiple “child” orders on both sides (buy/sell) of a series and/or multiple series counts as multiple orders, with each “child” order counting as a new and separate order.

(c) Cancel/Replace:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) below, any order that cancels and replaces an existing order counts as a separate order (or multiple new orders in the case of a complex order comprised of nine (9) legs or more).

(2) Same Side and Same Series: An order that cancels and replaces any “child” order resulting from a “parent” order that is placed for the beneficial account(s) of a person or entity that is not a broker, or dealer in securities that is broken into multiple “child” orders on the same side (buy/sell) and series as the “parent” order by a broker or dealer, by an algorithm housed at a broker or dealer, or by an algorithm licensed from a broker or dealer, but which is housed with the customer, does not count as a new order.

(3) Both Sides and/or Multiple Series: An order that cancels and replaces any “child” order resulting from a “parent” order (including a strategy order) that generates “child” orders on both sides (buy/sell) of a series and/or in multiple series counts as a new order.

(4) Pegged Orders: Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c)(2) above, an order that cancels and replaces any “child” order resulting from a “parent” order being “pegged” to the BBO or NBBO or that cancels and replaces any “child” order pursuant to an algorithm that uses BBO or NBBO in the calculation of “child” orders and attempts to move with or follow the BBO or NBBO of a series counts as a new order each time the order cancels and replaces in order to attempt to move with or follow the BBO or NBBO.

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The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website

<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, 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

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 amend its definition of “Professional” in Rule 1.1 to include guidance on how orders should be counted for Professional order counting purposes.

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to adopt Interpretation and Policy .01 to the definition of “Professional” within Rule 1.1 (Definitions), setting forth standards for calculating average daily order submissions for Professional order counting purposes. The Exchange also proposes to add a provision to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional, which would provide that all Professional orders shall be marked with the appropriate origin code as determined by the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would provide additional clarity in the Rules and serve to promote the purposes for which the Exchange’s Professional rule was originally adopted. The Exchange notes that this filing is materially based upon and substantially similar to rule changes recently adopted by several of the U.S. options exchanges, including, but not limited to Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“CBOE”) filing SR-CBOE-2016-005.⁵

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77450 (March 25, 2016), 81 FR 18668 (March 31, 2016) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 1 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, To Amend Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1(ggg) Relating to the Professional Customer Definition) (SR-CBOE-2016-005); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77449 (March 25, 2016), 81 FR 18665 (March 31, 2016) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 1 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, Relating to the Professional Customer Definition) (SR-Phlx-2016-10); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77580 (April 11, 2016), 81 FR 22328 (April 15, 2016) (Notice of Filing of Proposal to Amend Rule 100 (Definitions) Relating to

Background

In general, “public customers” are granted certain marketplace advantages over other market participants, including Market-Makers, brokers and dealers of securities, and industry “Professionals” on most U.S. options exchanges. The U.S. options exchanges, including C2, have adopted materially similar definitions of the term “Professional,”⁶ which commonly refers to persons or entities that are not a brokers or dealers in securities and who or which place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for their own beneficial account(s).⁷ Various exchanges adopted similar Professional rules for many of the same reasons, including, but not limited to the desire to create more competitive marketplaces and attract retail order flow.⁸ In addition, as several of the exchanges noted in their original Professional rule filings,

Professionals) (SR-BOX-2016-13); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73628 (November 18, 2014), 79 FR 69958 (November 24, 2014) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE-2014-085).

⁶ Some U.S. options exchanges refer to “Professionals” as “Professional Customers” or non-“Priority Customers.” Compare BATS Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”) Rule 16.1(a)(45) (Professional); BOX Options Exchange LLC (“BOX”) Rule 100(a)(50) (Professional); CBOE Rule 1.1(ggg) (Professional); C2 Rule 1.1; BX Chapter I, Sec. 1(49) (Professional); NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC (“PHLX”) Rule 1000(b)(14) (Professional); Nasdaq Options Market (“NOM”) Chapter I, Sec. 1(a)(48) (Professional); with ISE Rule 100(a)(37A) (Priority Customer); Gemini Rule 100(a)(37A) (Priority Customer); Miami International Securities Exchange LLC (“MIAX”) Rule 100 (Priority Customer); NYSE MKT LLC (“NYSE MKT”) Rule 900.2NY(18A) (Professional Customer); NYSE Arca, Inc. (“Arca”) Rule 6.1A(4A) (Professional Customer).

⁷ See, e.g., BZX Rule 16.1(a)(45); BOX Rule 100(a)(50); CBOE Rule 1.1(ggg); C2 Rule 1.1; BX Chapter I, Sec. 1(49); PHLX Rule 1000(b)(14); NOM Chapter I, Sec. 1(a)(48); see also ISE Rule 100(a)(37A) (Priority Customer); Gemini Rule 100(a)(37A) (Priority Customer); MIAX Rule 100 (Priority Customer); NYSE MKT Rule 900.2NY(18A) (Professional Customer); Arca Rule 6.1A(4A) (Professional Customer).

⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60931 (November 4, 2009), 74 FR 58355, 58356 (November 12, 2009) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, Related to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE 2009-078); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59287 (January 23, 2009), 74 FR 5694, 5694 (January 30,

their beliefs that disparate Professional rules and a lack of uniformity in the application of such rules across the options markets would not promote the best regulation and may, in fact, encourage regulatory arbitrage.⁹

Similar to other U.S. options exchanges, the Exchange grants “public customers” certain marketplace advantages over other market participants pursuant to the Exchange’s Fees Schedule¹⁰ and the Rules.¹¹ In general, public customers may receive allocation and execution priority above equally priced competing interests of Market-Makers, broker-dealers, and other market participants.

2009) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 2 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 Thereto, Relating to Professional Account Holders) (SR-ISE-2006-026); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61802 (March 30, 2010), 75 FR 17193, 17194 (April 5, 2010) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 2 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 2 Thereto, Relating to Professional Orders) (SR-PHLX-2010-005); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61629 (March 2, 2010), 75 FR 10851, 10851 (March 9, 2010) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Designation of a “Professional Customer”) (SR-NYSEMKT-2010-018).

⁹ See, e.g., Securities and Exchange Act Release No. 62724 (August 16, 2010), 75 FR 51509 (August 20, 2010) (Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change by the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC To Adopt a Definition of Professional and Require That All Professional Orders Be Appropriately Marked) (SR-NASDAQ-2010-099); Securities and Exchange Act Release No. 65500 (October 6, 2011), 76 FR 63686 (October 13, 2011) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a Definition of Professional and Require That All Professional Orders Be Appropriately Marked) (SR-BATS-2011-041); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65036 (August 4, 2011), 76 FR 49517, 49518 (August 10, 2011) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a Definition of “Professional” and Require That Professional Orders Be Appropriately Marked by BOX Options Participants) (SR-BX-2011-049); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60931 (November 4, 2009), 74 FR 58355, 58357 (November 12, 2009) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, Related to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE 2009-078); see also Securities Exchange Act Release 73628 (November 18, 2014), 79 FR 69958, 69960 (November 24, 2014) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE-2014-085).

¹⁰ See, e.g., Fees Schedule (Transaction Fees).

¹¹ See, e.g., Rules 6.12(c) (Order Execution and Priority - Contingency Orders); 6.13(c)(5)(B) (Complex Order Execution - Execution of COA-Eligible Orders); 6.51(b)(3) (Automated Improvement Mechanism (“AIM”) - Order Allocation).

In addition, customer orders may be exempt or pay lower transaction fees and/or be exempt from certain Exchange surcharges. Similar to other U.S. options exchanges, the Exchange affords these marketplace advantages to public customers based on various business- and regulatory-related objectives, including, for example, to attract retail order flow to the Exchange and to provide competitive pricing.

Currently, Rule 1.1 defines a Professional as a person or entity that is not a securities broker or dealer that places more than 390 listed options orders per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). In large part, the Exchange's Professional order rules were adopted to distinguish non-broker dealer individuals and entities that have access to information and technology that enable them to professionally trade listed options in a manner similar to brokers or dealers in securities from retail investors for order priority and/or transaction fees purposes. In general, Professionals are treated as brokers or dealers in securities under the Exchange's rules, including, but not limited to with respect to order priority and fees.¹² Rule 1.1 is substantially similar to the Professional order rules of other exchanges and was materially based upon the preexistent Professional order rules of other exchanges.¹³

Over time, the Exchange has received various questions as to what constitutes an "order" for Professional order counting purposes, including, but not limited to questions about how to count certain types of strategy orders and how to count "child" orders generated as part of specific "parent" execution strategies. The advent of new multi-leg spread products and the proliferation of the use of complex orders and algorithmic execution strategies by both institutional and retail

¹² See Rule 1.1; Fees Schedule (Transaction Fees).

¹³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60931 (November 4, 2009), 74 FR 58355, 58356 (November 12, 2009) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, Related to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE 2009-078); see, e.g., ISE Rule 100(a)(31A).

market participants have continued to spur questions as to what constitutes an “order” for Professional order counting purposes. For example, do multi-leg spread orders or strategy orders such as volatility orders constitute a single order or multiple orders for Professional order counting purposes? The Exchange’s Professional rule does not fully address these issues and, to date, there has not been a common interpretation across the U.S. options markets. The Exchange believes that additional clarity is needed regarding the application of Rule 1.1 with respect to Professionals. Accordingly, the Exchange is proposing to amend Rule 1.1 to add Interpretation and Policy .01 to the definition of Professional to address how various new execution and order strategies should be treated under the Exchange’s Professional rule. The Exchange believes that the adoption of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional is warranted to ensure that public customers are afforded the marketplace advantages that they are intended to be afforded over other types of market participants on the Exchange.

The Exchange notes that despite the adoption of materially similar Professional rules across the markets, exchanges’ interpretations of their respective Professional rules vary. Although Professionals are similarly defined by exchanges as non-broker-dealer persons or entities that place more than 390 orders in listed options for their own beneficial account(s) per day on average during a calendar month, there is no consistent definition across the markets as to what constitutes an “order” for Professional order counting purposes. While several options exchanges have attempted to clarify their interpretations of their Professional rules through regulatory and information notices and circulars,¹⁴ those interpretations have not necessarily been consistent.¹⁵ As a result, the

¹⁴ See Regulatory Circular RG09-148 (Professional Orders); ISE Regulatory Information Circular 2014-007/Gemini Regulatory Information Circular 2014-011 (Priority Customer Orders and Professional Orders (FAQ)); MIAX Regulatory Circular 2014-69 (Priority Customer and Professional Interest Order Summary); NYSE Joint Regulatory Bulletin,

Exchange believes that the rather than helping to promote the best regulation and discourage regulatory arbitrage, the Professional rules have become a basis of intermarket competition. The Exchange believes that the proposed set of standards would allow the Exchange to better compete for order flow and help ensure deeper levels of liquidity on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change would help to remove impediments to and help perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system by increasing competition in the marketplace. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to amend the Rules by adopting Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional.

Proposal

The Exchange proposes to adopt Interpretation and Policy to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional setting forth a detailed counting regime for calculating average daily orders for Professional order counting purposes. Specifically, the Exchange's proposed Interpretation and Policy would make clear how to count complex orders, "parent/child" orders that are broken into multiple orders, and "cancel/replace" orders for Professional order counting purposes.

Under the Exchange's proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, all orders would count as one single order for Professional counting purposes, unless otherwise specified under the Rules. Proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would provide that except as noted below, each order of any order type counts as one order for Professional order counting purposes. Paragraph (a) of proposed Interpretation and

NYSE Acra RBO-15-03, NYSE Amex RBO-15-06) (Professional Customer Orders); BOX Regulatory Circular RC-2015-21 (Professional Orders).

¹⁵ Compare NYSE Joint Regulatory Bulletin, NYSE Acra RBO-15-03, NYSE Amex RBO-15-06) (Professional Customer Orders); Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1(ggg) with ISE Regulatory Information Circular 2014-007/Gemini Regulatory Information Circular 2014-011 (Priority Customer Orders and Professional Orders (FAQ)); and ISE Regulatory Information Circular 2009-179 (Priority Customer Orders and Professional Orders (FAQ)).

Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would discuss complex orders. Under paragraph (a)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, a complex order comprised of eight (8) legs or fewer would count as a single order. Conversely, paragraph (a)(2) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would provide that a complex order comprised of nine (9) legs or more counts as multiple orders with each option leg counting as its own separate order. The Exchange believes the distinction between complex orders with up to eight legs from those with nine or more legs is appropriate in light of the purposes for which the Exchange's Professional rule was adopted. In particular, the Exchange notes that multi-leg complex order strategies with nine or more legs are more complex in nature and thus, more likely to be used by professional traders than traditional two, three, and four leg complex order strategies such as the strangle, straddle, butterfly, collar, condor strategies, and combinations thereof with eight legs or fewer, which are generally not algorithmically generated and are frequently used by retail investors. Thus, the types of complex orders traditionally placed by retail investors would continue to count as only one order while the more complex strategy orders that are typically used by professional traders would count as multiple orders for Professional order counting purposes.

Paragraph (b) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would provide details relating to the counting of "parent/child" orders. Under paragraph (b)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, a "parent" order that is placed for the beneficial account(s) of a person or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities that is broken into multiple "child" orders on the same side (buy/sell) and series as the "parent" order by a broker or dealer, or by an algorithm housed at a broker or dealer or by an algorithm licensed from a broker or dealer, but which is housed with the customer, counts as one order even if the "child" orders are routed across multiple exchanges. Essentially, this paragraph

would describe how orders placed for public customers, which are “worked” by a broker in order to receive best execution should be counted for Professional order counting purposes. Paragraph (b)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional would permit larger “parent” orders (which may be simple orders or complex orders consisting of up to eight legs), to be broken into multiple smaller orders on the same side (buy/sell) and in the same series (or complex orders consisting of up to eight legs) in order to attempt to achieve best execution for the overall order.

For example, if a customer were to enter an order to buy 1,000 XYZ \$5 January calls at a limit price of \$1, which the customer’s broker then broke into four separate orders to buy 250 XYZ \$5 January calls at a limit price of \$1 in order to achieve a better execution, the four “child” orders would still only count as one order for Professional order counting purposes (whether or not the four separate orders were sent to the same or different exchanges for execution).¹⁶ Similarly, in the case of a complex order, if a customer were to enter an order to buy 1,000 XYZ \$5 January(sell)/March(buy) calendar spreads (with a 1:1 ratio on the legs), at a net debit limit price of \$0.20, which the customer’s broker then broke into four separate orders to buy 250 XYZ \$5 January/March calendar spreads (each with a 1:1 ratio on the legs), each at a net debit limit price of \$0.20, the four “child” orders would still only count as one order for Professional order counting purposes (whether or not the four separate orders were sent to the same or different exchanges for execution).

¹⁶ Notably, however, if the customer herself were to enter the same four identical orders to buy 250 XYZ \$5 January calls at a limit price of \$1 prior to sending the orders, those orders would count as four separate orders for Professional order counting purposes because the orders would not have been broken into multiple “child” orders on the same side (buy/sell) and series as the “parent” order by a broker or dealer, or by an algorithm housed at a broker or dealer or by an algorithm licensed from a broker or dealer, but which is housed with the customer.

Conversely, under paragraph (b)(2) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, a "parent" order (including a strategy order)¹⁷ that is broken into multiple "child" orders on both sides (buy/sell) of a series and/or multiple series counts as multiple orders, with each "child" order counting as a new and separate order. Accordingly, under this provision, strategy orders, which are most often used by sophisticated traders best characterized as "Professionals," would count as multiple orders for each child order entered as part of the overall strategy. For example, if a customer were to enter a volatility order¹⁸ or "vega" order¹⁹ with her broker by which multiple "child" orders were then sent to the Exchange across multiple series in a particular option class, each order entered would count as a separate order for Professional order counting purposes. Likewise, if the customer instructed her broker to buy a variety of calls across various option classes as part of a basket trade, each order entered by the broker in order to obtain

¹⁷ For purposes of this proposed Interpretation and Policy, the term "strategy order" is intended to mean an execution strategy, trading instruction, or algorithm whereby multiple "child" orders on both sides of a series and/or multiple series are generated prior to being sent to any or multiple U.S. options exchange(s).

¹⁸ A "volatility" or "volatility-type" order may be characterized as an order instruction or combination to buy/sell contracts at a specific implied volatility rather than at a specific price or premium. Because implied volatility is a key determinant of the premium on an option, some traders may wish to take positions in specific contract months in an effort to take advantage of perceived changes in implied volatility arising before, during, or after earnings or in a certain company when specific or broad market volatility is predicted to change. In certain cases, depending on where a customer's account is housed or the trading capabilities of the participant involved, an options trader may trade and position for movements in the price of the option based on implied volatility using a "volatility" or "volatility-type" order or trading instruction by setting a limit for the volatility level they are willing to pay or receive. In such cases, premiums may be calculated in percentage terms rather than premiums.

¹⁹ An option's vega is a measure of the impact of changes in the underlying volatility on the option price. Specifically, the vega of an option expresses the change in the price of the option for every 1% change in underlying volatility.

the positions making up the basket would count as a separate order for Professional counting purposes.²⁰

The Exchange believes that the distinctions between “parent” and “child” orders in paragraph (b) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional are appropriate. The Exchange notes that paragraph (b) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional is not aimed at capturing orders that are being “worked” or broken into multiple orders to avoid showing large orders to the market in an effort to elude front-running and to achieve best execution as is typically done by brokers on behalf of retail clients. Rather, paragraph (b) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional is aimed at identifying “child” orders of “parent” orders generated by algorithms that are typically used by sophisticated traders to continuously update their orders in concert with market updates in order to keep their overall trading strategies in balance. The Exchange believes that these types of “parent/child” orders typically used by sophisticated traders should count as multiple orders.

Paragraph (c) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional, would discuss the counting of orders that are cancelled and replaced. Similar to the distinctions drawn in paragraph (b) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional, paragraph (c) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional would essentially separate orders that are cancelled and replaced as part of an overall strategy from those that are cancelled and replaced by a broker that is “working” the order to

²⁰ Notably, with respect to the types of “parent” orders (including strategy orders) described in paragraph (b)(2) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1’s definition of Professional, such orders would be received only as multiple “child” orders the U.S. options exchange receiving such orders. The “parent” order would be broken apart before being sent by the participant to the exchange(s) as multiple “child” orders. See supra at note 17.

achieve best execution or attempting to time the market. Specifically, paragraph (c)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would provide that except as otherwise provided in the rule (and specifically as provided under paragraph (c)(2) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional), any order that cancels and replaces an existing order counts as a separate order (or multiple new orders in the case of a complex order comprised of nine (9) legs or more). For example, if a trader were to enter a non-marketable limit order to buy an option contract at a certain net debit price, cancel the order in response to market movements, and then reenter the same order once it became marketable, those orders would count as two separate orders for Professional order counting purposes even though the terms of both orders were the same.

Paragraph (c)(2) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would specify the exception to paragraph (c)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional and would provide that an order that cancels and replaces any "child" order resulting from a "parent" order that is placed for the beneficial account(s) of a person or entity that is not a broker, or dealer in securities that is broken into multiple "child" orders on the same side (buy/sell) and series as the "parent" order by a broker or dealer, by an algorithm housed at a broker or dealer, or by an algorithm licensed from a broker or dealer, but which is housed with the customer, would not count as a new order. For example, if a customer were to enter an order with her broker to buy 10,000 XYZ \$5 January calls at a limit price of \$1, which the customer's broker then entered, but could not fill and then cancelled to avoid having to rest the order in the book as part of a strategy to obtain a better execution for the customer and then resubmitted the remainder of the order, which would be considered a "child" of the "parent" order, once it became marketable, such orders would only count as one order for Professional order

counting purposes. Again, similar to paragraph (b) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, the Exchange notes that paragraph (c) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional is not aimed at capturing orders that are being "worked" or being cancelled and replaced to avoid showing large orders to the market in an effort to elude front-running and to achieve best execution as is typically done by brokers on behalf of retail clients. Rather, paragraph (c) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional is aimed at identifying "child" orders of "parent" orders generated by algorithms that are typically used by sophisticated traders to continuously update their orders in concert with market updates in order to keep their overall trading strategies in balance. The Exchange believes that paragraph (c)(2) to proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional is consistent with these goals.

Accordingly, consistent with paragraph (c)(1) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, under paragraph (c)(3) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional, an order that cancels and replaces any "child" order resulting from a "parent" order (including a strategy order) that generates "child" orders on both sides (buy/sell) of a series and/or in multiple series would count as a new order. For example, if an investor were to seek to make a trade (or series of trades) to take a long vega position at a certain percentage limit on a basket of options, the investor may need to cancel and replace several of the "child" orders entered to achieve the overall execution strategy several times to account for updates in the prices of the underlyings. In such a case, each "child" order placed to keep the overall execution strategy in place would count as a new and separate order even if the particular "child" order were being used to replace a slightly different "child" order that was previously being used to keep the same overall execution strategy in place. The Exchange believes that the distinctions

between cancel/replace orders in paragraph (c) to proposed Rule 1.1's definition of Professional are appropriate as such orders are typically generated by algorithms used by sophisticated traders to keep strategy orders continuously in line with updates in the markets. As such, the Exchange believes that in most cases, cancel/replace orders should count as multiple orders.

Paragraph (c)(4) of proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would provide that notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c)(2) above, an order that cancels and replaces any "child" order resulting from a "parent" order being "pegged" to the Exchange's best bid or offer ("BBO") or national best bid or offer ("NBBO") or that cancels and replaces any "child" order pursuant to an algorithm that uses BBO or NBBO in the calculation of "child" orders and attempts to move with or follow the BBO or NBBO of a series would count as a new order each time the order cancels and replaces in order to attempt to move with or follow the BBO or NBBO. The Exchange believes that paragraph (c)(4) is appropriate to make clear that "pegged" strategy orders that are typically used by sophisticated traders should be counted as multiple orders even though such orders may cancel/replace orders in on the same side (buy/sell) of the market in a single series in order to achieve an overall order strategy.

Finally, the Exchange also proposes to amend Rule 1.1 to provide that all Professional orders shall be marked with the appropriate origin code as determined by the Exchange in order to bring the Exchange's rules in-line with the Professional order rules of other exchanges.²¹ The Exchange notes that Permit Holders are already required to mark orders with appropriate origin

²¹ See see [sic] also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73628 (November 18, 2014), 79 FR 69958 (November 24, 2014) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Professional Orders) (SR-CBOE-2014-085); see also ISE Regulatory Information Circular 2014-007 (Priority Customer Orders and Professional Orders (FAQ)).

codes.²² The Exchange is simply proposing to codify this requirement in the Rules under the definition of Professional in current Rule 1.1; Permit Holders would continue to be required to indicate whether public customer orders are “Professional” orders as they are currently. To comply with this requirement, Permit Holders would be required to review their customers’ activity on at least a quarterly basis to determine whether orders that are not for the account of a broker or dealer should be represented as customer orders or Professional orders and make any appropriate changes to the way in which they are representing orders within five days after the end of each calendar quarter. Orders for any customer that had an average of more than 390 orders per day during any month of a calendar quarter must be represented as Professional orders for the next calendar quarter. If, however, during a quarter the Exchange identifies a customer for which orders are being represented as public customer orders but that has averaged more than 390 orders per day during a month, the Exchange will notify the Permit Holder and the Permit Holder will be required to change the manner in which it is representing the customer’s orders within five days.

Because the rule only requires that Permit Holders conduct a look-back to determine whether their customers are averaging more than 390 orders per day at the end of each calendar quarter, the Exchange proposes an effective date of July 1, 2016 for proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to the definition of Professional in Rule 1.1 to ensure that all orders during the next quarterly review will be counted in the same manner and that proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1(ggg) [sic] will not be applied retroactively.

²² See Regulator Circular C2 RG13-015 (Order Origin Requirement).

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.²³ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁴ 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 regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁵ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes that proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional provides a more conservative order counting regime for Professional order counting purposes that would identify more traders as Professionals to which the Exchange's definition of Professional was designed to apply and create a better competitive balance for all participants on the Exchange, consistent with the Act. As the options markets have evolved to become more electronic and more competitive, the Exchange believes that the distinction between registered broker-dealers and professional traders who are currently treated as public customers has become increasingly blurred. More and more, the category of public

²³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

²⁵ Id.

customer today includes sophisticated algorithmic traders including former market makers and hedge funds that trade with a frequency resembling that of broker-dealers. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable under the Act to treat those customers who meet the high level of trading activity established in the proposal differently than customers who do not meet that threshold and are more typical retail investors to ensure that professional traders do not take advantage of priority and fee benefits intended for public customers.

The Exchange notes that it is not unfair to differentiate between different types of investors in order to achieve certain marketplace balances. The Rules currently differentiate between public customers, broker-dealers, Market-Makers, and the like. These differentiations have been recognized to be consistent with the Act. The Exchange does not believe that the current rules of C2 or other exchanges that accord priority to all public customers over broker-dealers are unfairly discriminatory. Nor does the Exchange believe that it is unfairly discriminatory to accord priority to only those customers who on average do not place more than one order per minute (390 per day) under the counting regime that the Exchange proposes. The Exchange believes that such differentiations drive competition in the marketplace and are within the business judgment of the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange also believes that its proposal is consistent with the requirement of Section 6(b)(8) of the Act that the rules of an exchange not impose an unnecessary or inappropriate burden upon competition in that it treats persons who should be deemed Professionals (but who may not be under the current Rules), in a manner so that they do not receive special priority benefits.

Furthermore, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will protect investors and the public interest by helping to assure that retail customers continue to receive the appropriate marketplace advantages in the C2 marketplace as intended, while furthering

competition among marketplace professionals by treating them in the same manner as other similarly situated market participants. The Exchange believes that it is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act not to afford market participants with similar access to information and technology as that of brokers and dealers of securities with marketplace advantages over such marketplace competitors. The Exchange also believes that the proposed Interpretation and Policy would help to remove burdens on competition and promote a more competitive marketplace by affording certain marketplace advantages only to those for whom they are intended. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change sets forth a more detailed and clear regulatory regime with respect to calculating average daily order entry for Professional order counting purposes. The Exchange believes that this additional clarity and detail will eliminate confusion among market participants, which is in the interests of all investors and the general public. The Exchange also believes that codifying the requirement that all Professional orders shall be marked with the appropriate origin code as determined by the Exchange will add additional transparency and clarity to the Rules, which is also in the interests of all investors and the general public.

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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As discussed above, the Exchange does not believe that the current rules of C2 and other exchanges that accord priority to all public customers over broker-dealers are unfairly discriminatory. Nor does the Exchange believe that it is unfairly discriminatory to accord priority to only those customers who on average do not place more than one order per minute (390 per day) under the counting regime that the Exchange proposes. The Exchange believes that its proposal does not

impose an undue burden on competition. The Exchange notes that one of the purposes of the Professional rules is to help ensure fairness in the marketplace and promote competition among all market participants. The Exchange believes that proposed Interpretation and Policy .01 to Rule 1.1's definition of Professional would help establish more competition among market participants and promote the purposes for which the Exchange's Professional rule was originally adopted. The Exchange does not believe that the Act requires it to provide the same incentives and discounts to all market participants equally, so as long as the exchange does not unfairly discriminate among participants with regard to access to exchange systems. The Exchange believes that here, that is clearly the case.

Rather than burden competition, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change promotes competition by ensuring that retail investors continue to receive the appropriate marketplace advantages in the C2 marketplace as intended, while furthering competition among marketplace professionals by treating them in the same manner under the Rules as other similarly situated market participants by ensuring that market participants with similar access to information and technology (i.e. Professionals and broker-dealers), receive similar treatment under the Rules while retail investors receive the benefits of order priority and fee waivers that are intended to apply to public customers.

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

The Exchange 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

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 Act²⁶ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.²⁷ A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing.²⁸ Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), however, permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.²⁹

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission notes that it has considered substantially similar proposed rule changes filed by CBOE and PHLX which it approved after a notice and comment period.³⁰ This proposed rule change does not raise any new or novel issues from those considered in the CBOE or PHLX proposals. Based on the foregoing, the Commission believes that it is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest to waive the 30-day operative date so that the proposal may take effect upon filing.³¹

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such

²⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(iii).

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

²⁹ Id.

³⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 77450 (March 25, 2016) (Order Approving SR-CBOE-2016-005); 77449 (March 25, 2016), 81 FR 18665, (March 31, 2016) (Order Approving SR-Phlx-2016-10).

³¹ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act³² to determine whether the proposed rule change 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
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File No. SR-C2-2016-009 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 No. SR-C2-2016-009. 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

³² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

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, D.C. 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 available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-C2-2016-009, 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.³³

Robert W. Errett
Deputy Secretary

³³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).