SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-104432; File No. SR-NYSEAMER-2025-73]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE American LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate

Effectiveness of Proposed Change to Amend Sections 140 and 141 of the NYSE American

Company Guide

December 17, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on December 11, 2025, NYSE American LLC ("NYSE American" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend Sections 140 and 141 of the NYSE American Company Guide (the "Company Guide") to amend the original and annual listing fees for stock issues. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at www.nyse.com, and at the principal office of the Exchange.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

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 those 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 parts of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend Sections 140 and 141 of the Company Guide to amend the original and annual listing fees for stock issues. The proposed changes will take effect from the beginning of the calendar year commencing on January 1, 2026.

The Exchange currently charges original listing fees for stock issues on a tiered schedule based on the number of shares outstanding. At the low end of the fee schedule, an original listing fee of \$50,000 is charged when there are less than 5,000,000 shares outstanding. At the top of the fee schedule, an original listing fee of \$75,000 is charged when there are more than 15,000,000 shares outstanding. There are two intermediate tiers.

The Exchange proposes to eliminate the tiered schedule and charge a flat original listing fee of \$75,000 for all stock issues.⁴ Transitioning to a flat original listing fee will simplify the Exchange's administrative process for billing original listing fees and also provide greater clarity to issuers seeking a listing on the Exchange. Further, in recent years, the substantial majority of

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Pursuant to Section 140 of the Company Guide, the original listing fee for a class of warrants is the same as for a stock issue. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to adopt a flat \$75,000 original listing fee for a class of warrants.

issuers seeking to list a stock issue on the Exchange have had more than 15,000,000 shares outstanding and were therefore subject to the top tier of the original listing fee schedule and the Exchange infrequently lists new classes of warrants. Accordingly, the proposed adoption of a flat original listing fee for stock issues and warrants is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on the fees paid by new issuers listing on the Exchange. In addition, the proposed change will not take effect until January 1, 2026 so all issuers will be on notice of the new fee schedule.

The Exchange currently charges an annual fee of \$60,000 to issuers with 50 million or fewer shares outstanding and an annual fee of \$80,000 to issuers with more than 50 million shares outstanding. The Exchange proposes to amend Section 141 of the Company Guide to increase the annual fee for issuers with 50 million or fewer shares outstanding to \$65,000, and to increase the annual fee for issuers with more than 50 million shares outstanding to \$84,000.

The proposed increase to the annual fee for stock issues reflects increases in the costs the Exchange incurs in providing services to listed companies on an ongoing basis including in relation to company events and advocacy on behalf of listed companies, as well as increases in the costs of conducting its related regulatory activities. In 2025, the Exchange increased the number of educational events it hosted for companies listed on the Exchange and also enhanced its facilities that can be used by listed companies. The Exchange proposes to make the aforementioned fee increases to better reflect the Exchange's costs related to listing equity securities and the corresponding value of such listing to companies.

The revised annual fee for stock issues will be applied in the same manner to all issuers with listed securities in the affected categories and the Exchange believes that the changes will not disproportionately affect any specific category of issuers.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, ⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4)⁶ of the Act, in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, ⁷ in that it is designed 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that it is not unfairly discriminatory and represents an equitable allocation of reasonable fees to amend Section 140 of the Company Guide to transition to a flat original listing fee for stock issues because, as noted above, nearly all companies seeking to list on the Exchange already fall within the top tier of the current fee schedule. Therefore, the proposed change will not have any meaningful impact on most issuers seeking to list on the Exchange. In addition, the proposed change will not take effect until January 1, 2026 so all issuers will be on notice of the new fee schedule.

The Exchange believes that it is not unfairly discriminatory and represents an equitable allocation of reasonable fees to amend Section 141 of the Company Guide to increase the annual

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

^{7 15} U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

fees for listed equity securities as set forth above because of the increased costs incurred by the Exchange since it established the current rates.

The Proposed Changes are Reasonable

The Exchange believes that the proposed changes to the original and annual fee schedule for listed equity securities are reasonable. In that regard, the Exchange notes that most issuers seeking to list on the exchange already pay a \$75,000 original listing fee as they have more than 15,000,000 shares outstanding. The proposed change to adopt a flat original listing fee and eliminate the current tiered structure simplifies the Exchange's billing practices and provides improved clarity to issuers.

Moreover, the Exchange notes that its general costs to support its listed companies have increased, including due to price inflation. The Exchange also continues to expand and improve the services it provides to listed companies. Specifically, the Exchange has (among other things) increased expenditure on listed companies and the value of an NYSE American listing by increasing programming for listed companies and enhancing its conference space which can be utilized by listed companies.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive marketplace for the listing of the various categories of securities affected by the proposed original and annual fee adjustments. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS,⁸ the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been

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Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34–51808 (June 9, 2005); 70 FR 37496 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS").

remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."9

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges with respect to new listings and the transfer of existing listings between competitor exchanges demonstrates that issuers can choose different listing markets in response to fee changes.

Accordingly, competitive forces constrain exchange listing fees. Stated otherwise, changes to exchange listing fees can have a direct effect on the ability of an exchange to compete for new listings and retain existing listings.

Given this competitive environment, the adoption of the proposed flat original listing fee and increase to the annual listing fee for equity securities represents a reasonable attempt to address the Exchange's costs in servicing these listings while continuing to attract and retain listings.

The Proposal is an Equitable Allocation of Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal equitably allocates its fees among its market participants.

The Exchange believes that the proposed amendments to the original listing fee for stock issues is equitable because the substantial majority of issuers seeking to list on the Exchange are already paying the top fee under the current schedule and the proposed change, therefore, will not have any meaningful impact on any category of issuer. Further, the annual fees for equity securities are equitable because they do not change the existing framework for such fees, but simply increase the amount of the annual fee to reflect increased operating costs. Similarly, as the fee structure remains effectively unchanged apart from the proposed increases in the rates

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⁹ <u>See</u> Regulation NMS, 70 FR at 37499.

paid by all issuers, the changes to the annual fee for equity securities neither target nor will they have a disparate impact on any particular category of issuer. Lastly, the proposed change will not take effect until January 1, 2026 so all issuers will be on notice of the new fee schedule.

The Proposal is Not Unfairly Discriminatory

The Exchange believes that the proposal is not unfairly discriminatory. The proposed fee changes are not unfairly discriminatory among issuers of operating company equity securities because the same fee schedules will apply to all such issuers. Further, the Exchange operates in a competitive environment and its fees are constrained by competition in the marketplace. Other venues currently list all of the categories of securities covered by the proposed fees and if a company believes that the Exchange's fees are unreasonable it can decide either not to list its securities or to list them on an alternative venue.

For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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. The proposed rule change is designed to ensure that the fees charged by the Exchange accurately reflect the services provided and benefits realized by listed issuers. The market for listing services is extremely competitive. Each listing exchange has a different fee schedule that applies to issuers seeking to list securities on its exchange. Issuers have the option to list their securities on these alternative venues based on the fees charged and the value provided by each listing. Because issuers have a choice to list their securities on a different national securities exchange, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee changes impose a burden on competition.

Intramarket Competition.

The proposed amended fees will be charged to all listed issuers on the same basis. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed amended fees will have any meaningful effect on the competition among issuers listed on the Exchange.

Intermarket Competition.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which issuers can readily choose to list new securities on other exchanges and transfer listings to other exchanges if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees, and because issuers may change their chosen listing venue, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change can impose any burden on intermarket competition

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, ¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder ¹¹ the

Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing. 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.

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¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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
 (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include file number
 SR-NYSEAMER-2025-73 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-NYSEAMER-2025-73. This file number should be included on 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 (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSEAMER-2025-73 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 12

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

¹⁷ CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).