SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-79209; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2016-138)

November 1, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the NYSE Arca Options Fee Schedule Effective November 1, 2016

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 October 25, 2016, NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") 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 the Substance of the Proposed</u>
<u>Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the NYSE Arca Options Fee Schedule ("Fee Schedule"). The Exchange proposes to implement the fee change effective November 1, 2016. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

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 Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to provide for fees for manually executed Professional Customer orders, effective November 1, 2016.

Currently, the Exchange does not differentiate between Customer and Professional Customer orders for purposes of manual transaction fees, and Customers and Professional Customers are not charged any fee for orders executed in open outcry.⁴

The Exchange proposes to assess a fee of \$0.25 per contract for Professional Customer orders that are executed manually, and to modify the Fee Schedule to reflect this change. This proposed assessment would mean Professional Customers are charged the same rate as Firms and Broker Dealers for manual orders.

The Exchange is not proposing any other modification to Transaction Fees at this time.

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 Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act,⁶ in particular, because it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members, issuers and other persons using its facilities and does not unfairly

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

Per the Fee Schedule, "[u]nless Professional Customer executions are specifically delineated, such executions will be treated as Customer executions for fee purposes."

<u>See Fee Schedule, available here, https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/arcaoptions/NYSE_Arca_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf.</u>

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because Professional Customers submit more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average and generally engage in trading activity similar to non-Customers. Thus, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to charge Professional Customers the same fee it assesses Firms and Broker Dealers (i.e., non-Customers) for manual transactions. In addition, the proposed change is competitive as other options exchanges likewise treat Professional Customers as non-Customers for purposes of order [sic] executed in open outcry.⁷

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

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

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act, 8 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. Instead, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would continue to encourage competition by treating Professional Customers on the same basis as non-Customers. The Exchange's proposal does not place on undue burden on intermarket competition because other exchanges likewise charge Professional Customers the same rate as non-Customer for manual transactions. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of any market participants or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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See, e.g., NYSE Amex Options fee schedule, <u>available here</u>, https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/amexoptions/NYSE Amex Options Fee_Schedule.pdf (charging the Professional Customers the same rate as Broker Dealers and Firms); NASDAQ OMX PHLX fee schedule, <u>available here</u>, http://www.nasdaqtrader.com/Micro.aspx?id=phlxpricing (same).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

See supra note 6.

The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually review, and consider adjusting, its fees and credits to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. For the reasons described above, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change reflects this competitive environment.

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

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

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>
The foregoing rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)¹⁰ of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4¹¹ thereunder, because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange.

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 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)¹² of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NYSEArca-2016-138 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-NYSEArca-2016-138. 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 office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the

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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-NYSEArca-2016-138, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 13

Brent J. Fields Secretary

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