

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-79154; File No. SR-BX-2016-054)

October 25, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Add Commentary .14 to Rule 4770 (Compliance with Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on October 17, 2016, NASDAQ BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “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 proposes to add Commentary .14 to Rule 4770 (Compliance with Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot) to provide the SEC with notice of its efforts to re-program its systems to eliminate a re-pricing functionality for certain orders in Test Group Three securities in connection with the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (“Plan” or “Pilot”).<sup>3</sup> BX also proposes to re-number current Commentary .12 relating to the Block Size exception to Commentary .13 as a technical correction.

The text of the proposed rule change is set forth below. Proposed new language is in italics; deleted text is in brackets.

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74892 (May 6, 2015), 80 FR 27513 (May 13, 2015) (“Approval Order”).

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## NASDAQ BX Rules

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### **4770. Compliance with Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot**

(a) through (d) No Change.

#### **Commentary:**

.01 - .12 No change.

.1[2]3 For purposes of qualifying for the Block Size exception under paragraph (c)(3)(D)(iii) of this Rule, the Order must have a size of 5,000 shares or more and the resulting execution upon entry must have a size of 5,000 shares or more in aggregate.

.14 Until October 31, 2016, the treatment of Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols in Test Group Three securities shall be as follows:

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Price to Comply Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO until such time as the Price to Comply Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Price to Display Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO until such time as the Price to Display Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Non-Displayed Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO up (down) to the Order's limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, the Post-Only Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO or the best price on the Exchange Book, as applicable until such time as the Post-Only Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

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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

On September 7, 2016, the Exchange filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change ("Proposal") to adopt paragraph (d) to Exchange Rule 4770 to describe changes to system functionality necessary to implement the Plan. The Exchange also proposed amendments to Rule 4770(a) and (c) to clarify how the Trade-at exception may be satisfied. The SEC published the Proposal in the Federal Register for notice and comment on September 20, 2016.<sup>4</sup> BX subsequently filed three Partial Amendments

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<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78838 (September 14, 2016), 81 FR 64566 (September 20, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-050).

to clarify aspects of the Proposal. The Commission approved the Proposal, as amended, on October 7, 2016.<sup>5</sup>

In SR-BX-2016-050, BX had initially proposed a re-pricing functionality for Price to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders entered through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Group Three securities.<sup>6</sup> BX subsequently determined that it would not offer this re-pricing functionality for Price to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders entered through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Group Three securities. As part of Partial Amendment No. 2 to SR-BX-2016-050, BX proposed to delete the relevant language from Rule 4770 related to this re-pricing functionality.

In that amendment, BX noted that this change would only impact the treatment of Price to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only orders that are submitted through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Test Group Three Pilot Securities, as these types of Orders that are currently submitted to BX through the RASH or FIX protocols are already subject to this re-pricing functionality and will remain subject to this functionality under the Pilot.

In the Amendment, BX further noted that its systems are currently programmed so that Price to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders and Post-Only Orders entered through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Test Group Three Securities may be adjusted repeatedly to

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<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79076 (October 7, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-050).

<sup>6</sup> As originally proposed, Rule 4770(d)(2) stated that Price to Comply Orders in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO until such time as the Price to Comply Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price. Rule 4770(d)(3) stated that, if market conditions allow, a Non-Displayed Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO up (down) to the Order's limit price. Rule 4770(d)(4) stated that, if market conditions allow, the Post-Only Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO or the best price on the BX Book, as applicable until such time as the Post-Only Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

reflect changes to the NBBO and/or the best price on the BX book. BX stated that it is re-programming its systems to remove this functionality for Price to Comply Orders, Non-Displayed Orders and Post-Only Orders entered through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Test Group Three Securities.<sup>7</sup> In the Amendment, BX stated that it anticipated that this re-programming shall be completed no later than November 30, 2016. If it appears that this functionality will remain operational by October 17, 2016, BX indicated that it would file a proposed rule change with the SEC and will provide notice to market participants sufficiently in advance of that date to provide effective notice. The rule change and the notice to market participants will describe the current operation of the BX systems in this regard, and the timing related to the re-programming.

At this time, BX is still in the process of re-programming its systems to eliminate the re-pricing functionality in Test Group Three securities for Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols. BX anticipates that this re-programming shall be complete on or before October 31, 2016.

Therefore, the current treatment of Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols in Test Group Three securities shall be as follows:

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Price to Comply Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO until

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<sup>7</sup> BX has become aware that this re-pricing functionality also applies to Price to Display Orders that are entered through the OUCH and FLITE protocols in Test Group Three Securities, and is including those Orders as part of this proposal accordingly. Price to Display Orders will be treated in the same manner as Price to Comply Orders under the re-pricing functionality.

such time as the Price to Comply Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Price to Display Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO until such time as the Price to Display Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Non-Displayed Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO up (down) to the Order's limit price.

Following entry, and if market conditions allow, a Post-Only Order in a Test Group Three Pilot Security will be adjusted repeatedly in accordance with changes to the NBBO or the best price on the BX Book, as applicable until such time as the Post-Only Order is able to be ranked and displayed at its original entered limit price.

In addition to this proposal, BX will also issue an Equity Trader Alert that describes the current operation of the BX systems in this regard, and the timing related to the removal of this re-pricing functionality.<sup>8</sup>

BX also proposes to re-number Commentary .12, which relates to the Block Size exception, to Commentary .13. A previous filing (SR-BX-2016-048) added Commentary to Rule 4770 that resulted in Commentary .11, which addresses the effective date of the Rule, being re-numbered as Commentary .12. BX therefore proposes to re-number the Commentary .12 that addresses the Block Size exception as Commentary .13.

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<sup>8</sup> BX anticipates providing additional specificity to market participants as to the timing of the new functionality at a later date.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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 purpose of this filing is to inform the SEC and market participants of the status of BX's attempts to re-program its systems to remove the re-pricing functionality in Test Group Three securities for Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols, and the current treatment of such orders pending the removal of this functionality. This proposal is consistent with the Act because it provides the SEC and market participants with notice of BX's efforts in this regard, and is being submitted in connection with the statements made by BX in SR-BX-2016-050 in proposing the removal of this functionality.

BX also believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act because the re-pricing functionality will not significantly impact the data gathered pursuant to the Pilot. BX notes that this re-pricing functionality only affects Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols for Test Group Three securities until the re-pricing functionality is eliminated, and only becomes relevant when an Order in a Test Group Three security would cross a Protected Quotation of another market center. BX has analyzed data relating to the frequency with which Orders in Test Group Three securities are entered with a limit price that would cross a Protected Quotation of another market center, and believes that the re-pricing functionality will be triggered infrequently

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<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

once Test Group Three becomes operational.<sup>11</sup> The Exchange also notes that it is diligently working to re-program its systems to remove this re-pricing functionality, and that it anticipates this re-programming to be complete on or before October 31, 2016.

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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The purpose of this proposal is to provide the SEC and market participants with notice of BX's efforts to remove its re-pricing functionality in Test Group Three securities for Price to Comply Orders, Price to Display Orders, Non-Displayed Orders, and Post-Only Orders that are entered through the OUCH or FLITE protocols, consistent with its statements in SR-BX-2016-050.

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)(iii) of the Act<sup>12</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> For example, on September 23, 2016, 0.3% of orders in Test Group Three securities were entered on the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC at a price that crossed the NBBO. BX believes that this number will be even lower starting October 17, 2016, when the \$0.05 tick increment for Test Group Three securities is in place.

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).



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. 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. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) so that this proposed change will be in operative as of October 17, 2016, the date that Test Group Three securities begin to be subject to the quoting and trading restrictions of the Plan and, therefore, the relevant language in Rule 4770.

The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it will allow the Exchange to implement the proposed rules immediately thereby preventing delays in the implementation of the Plan. The Commission notes that the Pilot started implementation on October 3, 2016, Test Group Three securities were phased into the Pilot starting on October 17, 2016, and waiving the 30-day operative delay would ensure that the rules of the Exchange would be in place during implementation. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change to be operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>14</sup>

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.

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<sup>14</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

#### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2016-054 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-2016-054. 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 the 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 Number SR- BX-2016-054, 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.<sup>15</sup>

Brent J. Fields  
Secretary

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<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).