

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-75155; File No. SR-NYSEARCA-2015-29)

June 11, 2015

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change to Amend NYSE Arca Rules 3.1 and 3.3 and Section 4.01(a) of the Exchange's Bylaws to Establish a Regulatory Oversight Committee as a Committee of the Board of Directors of the Exchange

I. Introduction

On April 17, 2015, NYSE Arca, Inc. ("Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend NYSE Arca Rules 3.1 and 3.3, and Section 4.01(a) of the Bylaws of NYSE Arca ("Bylaws"), to establish a Regulatory Oversight Committee ("ROC") as a committee of the board of directors of the Exchange ("Board"). The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on May 4, 2015.³ The Commission did not receive any comment letters regarding the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

The Exchange proposes to establish a ROC as a committee of the Board with the responsibility to independently monitor the Exchange's regulatory operations. The Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a) to provide for the ROC and set forth the ROC's composition and functions. In addition, the Exchange proposes that the Board shall appoint the ROC on an annual basis.⁴ Under NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(B), the ROC would consist of at

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74824 (April 28, 2015), 80 FR 25347.

⁴ See Proposed NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(A).

least three members, each of whom would be a Public Director⁵ of the Exchange or a director of NYSE Regulation, Inc. (“NYSE Regulation”),⁶ who satisfies the Exchange’s Public Director requirements set forth in Article III, Section 3.02(a) of the Bylaws.⁷ The Exchange further proposes that (i) the Board may, on affirmative vote of a majority of directors, at any time remove a member of the ROC for cause and (ii) a failure of a member of the ROC to qualify as a Public Director shall constitute a basis to remove a member of the ROC for cause.⁸

NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(C) would set forth the functions and authority of the ROC.

The ROC’s responsibilities would be as follows:

- oversee the Exchange’s regulatory and self-regulatory organization responsibilities and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the Exchange’s regulatory and self-regulatory organization responsibilities;
- assess the Exchange’s regulatory performance; and
- advise and make recommendations to the Board or other committees of the Board about the Exchange’s regulatory compliance, effectiveness and plans.

⁵ See infra note 7 for the definition of “Public Director” as set forth in Article III, Section 3.02(a) of the Bylaws.

⁶ The Exchange states that NYSE Regulation is a not-for-profit subsidiary of the Exchange’s affiliate New York Stock Exchange LLC that performs all of the Exchange’s regulatory functions pursuant to an intercompany Regulatory Services Agreement that gives the Exchange the contractual right to review NYSE Regulation’s performance.

⁷ Article III, Section 3.02(a) of the Bylaws requires that at least 50% of the Exchange’s directors be Public Directors, defined as “persons from the public and [who] will not be, or be affiliated with, a broker-dealer in securities or employed by, or involved in any material business relationship with, the Exchange or its affiliates.”

⁸ See Proposed NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(B). Under the proposal, if a ROC member’s term of office terminates pursuant to NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(B), and the remaining term of office of such committee member at the time of termination is not more than three months, during the period of vacancy, the ROC would not be deemed to be in violation of its compositional requirements by virtue of the vacancy. See id.

In furtherance of the ROC's functions, the Exchange proposes that the ROC shall have the authority and obligation to: (i) review the regulatory budget of the Exchange and specifically inquire into the adequacy of resources available in the budget for regulatory activities; (ii) meet regularly with the Chief Regulatory Officer ("CRO") of the Exchange in executive session; (iii) in consultation with the Exchange's Chief Executive Officer, establish the goals, assess the performance, and recommend the CRO's compensation; and (iv) keep the Board informed with respect to the foregoing matters.⁹

The Exchange also proposes to amend NYSE Arca Rule 3.1(a) and Article IV, Section 4.01(a) of the Bylaws. The Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Arca Rule 3.1(a) to allow NYSE Regulation directors to serve on the ROC.¹⁰ In Article IV, Section 4.01(a) of the Bylaws, the Exchange proposes to add references to the ROC, and the Exchange proposes to add the text "[e]xcept as otherwise provided in the Rules" to the clause that currently requires each committee of the Board to be comprised of at least 50% Public Directors of the Exchange because, under the proposal, the ROC may include directors of NYSE Regulation.¹¹ Lastly, the Exchange proposes to add text to Section 4.01(a) to provide that vacancies in the membership of any committee would be filled by the Board.

⁹ See Proposed NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(C).

¹⁰ Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Arca Rule 3.1(a) to change the current requirement that committees of the Board consist of "one or more directors of the Exchange." The amended rule text would provide that committees of the Board "may consist partly or entirely of directors of the Exchange."

¹¹ The Exchange also proposes to make a corresponding change to the immediately subsequent clause in Article IV, section 4.01(a) so that it reads as follows: "The purpose and composition of each such committee shall be as set forth in the Rules."

III. Discussion and Commission Findings

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.¹² In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,¹³ which requires an exchange to be so organized and have the capacity to carry out the purposes of the Act and to comply, and to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the exchange. The Commission also finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁴ which requires that the rules of an exchange be designed, among other things, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, 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 Commission believes that the Exchange's creation of a ROC as an independent committee to oversee the adequacy and effectiveness of the Exchange's regulatory responsibilities, compliance, and plans is appropriate and should help the Exchange to fulfill its self-regulatory obligations. The Commission notes that, under NYSE Arca Rule 3.3(a)(2)(C), the responsibilities, enumerated functions, and authority of the ROC are substantially similar to

¹² In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

those of other exchanges.¹⁵ In addition, the Commission believes that the proposed requirement that the members of the ROC consist of either Public Directors of the Exchange or directors of NYSE Regulation, who meet the Exchange's Public Director requirements,¹⁶ and the provisions relating to the removal of a member of the ROC either for cause or for failing to qualify under the Exchange's Public Director requirement,¹⁷ should help ensure the continued independence of the members of the ROC. The proposal to establish a ROC should assist the Exchange in meeting its statutory obligations to comply, and to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the Exchange. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act.

¹⁵ See, e.g., Bylaws of NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, Article III, Section 5(c); Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of BATS Exchange, Inc., Article V, Section 6(c); Amended and Restated Bylaws of Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, Article IV, Section 4.5(c).

¹⁶ See supra note 7 and accompanying text.

¹⁷ See supra note 8 and accompanying text.

IV. Conclusion

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁸ that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSEARCA-2015-29) be, and it hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁹

Robert W. Errett
Deputy Secretary

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).