

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-77357; File No. SR-NYSEARCA-2016-41)

March 14, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Extending the Deadline for Implementing Rule 6.61(a)(2) and (3)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that, on March 4, 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 and II 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend the deadline for implementing Rule 6.61(a)(2) and (3) until July 31, 2016. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 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

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

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange is proposing to extend the deadline for implementing Rule 6.61 (a)(2) and (3) until July 31, 2016. The current implementation deadline is March 4, 2016.

In March 2015, the Commission approved Rule 6.61, which provides a price protection risk mechanism for Market Maker quotes.<sup>4</sup> Rule 6.61 provides two layers of price protection to incoming Market Maker quotes, rejecting those Market Maker quotes that exceed certain parameters, as a risk mitigation tool.<sup>5</sup> The Exchange has implemented the first layer of price protection (the NBBO Reasonability Check) and has until one year from the date of the Approval Order to implement the second layer of protection (the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check) pursuant to Commentary .01 to Rule 6.61, which is March 4, 2016 (the "March 4<sup>th</sup> Deadline").<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74441 (March 4, 2015), 80 FR 12664 (March 10, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2014-150) (Approval Order); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74018 (January 8, 2015), 80 FR 1982 (January 14, 2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2014-150) (Notice).

<sup>5</sup> The first layer of price protection assesses incoming sell quotes against the NBB and incoming buy quotes against the NBO (the "NBBO Price Reasonability Check"). Specifically, per Rule 6.61(a)(1), provided that an NBBO is available, a Market Maker quote would be rejected if it is priced a specified dollar amount or percentage through the contra-side NBBO. The second layer of price protection assesses the price of call or put bids against a specified benchmark (the "Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check"), per Rule 6.61(a)(2) and (3). This second layer of protection applies to bids in call options or put options when (1) there is no NBBO available, for example, during pre-opening or prior to conducting a re-opening after a trading halt, or (2) if the NBBO is so wide as to not reflect an appropriate price for the respective options series.

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 75156 (June 11, 2015), 80 FR 34756 (June 17,

Because the Exchange has not yet implemented the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check, the Exchange proposes to modify Commentary .01 to Rule 6.61 to extend the March 4<sup>th</sup> Deadline to implement Rule 6.61(a)(2) and (3) until July 31, 2016. The Exchange has finalized the technology related to this aspect of the Rule and will be filing with the Commission a separate proposed rule change to modify the Rule as it relates to the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check. The Exchange believes the proposed extension would provide the Exchange with sufficient time to review the proposed modifications with the Commission prior to implementing the rule, as modified.

Finally, the Exchange believes that because the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check is an approved rule of the Exchange, providing the Exchange with additional time to implement the Rule would ensure that Market Makers and investors are afforded the opportunity to benefit from this price protection feature once it is implemented.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),<sup>8</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.

Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposal promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to, and perfects the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system because an extension of the March 4<sup>th</sup> Deadline would enable the

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2015) (SR-NYSEArca-2015-45).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 78f(b).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 78f(b)(5).

Exchange to implement the finalized technology related to the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check. Moreover, the proposed extension would assist with the maintenance of a fair and orderly market and protect investors and the public interest because it would afford the Exchange additional time to file, and review, with the Commission a proposed modification of the Rule as it relates to the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check prior to implementing the rule, as modified.

Finally, the Exchange believes that because the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check is an approved rule of the Exchange, providing the Exchange with additional time to implement the Rule would ensure that Market Makers and investors are afforded the opportunity to benefit from this price protection feature once it is implemented – even if in modified form.

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. The proposed rule change is not designed to address any competitive issues, but rather, to extend the deadline for implementing the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check pending finalization of the technology associated with that feature.

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

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

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

Because the 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 if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest,

the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>9</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>10</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>11</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>12</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest as it will allow the Exchange to immediately extend the implementation deadline for the Underlying Stock Price/Strike Price Check without delay and provide the Exchange additional time to implement the technology associated with such price protection. Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay requirement and designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing.<sup>13</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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or

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<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of 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 Commission has waived this requirement in this case.

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>13</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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.

#### 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-NYSEARCA-2016-41 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-NYSEARCA-2016-41. 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-NYSEARCA-2016-41, 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>14</sup>

Robert W. Errett  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).